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VIVA PROGRESS REPORT February 2006

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

- 1. The presentation by Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report February 2, 2006, from the Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides a general description of the progress made in delivering the York Region Rapid Transit Plan during January 2006.

The February 2006 Progress Report concludes monthly reporting on the planning, design and implementation of Viva Phase 1. Commencing in March 2006, the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation will summarize its activities in a Monthly Report to Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

The June 27, 2002 contract, as amended, required York Consortium 2002 (YC2002) to file monthly progress reports with York Region. All 4 stages of Viva Phase 1 are now complete and the rapid transit service is now fully operational. This report also describes the status of preparatory EA work in support of Viva Phase 2.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Year One Work Plan

The Stage One work plan is essentially complete. The only outstanding work, which continues, relates to the Environmental Assessments (EAs), and the current status of each is summarized below.

South Yonge Corridor

MOE has received comments from initial respondents on the MOE posting of their review of the EA report. Staff are working with MOE to address these comments.

Highway 7 Corridor / Vaughan North-South Link

Staff continue to work and meet with MOE to address all comments received during the seven week public and agency review that was completed in late October 2005. A final decision by the MOE on the EA is expected by April 2006.

Markham North-South Link

Comments from the Government Review team on the Draft EA Report have been received and responses to these comments are being compiled. Final report submission to the MOE is anticipated during February 2006. EA Study approval is expected by mid 2006.

North Yonge Corridor

Phase I (Alternatives to the Undertaking) of the EA Study is continuing towards completion by the end of February 2006. The remainder of the EA will begin as part of the approved interim Phase 2A work program.

4.2 Viva Phase 1 Design-Build Contract

Kiewit / Ellis Don (KED) anticipates billing 89% against the Viva Phase 1 Design – Build GMP Contract valued at \$68.5 million at the end of January 2006. This report provides a general overview of the progress to date under the Design – Build Contract. A number of change orders have been processed to date for the Design – Build with some representing an increase in the GMP, while others represent a decrease. Overall, the total change orders will be within the \$150 million budget. The information in sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 sets out a general overview and description of the progress made with respect to the delivery of the various components of the system. The status of these matters is being more fully addressed under the various relevant contracts for the purposes of formally documenting the legal rights and obligations of the parties in connection with these matters. Design – Build activities during January are described in Table 1. The Phase 1 Design-Build project is substantially complete and final contract reconciliation will be presented to Committee and Council in a future report.

Table 1
Viva Phase 1 Design-Build Contract

Component	Activity	Progress
Intersections	· All stops complete.	· Complete
Terminals	· Finch Terminal: All KED work is complete. GO Transit canopy is delayed until Spring 2006. · Planning and pricing Signalization Package from Toronto for Finch Terminal entrance. Anticipate construction start in February 2006. · Newmarket Terminal: Exterior construction completed and interior work by GO Transit continues. · Richmond Hill Centre Terminal: - Pedestrian bridge design 75% complete. Site plan submitted to Richmond Hill. Construction to commence after approval of site plan. Anticipate construction start early spring 2006. · Cornell Terminal: - Discussions with landowners south of Highway 7 have commenced for a future Viva terminal site. Protection of laybys on the future extension of Bur Oak to Highway 7 for the YRT routes have been requested. No further work on hospital site at this time.	· Complete · Complete · Construct. sched. to be determined · Delayed
Fare Collection Equipment	· All Sub Routes have been handed over. · System Acceptance Testing on central software systems is complete · 30 day Operational Performance Testing (OPT) will commence in February 2006, subject to the acceptance of procedures.	· Complete · Final Testing Stage
ITS	All 4 Transit Stages are now 'Live'. · 30 day OPT will commence in February 2006	· Complete
Transit Signal Priority (TSP)	· Original Scope · 3 new intersections require installation of TSP.	· Complete

4.3 Viva Phase 1 Vehicle Contract

A contract was entered into with Van Hool for the purchase of 25 sixty-foot vehicles and 60 forty-foot vehicles. All 77 vehicles that comprised the original vehicle order and 8 additional vehicles approved in December 2004, have been received and are fully operational.

4.4 Viva Phase 1 Support Activities

Table 2
Viva Phase 1 Operations & Maintenance Related Support

Component	Activity
O&M Contract	· Stage 4 of Viva operations, incorporating the peak service from Finch Terminal to Unionville Station, was successfully implemented on January 1, 2006. · Final mobilization meetings were held with Connex and regular operations meetings commenced during January. · Connex has now hired and trained its full complement of bus operators and other staff. Hiring and training will continue as required to accommodate attrition.
Viva Phase 1 O&M Facilities Newmarket Maintenance Facility South Maintenance Facility	· Fully operational · Fully operational
Viva Phase 1 O&M Planning Support	· Service performance is being monitored and schedules will be adjusted as required going forward to optimize service. A February 19 schedule change (about 65% complete at the end of January) will incorporate faster running times that have already been found to be possible after 7 pm on most routes, and all-day adjustments on 605/orange. The April board schedule will include adjustment to increase running time efficiency throughout the day on the other routes.

4.5 Communications and Launch of Rapid Transit

4.5.1 Marketing Communications

Stage 4 Service Launch

The last stage of Viva's Phase 1, the new 'pink' route, opened the first week of January 2006. Viva Greeters welcomed passengers aboard, providing information at key transfer and boarding points, handing out brochures, route maps and the Viva riders' manuals guiding passengers through the workings of the new service.

Viva in the Community

The Viva electronic kiosk was installed at Finch GO Bus Terminal and at the Angus Glen Community Centre during the month of January. At the Finch GO location, the kiosk upper screen has been programmed with a short animated sequence that gives new passengers a simple overview of the fare purchase transaction flow to help them understand how Viva's automated fare system works. It also includes information on the Viva lines that come to the Finch GO Bus Terminal and illustrates that passengers should check the vehicle signs for their destination.

At IKEA's request, the co-promotion initiated in December 2005 was extended for an additional month. During the months of January and February, Viva / YRT monthly pass-holders will receive \$20.00 off any purchase of \$150.00 or more before taxes. Customers can also present their Viva / YRT monthly pass to receive a free breakfast, lunch or dinner in IKEA's restaurant during the promotion. IKEA has been promoting the offer on their website, in their monthly calendar (20,000 distribution) and in-store on posters, public address system announcements and on event boards. Both the Viva and YRT websites also promote the deal online.

Viva was represented at the following community and business events in the month of January:

- January 4, 2006 – Seneca King Orientation.
- January 5, 2006 – York University Info Booth.
- January 6, 2006 – Seneca at York University.
- January 9, 2006 – Markham Seneca Open House.
- January 18, 2006 – State Farm Day.
- January 19, 2006 – Richmond Hill Chamber Luncheon.
- January 22, 2006 – Councillor Jack Heath's New Years Levee.
- January 24, 2006 – Seneca Marketing Orientation Booth.

Presentations

During the month of January, the following presentations were prepared and / or delivered:

- Markham Centre Business Meeting, Sustainability Workshop – January 19, 2006.
- York Urban Development Institute – January 20, 2006.

- Infrastructure Financing Development and Renewal in Canada Conference. presentation updated – to be delivered February 26, 2006.

The following Municipal update presentations were delivered in January:

- Richmond Hill Committee of the Whole – January 9 2006 – Presenter: Peter Chackeris.
- Markham General Committee – January 23, 2006 – Presenter: Mary-Frances Turner.
- Vaughan Committee of the Whole – January 16, 2006 – Presenter: Mary-Frances Turner.
- Newmarket Committee of the Whole – January 16, 2006 – Presenter: Paul May.
- Aurora Committee of the Whole – January 10, 2006 – Presenter: Mary-Frances Turner.
- King, Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville (paper presentations delivered to Mayor and members of Council week of January 9, 2006).

Marketing Material Produced

During the month of January, the winter newsletter was printed and distributed to local municipal officials, the offices of MPP's and newly elected MP's, community centres and other public places as well as electronically to our mailing list which now has over 3,700 names.

A new winter campaign was designed and installed on light poles along the Viva routes. These colourful banners give a fun message on the front and bear the logo of the A-Channel on the back, encouraging drivers to tune in for transit updates.

E-Communications

Our website's popularity is continuing at an encouraging level. The number of 'hits' to the vivayork.com website during the month of January was 213,373. An electronic communication was sent out about the opening of the pink route to our entire electronic database. Enhancements were made to our home page consistent with our new winter campaign.

4.5.2 Media Relations

This has been a relatively quiet month on the media front. On January 2nd we issued a news release promoting the implementation of the Viva pink line. This resulted in a news story by A Channel and a short article by the York Region Newspaper Group (YRNG).

On January 23rd Toronto Star Columnist Christopher Hume wrote a column focusing on the glacial speed of change by governments and how this inaction pertains to certain aspects of public transit, Toronto's waterfront and the Kyoto Accord. In this story, Hume makes specific reference to Viva.

On January 26, YRNG wrote a story on the future of Viva following the Federal election.

The January headlines were:

- “More commuter choices offered”, January 5, 2006 YRNG.
- “\$7.3 million injected into York’s Viva system”, January 22, 2006, YRNG.
- “Province wants you out of your car”, January 21, 2006, YRNG.
- “Want something done? Don’t ask the government”, January 23, 2006, Toronto Star.
- “Can Viva transit keep rolling under Harper?”, January 26, YRNG.
- “Billions in the balance. Will a Harper government honour Liberal promises to Toronto?”, January 28, Globe and Mail.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Viva Phase 1 Design-Build project is substantially complete and a final contract reconciliation will be presented to Committee and Council in a future report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report.

7. CONCLUSION

YC2002 and York Region staff continued to advance the Viva implementation program through January with the completion of Stage 4, which went Live on January 1, 2006.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.