

3

PROGRESS REPORT ON TTC SPADINA SUBWAY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report January 6, 2005, from the Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides background information regarding the present status of the Spadina subway environmental assessment study to which the Region has committed funding of \$100,000. It outlines the work program schedule and suggests milestone stages at which staff will report further on the progress of the study.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of April 22, 2004, Regional Council approved staff participation in the environmental assessment study now being undertaken by the TTC and the City of Toronto and authorised a funding contribution of \$100,000.

Regional staff are actively participating in both the technical advisory committee and in studies regarding the determination of travel demand and the preparation and evaluation of alignment alternatives and future facilities design alternatives for each of the stations.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Terms of Reference for the study were approved by the Ministry of the Environment in November 2004 with only a minor change to include CN rail as an agency reviewing the study findings.

The study team has chosen URS consultants to assist in the preparation of the report. The consultants have started their preparation and analysis work and have tabled a work plan, which takes the study through to submission of a final EA report at the end of 2005.

The draft work program for this study presently calls for the first public meeting in February 2005 to present alternative alignments that will be considered. The second public meeting is planned for late spring (June) 2005 to present a recommended alignment. It is planned that reports to this committee will be presented at both of these milestones and finally when the report is presented for final approval in late September 2005.

One or more of the alternative alignments south of Steeles Avenue may result in consideration of minor alignment changes to the subway extension north of Steeles Avenue.

Throughout this TTC subway EA update, Regional staff will continue to ensure that the work for the YRTP Vaughan/ Downsview corridor EA is included as the base case with respect to TTC's deliberations. The travel demand estimates that have been produced for the YRTP work have already been provided to the TTC study team that will be assessing the design needs of individual stations.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Funding for the full EA study is largely borne by the City of Toronto. York Region is contributing \$100,000 from the 2004 rapid transit capital budget. Technical support to Regional Staff is being provided by YC2002 and the fees for this work are dealt with in a separate report on this agenda.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The City of Vaughan, being the only local municipality in York affected by the facility also sits on the TAC. There is no required financial contribution from Vaughan.

7. CONCLUSION

This report provides a preliminary status report on the progress to date of the City of Toronto and TTC Spadina Subway environmental assessment update

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.