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GO TRANSIT RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends:

- 1. The presentation by Bob Nairn, Program Director, Marshall Macklin Monaghan be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report, October 18, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides background information regarding the GO Transit Rail Infrastructure Program (GO TRIP). Twelve rail projects noted below, two of which are in York Region, represent a portion of GO Transit's overall 10-year capital program that are being partially funded by the Federal government through their Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF).

At the Transportation and Works Committee meeting of November 3, 2004, a presentation regarding the projects of concern to York Region will be conducted by Mr. Bob Nairn (program director, Marshall Macklin Monaghan) and Mr. Fouad Mustafa (program manager, Giffels Associates) who have been retained by GO Transit to manage the GO TRIP projects.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of April 22, 2004, Regional Council received a presentation from Mr. Gary McNeil, General Manager of GO Transit, briefly outlining the broad scope of GO's 10-year capital plan.

Part of the overall 10 year capital program is now being funded through the \$1.05 billion GO TRIP, the federal portion of which is their Strategic Infrastructure Fund. The overall TRIP project list that was announced on May 7, 2004 are:

1. Union Station Improvements to Track, Signal and Pedestrian Infrastructure.
2. Refurbishing of the East Storage Yard.
3. Lakeshore West Corridor – 24 kilometres of New Third Track and modifications to 20 bridges.

4. Lakeshore East Corridor – 12 kilometres of New Third Track and associated modifications to three stations and five bridges.
5. Georgetown Corridor – West Toronto Diamond Grade Separation.
6. Georgetown Corridor – Road-Rail Grade Separation.
7. Georgetown Corridor – 33 kilometres of additional Track and modifications to 15 bridges.
8. Milton Corridor – New Train Storage Facility and Station Expansion.
9. Bradford Corridor – Snider Diamond Grade Separation.
10. Bradford Corridor – Extension of Service to Barrie.
11. Stouffville Corridor – Hagerman Diamond Grade Separation.
12. GO Bus Infrastructure – Purchase of buses and construction of commuter park and ride lots in Peterborough, Cambridge, Niagara Falls and Guelph/Kitchener/Waterloo.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The two most important projects to York Region are the rail/rail grade separations at Hagerman junction (west of Kennedy, south of Highway 7 area) and Snider junction (east of Keele, south of Highway 7 area). These rail/ rail grade separations (*see Attachment 1*) will free the Bradford and Uxbridge commuter rail services from intersecting with the CN freight operations along the York rail subdivision. The existing at-grade rail crossings are one of the main constraints to improving the frequency of GO rail service to York Region.

The EA for the Hagerman project was approved early in 2004 and detailed design work is underway. This project will require the rail line to go under 14th Avenue as well and will require the relocation of several major utilities lines (sewer and cable). Transportation and Works Department staff are currently working with GO Transit to determine the final detailed design related to 14th Avenue and any necessary construction mitigation measures.

The master plan schedule for each of the projects in the GO TRIP is to be released during the week of October 12 – 15, 2004.

The program is scheduled to be implemented over seven years, beginning in 2004 and ending in 2010. Work in 2004 will primarily involve completion of environmental assessments and designs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The funding sources that were announced in the May agreement are as follows:

1. Federal - \$385 million (SIF)
2. Provincial - \$385 million
3. Municipal - \$235 million

As noted above, the GO TRIP program is a part of GO Transit's 2004 10-year Capital Plan. As such, there are no funding implications from this report beyond the committed municipal contribution to the program as noted above. Finance Department staff will be reporting details of York Region's share in the GO TRIP and the overall GO Transit 2004 10-year Capital Plan over the next few months.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

GO Transit has established working committees to provide regular consultations with affected stakeholders including local municipal staff.

7. CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the GO TRIP program and the major projects affecting York Region. Mr. Bob Nairn will provide further details of the program in his presentation at the Transportation and Works Committee meeting.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)