

York Region Transportation Services Committee
Att: York Region Regional Clerk denis.kelly@york.ca

Presentation to the York Region Transportation Services Committee re Go Station Parking at King City

My wife and I are residents of King City and are employed at York University. For the past three years we have commuted to the university using the Go Train service out of King City. We reside some 15 minutes walking distance from the Go Station or about 5 minutes by vehicle. It is apparent that in this past three years the popularity of the train service has increased significantly. As evidence of this, in September 2011, Go Transit increased the number of trains, both north and southbound from four to five. Further, parking availability at both the Aurora and Maple Go stations has been extensively expanded.

In this same time frame, the parking availability in King City has not changed. For those of us using the train service, this has become a source of considerably frustration. Prior to the September 2011 train service increase, my wife and I would board the 7:41 AM service to York University, the 3rd southbound train. (The last train of the morning departed at 8:09 AM from King City.) In order to obtain a "legal" parking spot, we had to arrive by 7:20 AM. By 7:23 AM most days (Monday to Thursday), the "public" parking spots were completely full and the morning "dance" to fill in any vacant area proximate to the Go station would commence. This invariably resulted in many heated exchanges between commuters. Further, when these commuters returned at the end of the day to find they had been ticketed by Go transit for illegally parking, the disappointment at the parking situation became palpable.

The new reality since September 2011 is worse for those of us seeking a parking spot. Of course this is no surprise for those of us who regularly use the morning train service. Go Transit increased the capacity of its train service but made no such capacity increase for the parking commuters of King City. The fourth train now departs King City at 7:51 AM but even arriving at the Go station to park at 7:21 AM (when the third train is departing) is inadequate. No "public" spaces are available at this time (and the final train southbound departs King City at 8:21 AM).

Our choices seem few and at this time and Go Transit seems to be offering the residents of King little to alleviate the parking plight in which we find ourselves. (Recall that Go Transit discontinued its Go bus service from King City to York University at the end of April 2010 before any replacement service for this route was finalised by the York Region Transit service in September 2010). While Go considers the options, commuters from King City need to find solutions now not in 6, 12 or 18 months. (Go Transit's current attitude seems to be that we should all buy "reserved" parking spots at the King City Station at \$70 per month. This of course does nothing to increase parking availability.) Obviously parking illegally is not a solution. Many of us who are able, walk but as the weather deteriorates, this becomes less desirable (or indeed safe given the slight grade on Keele St and the uneven sidewalk). If parking restrictions proximate to the Go Station remain, it would seem that the only readily available solution to assist the train commuters is to find parking elsewhere in King City and run a "shuttle service" to the station. This option has been raised by the King City Council and seems very reasonable and could be implemented expeditiously.

As regular train commuters, we are open to any solution(s) that would allow us to park safely and use the train service. Options that are viable need to be considered quickly especially as winter approaches. Placing more vehicles on the road runs counter to the growing public acceptance of "green transit

solutions” and we would hope that the York Region can support King City Council and its commuting residents in any initiative that leads to a timely parking solution for the King City Go Station.

We are happy to converse further on this matter.

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