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YONGE SUBWAY LINE EXTENSION MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2008

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends that Council adopt the recommendation contained in the following report, December 4, 2008, from the Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Council receive this report for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report updates the Yonge subway line extension activities during the month of November and early December 2008.

3. BACKGROUND

The Yonge subway line extension work programme is nearing completion and the formal Transit Project Assessment Process has commenced

In June 2007, the Province announced \$17.5 billion in funding for transit projects for the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton. This was followed by subsequent funding announcements from the Federal Government, York Region, and the City of Toronto. As a result, Metrolinx recommended 52 priority projects to the Provincial government, including the Yonge subway line extension.

On June 21, 2007 the Yonge Study work programme was authorized by Council. The work programme was undertaken by the Region's Owner's Engineer, McCormick Rankin, and their sub-consultant URS, along with York Consortium 2002 and is nearing completion.

In September 2008, Council endorsed the recommended transit project description of a six (6) station subway with a bridge crossing over the East Don River. At that time, decisions remained to be made on the alignment into the Richmond Hill Centre and the Steeles Avenue bus terminal.

In September 2008, Metrolinx released their draft Regional Transportation Plan which included the Yonge subway line extension. This project was among the top 15 priority projects for early implementation; ie. within the first 15 years of the plan, thus confirming Metrolinx' commitment to the Project.

On October 3, 2008, the formal Transit Project Assessment Process (the new 6 month environmental assessment process) commenced as a result of the publication of the Notice of Study Commencement.

On November 13, 2008, Council endorsed alignment 'C' for the terminus of the subway into the Richmond Hill Centre, as well as an underground bus terminal, primarily within existing public rights-of-way, at Steeles Avenue and Yonge Street.

Council further authorized staff to present the preferred project for the Yonge subway line extension at the final public meetings and to incorporate any resulting minor changes into the final Project Environmental Assessment Report, before issuing a Notice of Study Completion and submission of the final Environmental Project Report to the Minister of the Environment for review and approval.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A preferred final subway project description has been defined and approved

The Yonge subway line extension project is a 6.5 km extension of the Yonge subway line from the Finch Terminal to the Richmond Hill Centre. The proposed subway project is below grade under Yonge Street for the majority of its length and emerges above grade at a bridge crossing of the East Don River. The extension proposal includes six subway stations at Cummer/Drewry (in Toronto); Steeles Avenue; Clark Avenue; Royal Orchard Boulevard; Longbridge Avenue/Langstaff Road (an integral part of the operating terminal configuration with Richmond Hill Centre); and Richmond Hill Centre, north of Highway 7. Intermodal bus terminals will be located at Steeles Avenue and the Richmond Hill Centre.

The York Region Notice of Study Commencement was issued on October 3rd and 4th, 2008 (York Region) and November 19, 2008 (City of Toronto), and public meetings were held in both Toronto and York Region

Following several workshops held with local and municipal stakeholders, and an interactive public meeting on September 25, a Notice of Study Commencement for the Transit Project Assessment Process was mailed to residents along the alignment and advertised on October 3rd and October 4th, 2008. Under the Transit Regulation, the proponent has 120 days to complete the Environmental Project Report and file the report for public and agency review.

A final public meeting was held on November 26, 2008, in York Region and December 3, 2008, in the City of Toronto. The preferred project and the recommended mitigation measures were presented at these meetings. Feedback from these meetings will be taken into account in drafting the Environmental Project Report.

The City of Toronto and TTC are now co-proponents of this study

Toronto City Council at its meeting of October 29, 2008, authorized Toronto and the TTC to join the York Region led Transit Project Assessment Process as co-proponents. Toronto/TTC has issued a Notice of Study Commencement noting that they are project co-proponents with York Region.

The proposed timing for the Toronto/TTC resolution for the Notice of Study Completion is December 17, 2008, for the TTC, and January 27/28, 2009, for the City of Toronto Council.

The overall schedule for the completion of the Subway Environmental Project Report has been determined:

- Notice of study completion will be issued no later than February 5th.
- Environmental Project Report (EPR) is to be released no later than February 5th.
- 30 day public review period commences.
- Ministry of the Environment (MOE) 35 day review and comment period to provide a notice to proceed, provide a notice of further consideration or provide notice to proceed subject to conditions on the EPR. No comment from MOE is assumed to be approval, and comments are only anticipated on areas of provincial significance.
- Project approval following 65 day period.

Bayview Holdings discussions continue

Staff continue to dialogue with Bayview Holdings (Metrus) regarding land and construction business arrangements for alignment 'C' and the development of an anchor hub at Richmond Hill Centre.

Staff continue to make progress with Metrolinx on the Yonge Subway Benefits Case

At its November 28th Board Meeting, Metrolinx indicated that the Yonge Subway Benefits Case is scheduled to be tabled at the January Metrolinx Board meeting. The timing for prioritizing the thirteen remaining top 15 Metrolinx projects has now been linked to a comprehensive report to be before the Board by the summer of 2009. In the interim, staff is working with Metrolinx to seek a portion of the five year capital budget approved by the Board, and subject to Provincial Budget approval this March, to sustain

project momentum following the anticipated approval of the Environmental Project Report.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The final Public Consultation Centre (PCC) in York Region took place on November 26

The final PCC and open house in York Region was held on November 26th. Notification of this final PCC included over 30,000 postcards, 10,000 letters, 4,000 e-mails, advertisements in four newspapers, a media release and a listing on www.vivayork.ca.

Over 300 people attended the public meeting and 150 people joined the live webcast. During this time, over 20 people accepted an invitation to video-record their comments which may also be used in future communications material. In addition, over 40 comments were posted on the Comments Map – a map posted on the wall where people can freely post their written comments. A detailed presentation outlining the meetings that had been held and the final project plan was presented to the public. An open question and answer session, including live interactive web questions were addressed by staff. The interactive night received many compliments from attendees who seemed pleased with the final project and efforts to address their concerns and ideas (see *Attachment 1*).

An open house was held in Toronto for property owners located along the proposed subway line extension on November 12th, 2008

Consultations about the Yonge subway line extension continued with property owners and the public. An open house was held at the North York Civic Centre in coordination with staff from Toronto and the TTC. The underground, intermodal bus terminal and Steeles Station layout was well received. Over 57 residents and property owners attended the meeting to discuss various aspects of the project.

A Steeles landowner workshop was held in Toronto on November 12th for property owners located within a 500-metre radius of Steeles and Yonge

Staff continued to engage landowners located in close proximity to the proposed Steeles Station. The workshop, which attracted 30 landowners, was held at the North York Memorial Community Hall in coordination with staff from Toronto and the TTC. In-depth discussions focused on construction methods, station layouts, mitigation of construction impacts, and related station facilities. The underground, intermodal layout at Steeles Station was discussed in-depth and was well received.

A joint community meeting with the City of Vaughan was held on December 2, 2008 for Uplands' residents located near the proposed Longbridge/Langstaff Station

Staff continued to engage landowners near the proposed park-and-ride facilities at Longbridge/Langstaff Station. The meeting, which attracted over 140 residents, was held at the Uplands Golf & Ski Club in coordination with staff from the City of Vaughan. Although the majority of residents welcome the proposed subway extension, they expressed several concerns regarding the proposed location of the park-and-ride facilities, traffic infiltration and overall traffic congestion on Yonge Street. Staff committed to continue dialogue with a small group representing their community to discuss the issues raised.

The final Public Consultation Centre (PCC) in Toronto took place on December 3, 2008

The final PCC and open house in Toronto was held on December 3rd. Notification of this final PCC included over 30,000 postcards, 10,000 letters, 4,000 e-mails, advertisements in four newspapers, a media release and a listing on www.vivayork.ca.

Over 160 people attended the public meeting, including those who joined the live webcast. During the open house, eight people accepted an invitation to video-record their comments which may also be used in future communications material. In addition, nearly 50 comments were posted on the Comments Map – a map posted on the wall where people can freely post their written comments. A detailed presentation outlining the meetings that had been held and the final project plan was presented to the public. An open question and answer session, including live interactive online questions, were addressed by staff. The interactive night received many compliments from attendees who seemed pleased with the final project and efforts to address their concerns and ideas.

A presentation was made to the Board of the Ladies' Golf Course of Toronto

Staff was invited to speak to the Board for 30-minutes to highlight the project and explain what steps may be taken to maintain access, how/where the bridge would be constructed and how their entrance would be restored afterwards. The Board recognizes the need for the subway extension and related bridge structure, and appreciated the concern shown for their business operations. The board appreciated hearing about the project and the specific mitigation measures planned to maintain access and reduce construction impacts.

Staff were guest speakers at the Grandview Ratepayers Association's annual general meeting

Staff engaged residents from the Steeles Avenue East and Bayview Avenue area during the annual general meeting of the Grandview Ratepayers Association. Given their close proximity to the proposed Steeles Station, attendees were mainly interested in construction methods, the proposed station layout, measures to mitigate construction impacts and the project timelines. Their concerns were addressed during the presentation and residents seemed pleased and excited about the proposed project. The meeting was attended by approximately 70 people from the Steeles and Bayview area.

Staff were guest speakers at The Society Preservation of Historic Thornhill

Given their close proximity to the East Don River and concern for the preservation of the heritage district, attendees were mainly interested in construction methods, the proposed bridge and measures to mitigate construction impacts while respecting the area's heritage. Their concerns were addressed during the presentation and the members seemed to understand the complexities of the project. The meeting was attended by approximately 45 people.

Draft technical reports were posted online and sent to five public review locations

As the Transit Project Assessment Process continues, a series of Technical Reports is being prepared and will be made available for public review at www.vivayork.com and five public review locations at:

- Ministry of the Environment, Central Region Office.
- Regional Municipality of York, Office of the Regional Clerk.
- Town of Richmond Hill, Office of the Town Clerk.
- Town of Markham, Office of the Town Clerk.
- City of Vaughan, Office of the City Clerk.

These reports will form part of the final Transit Project submitted for public review in January 2009.

Public Engagements:

November 2-3 - Display at Markham Transportation Summit, Markham Civic Centre
November 6 - Presentation to Grandview Ratepayers Association
November 12 - Steeles Owner Workshop, Premiere Ballroom
November 12 - Line Station Open House, North York City Centre.
November 13 - Rapid Transit Committee.
November 17 - Richmond Hill, Committee of the Whole.
November 17 - Vaughan, Committee of the Whole.
November 19 - Yonge Street Subway Advisory Task Force.

- November 22 - Presentation to the Board of the Ladies Golf Course.
- November 23 - Markham Development Services Committee.
- November 24 - Display at Markham Centre Open House, Markham Civic Centre.
- November 26 - Final Public Communications Centre (PCC), Premiere Ballroom (York Region).
- November 27 - Presentation to The Society Preservation of Historic Thornhill.
- December 2 - Uplands Community Meeting, Uplands Golf & Country Club.
- December 3 - Final PCC, Mitchell Field Community Centre (Toronto).
- December 11 - Rapid Transit Committee.
- December 17 - Yonge Street Subway Advisory Task Force.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has committed \$3 million to advance this project. Currently, \$1.8 million of the \$3 million has been awarded, as indicated in Table 1. The work related to the remaining \$1.2 million has been defined and will be added to the two existing purchase orders with McCormick Rankin and York Consortium 2002, for a total commitment of \$2,958,000.

Efforts will be made to recover this funding as the project has been identified as a GTA rapid transit priority by Metrolinx.

Table 1
Active Work Programmes

Contract	Description	Proponent	Contract Amount	Spent to Date
Yonge Subway				
The additional EA work required for York Region to comply with the conditions of approval	▪ Analysis of alternatives to finalize the subway alignment, primarily between the Steeles Avenue station and the Highway 407 station. ▪ Additional station facilities and access design and analysis. ▪ Additional geotechnical and hydrogeological work.	York Consortium 2002 and McCormick Rankin Corp. – joint program	YC \$689,400 MRC \$986,320	YC \$477,626 MRC \$545,536
Yonge Subway	Yonge Subway Communications Plan	York Consortium 2002	\$107,000	\$0
Total			\$1,782,720	1,023,162

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Yonge subway line extension is being closely coordinated with local planning, economic development and public works activities along their respective corridors.

7. CONCLUSION

This report provides a comprehensive description of the activities of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation in November and early December relating to the Yonge subway line extension.

For additional information, please contact Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation at (905) 886-6767 ext. 2226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included with the December 11, 2008 Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee agenda.)