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PROGRESS REPORT

YORK RAPID TRANSIT PLAN

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The presentation made by Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report November 30, 2004, from the Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Progress Report for November 2004 be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides a detailed description of the progress made in delivering the York Rapid Transit Plan during November 2004.

3. BACKGROUND

The June 27, 2002 contract required York Consortium 2002 to file monthly progress reports with York Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 YEAR ONE WORK PLAN

The original Stage One (Year One) agreement entered into between York Region and York Consortium 2002 in June 2002 is illustrated in Table 1. The majority of the Stage One work plan components are complete and the only outstanding work, which continues, relates to the Environmental Assessments (EA's), which have been impacted by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) requirement for revised Terms of Reference (ToR). While work continued on the EA's during November, the status of deliverables and tasks is essentially as reported in last month's report and as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Summary Stage One - Major Tasks

Task	Task Completion	Major Deliverable
Program Management	100%	Fully operational office with expansion underway
Communications Plan/Events	100%	Complete
Data Collection	100%	Complete
Network Configuration	100%	Network Configuration Report complete
<i>Quick Start</i>	100%	<i>Quick Start</i> Program definition complete
Transportation Planning	100%	Ridership analysis complete
Ridership Peer Review	100%	Peer Review complete
Environmental Assessments Revised ToR (MOE Revised Process)	95%	Approvals August 2005
- Yonge Street	99%	Draft revised Yonge Street EA Report complete
- Highway 7 / Vaughan NS Link	97%	Draft revised EA report complete mid-December 2004
- Markham N/S Link	90%	Alignment analysis/evaluation in progress
Program Implementation Plan	100%	<i>Quick Start</i> / Network Plan complete
Construction Feasibility	100%	Yonge / Hwy. 7 complete and Markham N-S underway
Financial Planning and Analysis	100%	Financial modeling complete
Transition Plan	100%	Amended and Restated Agreement ready for execution
Overall Completion	99%	

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS STATUS

South Yonge Corridor and Highway 7 Corridor / Vaughan North-South Link

The draft South Yonge EA Report is to be completed by the end of November and submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (including local municipalities) and the MOE Government Review Team for initial review. The target for completion of the Highway 7/Vaughan N-S Link draft report is mid-December. It will then follow the same circulation and review as the Yonge EA Report.

Approval of the EA Studies can be expected in the summer of 2005 if the regulated maximum 30-week period is required.

Markham North-South Link

Analysis of route and infrastructure options is continuing. The second Public Consultation Centre is scheduled for early December, with evaluation of route options, analysis of environmental effects, final public consultation and draft EA Report submission by the spring of 2005. Consequently, EA Study approval can be expected in the late fall of 2005.

North Yonge Corridor

The draft ToR has been completed and is being reviewed by the technical advisory committee. It will be submitted to MOE and government review agencies early in January 2005. In parallel with ToR approval, anticipated for the spring of 2005, the EA Study itself will continue towards completion by the end of 2005.

4.2 QUICK START DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT

We have progress billed 22% against a *Quick Start* Design-Build GMP contract valued at \$67.9 million. Design-Build activities during November are described in Table 2.

Table 2
Quick Start Design-Build Contract

Component	Activity	Progress
Detailed Design		
Intersections	– All stops have been issued for construction except for those in Toronto. Toronto stops all at 90% design stage.	– Over 95% Complete.
Terminals	– Detail Design at the terminals is continuing with issues still to be resolved at Finch Station, Markham-Stouffville hospital, Newmarket GO Station and York University.	
	– Langstaff Terminal-100% design submitted to MMM week of Nov 15 th . Building permit received week of Nov 8 th .	– On Schedule
	– Markham-Stouffville Hospital – terminal location for both YRT and <i>Quick Start</i> is now in question. Alternatives being investigated.	– Behind Schedule
	– York University – terminal location and on-campus routing agreed to in principle. Waiting for confirmation from York University personnel on Shelter and platform design.	– Behind Schedule
	– Metrus Architects submitted Interim Transit Control	

Component	Activity	Progress
Interim Transit Control Centre	Centre design to KED on Oct 1 st . MMM reviewed and commented on Oct 22 nd . Cost estimate received week of Oct 25. Metrus given notice to proceed with construction on Nov 5 th . Construction started week of Nov 15. Anticipated construction completion is mid December 2004.	– On Target
Construction		
Stops	– Work has commenced on 67 stop locations. Excellent weather allowed work to continue.	– On Schedule
Terminals	– Richmond Hill Centre Terminal – Construction activities commenced Week of Oct 4 th . Caissons completed. Site Services 90% complete. Platform work started week of Nov 15 th .	– On Schedule
Shelters	– Prototype completed. Fabrication has started. – Bell communication supply to shelters started and ongoing.	– Behind Schedule (not critical)
Fare Collection Equipment	– Design and shop drawings being completed for review.	– On Schedule
ITS	– System Design Specifications being developed by Init and are under review by KED and the Region. – ITS evaluation system was set up at the West Pearce Street office in October 2004. KED and YR staff have now been trained on use of the system.	– On Schedule
Transit Signal Priority	– Existing traffic signal controllers and emergency vehicle detectors will be upgraded over the winter to allow for transit vehicle priority.	– On Schedule

4.3 QUICK START VEHICLE CONTRACT

A contract was entered into with Van Hool on March 24, 2004 for the purchase of 22 sixty-foot vehicles and 55 forty-foot vehicles. The 60 foot prototype vehicle is in the preliminary interior finish phase including the installation of electrical, ventilation and interior panels. The 40 foot prototype is being prepared for painting which is scheduled for the week of November 22nd. The chassis production for the remaining 60 and 40 foot rapid transit vehicles has started.

4.4 QUICK START SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The activities and accomplishments for November 2004 that relate to operations and maintenance, communications and interface planning support for the *Quick Start* project are described in Tables 3-4, respectively.

Table 3
Quick Start Operations & Maintenance Related Support

Component	Activity
Procurement of Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Contractor	– Issued Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Request for Proposals (RFP) September 28, 2004. – RFP closing date extended to December 21, 2004 principally to accommodate issues related to the Satellite Maintenance Facility, service planning and the GO MOU. – Ongoing responses to Proponent questions through addenda to the RFP. – RFP evaluation process and criteria finalized.
Off-Board Fare Equipment	– Ongoing development of O&M requirements. – Presentation at December Steering Committee meeting of Proof of Payment Enforcement Policy outline. – Ongoing development of Revenue Management / Servicing approach.
Quick Start O&M Facilities Newmarket Maintenance Facility	– The Region's design consultant, URS, continues with the detailed planning and design of facility modifications. YRTP has further defined program requirements for the facility in response to a request from URS via the Region. – The Region's Maintenance and Operations division of the Property Services Branch has been working on miscellaneous items related to the eventual commissioning of the building. – Discussions with GO Transit regarding the joint York Region / GO Transit private road and shared access with the proposed Loblaws development to the north commence on December 6, 2004.
Satellite Maintenance Facility	– Developed conceptual layout options and continued feasibility discussions with the Town of Richmond Hill for potential accommodation of the Satellite Maintenance Facility.
Satellite Maintenance Facility (cont'd)	– Delay in providing complete details of the Region supplied Satellite Maintenance Facility to the O&M RFP Proponents has impacted the closing date for the O&M RFP. – Feasibility and schedule review provided for candidate sites. – Soils investigations and topographic survey of the selected site to be completed prior to the onset of winter conditions to facilitate design.

Component	Activity
Transit Agency Technical Meetings GO Transit Technical Meetings YRT / YRTP Shared Stops Meetings	– Finch, Langstaff, Newmarket, Unionville terminals - planning continued. – Finch: Final design drawings commenced for the canopy. Negotiating with TTC for use of their access driveway. – Langstaff: Continuing preliminary engineering design of pedestrian bridge. – Newmarket: Preliminary engineering plans for the layovers and platforms provided to GO for approval. – Unionville: Detailed design plans for the shelter provided to GO for approval. – Discussions ongoing with YRT for winter operations at YRTP stops. – If YRTP shelters are not installed before winter, temporary shelters will be provided at those proposed YRTP stops that previously had shelters.
Transit Agency Operational Meetings	– Meetings initiated with GO Transit to develop operational terms related to GO MOU.

Table 4
Quick Start Interface Planning

Discussions continue with GO Transit and TTC regarding the detail of the interfaces of respective services.
Ongoing discussion with GO Transit regarding design of Finch Terminal canopy.
Further discussions held with property owners of land adjacent to the corridor where outstanding issues remain.

Fare Policy

The Proof-of-Payment fare enforcement system is the topic of a separate item on this agenda. A complete review of the final *Quick Start* fare policies and procedures will be presented to Committee in February 2005.

Service Planning

The detailed draft service plan for *Quick Start* was distributed to the local municipalities in October and their comments will be incorporated into the final service plan report in January.

- Enterprise Drive: Earliest date for opening appears to be late September/early October 2005. A contingency to deal with *Quick Start* services to Unionville will be brought forward as construction proceeds.
- York University meeting: To finalize arrangements for the on-campus *Quick Start* routing and to discuss the ramifications of the planned new stadium facility on the routing and the operation. A further report will be provided once these discussions and/or agreements have taken place.

Transit Oriented Development / Joint Development

- Reviewed all referred development applications (Official Plan, Subdivision, Site Plan) for transit compatibility.
- Supported Region in discussions with York University Development Corporation with respect to same corridor.
- Explored joint development opportunities at Bayview/407.
- Reviewed major site plan agreements in Markham.

Passenger Facility Plans

- Integration of passenger information into *Quick Start* facilities design; coordination with YRT.
- Ongoing coordination with GO Transit on passenger facility improvements at Finch Terminal.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND LAUNCH OF RAPID TRANSIT

4.5.1 Marketing Communications

The month of November has been replete with activities in preparation for a brand launch event December 6th. A series of launch events in each area municipality is also being planned to take place early in December. Development of the new branded website, a brand story video and all requisite communications collaterals has been the focus of activities.

A public outreach program is being developed to create awareness of our new rapid transit brand commencing January 2005. These activities will engage the public, create excitement around the new services and lead into pre-launch marketing activities through later phases in the deployment of the marketing communications plan.

Significant progress was made toward the completion of the brand style guide, which will form the basis for the development of all future branded collateral materials to do with the new rapid transit service. Application of the brand to vehicle interiors, exteriors, stations and other physical assets has also continued.

4.5.2 Media

It has been a quiet month for media as staff focuses their energies on preparing for our brand announcement on December 6th.

Throughout the month of November, we received few media inquiries. While rapid transit was mentioned in a few transit related articles, it was not the specific focus of any coverage:

- Transit plan goes to a vote – Toronto Star, November 3, 2004.
- In response to the November 15, 2004 Toronto Star article, “York’s growth pains hurt region” - Mary-Frances Turner submitted a letter-to-the-editor.

4.5.3 Additional Communications Activities

- November 26 – Canadian Urban Institute Event – Keeping Pace with Growth: Making Public Transit the Choice for GTA Commuters (Panelists: **Bruce McCuaig**, ADM, Ministry of Transportation, *Moving People and Goods: Developing an Effective Transportation Strategy for the GTA*; **Brian Ashton**, Councillor, City of Toronto, TTC Commissioner, *Jumping on the Better Way: Competing for Commuters in a Car Culture*; **Dr. Gordon Chong**, Chair, GO Transit, *Coming Down the Track: The Future for GTA’s Commuter Rail and Bus Service*; **Mary-Frances Turner**, VP, York Rapid Transit, *Keeping Pace with Growth: How York Region is Meeting the Commuter Challenge*).
- Presentation on rapid transit at a local condominium – November 25.
- The fall series of rapid transit update presentations continued, with presentations to local municipal Committees of the Whole in:
 - Newmarket – November 1.
 - Richmond Hill – November 15.
 - Vaughan – November 23.
- Rapid Transit was represented with a banner in Santa Claus parades in:
 - Newmarket – November 20.
 - Keswick – November 20.
 - Markham – November 27.
 - Aurora – November 27.
 - East Gwillimbury – November 28.
 - Vaughan – November 28.

4.6 FEDERAL PROVINCIAL BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The government relations “contact program” continued throughout the month of November with further face-to-face meetings with key politicians, political staffers and civil servants. The idea is to keep York Rapid Transit top-of-mind for decision makers at the senior levels of government and to emphasize the necessity to proceed with phase two.

Taking part in some or all of the meetings have been Chair Fisch, Mary-Frances Turner and Dan Miles. During November meetings were held with:

- Frank Klees - MPP Oak Ridges.
- Peter Van Loan – MP York-Simcoe.
- Hon. John McCallum – Minister of National Revenue.
- Hon. Joe Volpe – Minister of Ontario / Human Resources.
- Bill Ralph – CEO, Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority.

Staff also attended events where Ministers were speaking:

- Hon. Jean Lapierre – Transport Minister, CUTA Conference Montreal.
- Hon. David Caplan – Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Canadian P3 Conference Toronto.

Meetings and briefings with politicians of all political parties and senior staff will continue to be scheduled on an ongoing basis. Rapid transit staff are also planning to email phase one updates to our growing list of political contacts.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A work program and budget for remaining *Quick Start* work and continuance of full system development is the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report.

7. CONCLUSION

York Consortium 2002 and York Region staff made significant advancements during November 2004, particularly in advancing elements critical to the success of the *Quick Start* program and related communications.