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VIVA PROGRESS REPORT

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report February 3, 2005, from the Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Viva Progress Report for January 2005 be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides a detailed description of the progress made in delivering the York Region Rapid Transit Plan during January 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

The June 27, 2002 contract, as amended, required York Consortium 2002 (YC2002) 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 YC2002 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 December, 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

Task	Task Completion	Major Deliverable
Viva Phase One	100%	complete Viva Phase One Program definition complete
Transportation Planning	100%	Ridership analysis complete
Ridership Peer Review	100%	Peer Review complete
Environmental Assessments (based on revised ToR)	95%	Approvals anticipated Sept-Dec 2005
• Yonge Street	99%	Draft revised Yonge Street EA
• Highway 7 / Vaughan NS Link	97%	Report circulated for Tech. Adv. Committee Review
• Markham N/S Link	90%	Draft revised EA report complete mid-February 2005
		Alignment analysis/evaluation and public consultation in progress
Program Implementation Plan	100%	Viva Phase One / 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 was updated during January following York Region staff review and circulated to the Technical Advisory Committee (including local municipalities) and the MOE Government Review Team for initial review. The Highway 7 / Vaughan N-S Link draft report will be completed and reviewed by Region staff in February and will then follow the same circulation and review process as the Yonge EA Report.

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

Markham North-South Link

Analysis of route and infrastructure alternatives has been completed and will be submitted for approval at the March 2005 Steering Committee meeting following review by Region staff and the Technical Advisory Committee. Documentation of the evaluation of route options, analysis of environmental effects, the final public consultation and draft EA Report preparation is continuing with submission targeted for May 2005. Consequently, EA Study approval can be expected in late fall of 2005.

North Yonge Corridor

The draft ToR has been completed and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee. It will be submitted to MOE and government review agencies early in February 2005. In parallel with ToR approval, anticipated in the spring of 2005, the EA Study itself will continue towards completion by the end of 2005. The opportunity to incorporate the widening of Yonge Street between Mulock Drive and Green Lane into the scope of the transit EA is being pursued.

4.2 VIVA PHASE ONE DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT

Kiewit Ellis Don has progress billed 28% against a Viva Phase One Design-Build GMP contract valued at \$67.9 million. Design-Build activities during December are described in Table 2.

Table 2
Viva Phase One 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. Toronto North York Community Council approval received Jan. 18, 2005.	• Over 95% Complete
Terminals	• Finch Terminal: York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (Rapidco) staff have been working with GO Transit and its consultants on interior and exterior modifications to the existing terminal. Interior renovation plans are complete. Construction contract awarded, with construction expected to begin in early 2005. Exterior renovation plans are still in progress, with construction start expected in Spring 2005. • Newmarket Terminal: Rapidco staff continues to work with GO Transit and its consultants on interior and exterior modifications to the existing terminal.	• Exterior 50% Complete • Exterior 80% Complete
Detailed Design Cont'd		
Terminals	• Markham-Stouffville Hospital: Alternatives being investigated. • York University: Terminal location and on-campus routing agreed to in principle. Received tentative approval of shelter design on Dec 3rd 2004. Platform concept to be finalized by KED based on comments to be provided by York University. Shelter design is	• Constr. Postponed • Behind Schedule

Component	Activity	Progress
	continuing and the building permit application is to be submitted Feb. 3, 2005. A meeting with York University staff regarding construction and operating agreements was held on Jan. 28 th .	
Fare Collection Equipment	• Design and shop drawings are being completed for review. • Prototypes are being developed.	• On Schedule
ITS	• System Design Specifications being developed by INIT and are under review by KED and the Region. • Factory Acceptance Testing occurred during week of Jan. 17 in Germany. • Controller Bench testing at York Region has been completed.	• On Schedule
Transit Signal Priority	• 90% of Traffic Signal Parameters for Hwy 7 have been agreed upon. • Design work is continuing. • MTO and Municipal intersection details being addressed. • Existing traffic signal controllers and emergency vehicle detectors will be upgraded over the winter to allow for transit vehicle priority.	• On Schedule
Construction		
Stops	• Work has commenced on 67 stop locations. • All stops have protective barrels and guardrails in place to protect them during winter shut down period. • Civil work was halted at stop locations in mid December and is anticipated to restart in late March or early April 2005.	• On Schedule
Terminals	• Richmond Hill Centre Terminal: Construction continued through the end of December 2004.	• On Schedule
Shelters	• Prototype completed and fabrication of shelters has started. • Shelter installation commenced in January, with fin installation commencing in February and will be completed in time for Viva rapid transit service start. • Bell communication supply to shelters started and ongoing.	• On Schedule

Component	Activity	Progress
Interim Transit Control Centre	Construction is complete. Awaiting final painting and furnishings.	On Target
TSP	- Started installation of cable for future connection between detectors and controllers. Anticipated completion mid February. - Controller upgrades at Regional intersections started in January.	On Schedule

4.3 VIVA PHASE ONE 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 option to purchase the additional 3 sixty-foot vehicles and additional 5 forty-foot vehicles has been exercised. The sixty-foot prototype vehicle is currently undergoing road testing, to be followed by the final finishing stage. The forty-foot prototype has been painted and has started the interior outfitting process. The production for the remaining sixty-foot and forty-foot rapid transit vehicles is on schedule to meet the planned in-service dates.

4.4 VIVA PHASE ONE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The activities and accomplishments for January 2005 that relate to operations and maintenance, communications and interface planning support for the Viva Phase One project are described in Table 3.

Table 3
Viva Phase One 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 January 04, 2005. - RFP mandatory review completed January 13, 2005. - Technical evaluation commenced January 14, 2005.
Off-Board Fare Equipment	- Proof of Payment (POP) Enforcement Program outline was presented and adopted at December Steering Committee meeting. Development of the POP program and requirements continues. - Development of the Revenue Management / Servicing approach continues.

Component	Activity
Viva Phase One O&M Facilities Newmarket Maintenance Facility	• The Region's design consultant, URS, continues with the detailed planning and design of facility modifications. • Contract documents were completed in January. • Construction management by the Region commenced in December 2004. • Construction has commenced and the facility will be substantively ready for the operator by April 2005. • Installation of a signalized access to / from the facility at Yonge St. is under review.
Transit Agency Technical Meetings GO Transit Technical Meetings	Finch, Langstaff, Newmarket, Unionville Terminals: • Finch: • Final canopy design drawings are nearing completion. In order to facilitate the construction schedule, Committee authority will be required to undertake a construction tender pre-approval process based on the anticipated approval in March of the 2005 budget. • Negotiations are continuing with the TTC regarding use of their access driveway and revised proposals for bus layover locations. • A contract for internal renovation work at the terminal has been awarded by GO Transit. • Langstaff: Continuing preliminary engineering design of pedestrian bridge. Construction of terminal has commenced. • Newmarket: Preliminary engineering plans for the layovers and platforms provided to GO for approval and submission to the Town of Newmarket. • Unionville: Detailed design plans for the shelter provided to GO for review and provide comments. • GO Transit has provided draft operating agreements for Rapidco review.
Transit Agency Operational Meetings	• Meetings with GO Transit to develop operational terms related to GO MOU are ongoing. A draft agreement and related schedules has been prepared by Rapidco, YRT, Region staff, and external consultants. This agreement is under review and negotiations are continuing.

Fare Policy

A complete review of the final Viva Phase One fare policies and procedures will be presented to Committee and Council in March 2005.

Service Planning

The detailed draft service plan for Viva Phase One was distributed to the local municipalities in October 2004. Final comments and recommendations will be presented to Committee and Council in March 2005.

Enterprise Drive

Due to the completion of Enterprise Drive not being expected for the implementation of Viva Phase One, interim routing arrangements will have to be made. When the first phase of Viva rapid transit service commences in September 2005, it is anticipated that Highway 7 service will loop back via Warden Avenue, Cedarland and Town Centre Boulevard. In October 2005, Highway 7 service will be extended easterly to Markville Mall via Warden Avenue, Highway 407 and Kennedy Road. This routing allows most of the permanent Viva stops in this area to continue to be served and minimizes the impact of the eventual change back to the permanent routing. It is anticipated that service via Enterprise Drive will not commence until the spring of 2006 due to numerous factors affecting the timing of roadway, utility and stop construction.

Markham-Stouffville Hospital

Due to the non-feasibility of a permanent terminal solution in the Cornell area in time for the implementation of Viva Phase One, the initial Highway 7 Rapid Transit (RT) services in Markham will have to terminate temporarily in the vicinity of Markville Mall.

Discussions with hospital and local officials concluded that no practical interim terminal facility could be made at this time due to numerous hospital development and the timing of local planning issues, such as the completion of BurOak Avenue to Highway 7.

Service east of McCowan will continue to be provided by YRT and the service levels on Route 1 may have to be improved during this time to provide attractive connections with RT. These temporary arrangements will be in effect until such time as a permanent Viva/YRT terminal solution is developed for East Markham.

Recently the Town of Markham and Markham-Stouffville Hospital have been engaged in a master planning exercise. This exercise will conclude in a hospital master plan submission to the Ministry of Health in late February of 2005. While invited to forward space requirements for a transit facility, Rapidco/YRT have not been directly invited to participate in recent meetings. It is essential that Rapidco/YRT be involved in future meetings to ensure achievement of a resolution that provides for rapid transit and local services to this important area and meetings between the Town, hospital and ourselves are now scheduled.

Transit Oriented Development / Joint Development

Reviewed all referred development applications (Official Plan, Subdivision, Site Plan) for transit compatibility.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND LAUNCH OF RAPID TRANSIT

4.5.1 Marketing Communications

The 'Viva Challenge', a public outreach program designed to create awareness of Viva, was launched at York University's Transportation Forum on January 6th, 2005. The Viva Challenge web link and landing pages with details on the contest went live on the same day and the first series of winners have been posted on the site.

On January 21st, the Viva Kiosk was installed at Promenade Mall and York Region Newsgroup sent a photographer for the official kick-off with Team Viva present. Team Viva members will be staffing the kiosks on weekends encouraging people to take the Challenge and answering any questions people might have. The locations and dates for Kiosk installation are:

- Promenade Mall – Jan. 21 to Feb.18.
- Markville Mall – Feb. 18 to Mar. 21.
- Hillcrest Mall – Mar. 21. to Apr. 21.

A portable version of the Viva Challenge will be taken to community centres and community events as required.

The first Viva Newsletter was launched in January and distributed on-board YRT buses, at community centres, arenas, libraries, municipal offices and other public locations around the Region with the help of the communications officers at each local municipality. Posters and bookmarks were similarly distributed. A brochure highlighting Viva's features and benefits on one side and providing a planned route map on the other was also completed and is being handed out by Team Viva members at malls and events (copies will be distributed to committee members at the meeting). Installation of banners on light poles near station locations along the corridors began in January. The banners advertise the Viva Challenge and inform passers by (particularly drivers) of the September service launch.

4.5.2 Media

January was a busy month on the media front as rapid transit staff continued to follow up on the successful launch of Viva in December.

A news release was issued promoting the fact that Viva's innovative website won a prestigious international award. It was named "FavouriteWebsiteAwards" website of the day for Monday January 17. The award is recognized across the industry as one of the top accolades for websites and Viva was selected from hundreds of entries around the globe.

The Viva Challenge was officially launched in the Promenade Mall in Thornhill and a news release was issued on Friday, January 21. The York Region News Group sent a photographer to the mall to get pictures of Team Viva members and the new state-of-the-art Viva kiosk. The Viva Challenge will run until the end of April.

During the month, the Toronto Star filed a Saturday feature on the development of transit and transit villages throughout York Region. This feature led to an extremely positive Toronto Star editorial the next day and a series of stories on CHUM AM and FM radio.

MEDIA HEADLINES

- “Unlocking gridlock in suburbia” – Toronto Star, January 8, 2005.
- “Transit key to York vision” – Toronto Star, January 8, 2005.
- “York’s big dream of transit villages” – Toronto Star, January 9, 2005.
- “Auto Workers step up “Buy Canadian” drive – Toronto Star, January 18, 2005.
- CHUM AM/FM Radio – Transit Villages in York Region – January 20, 2005.
- 680 Radio News – Viva Challenge Launch – January 23, 2005.
- “V” for Viva - Era Banner photo and caption, January 25, 2005.
- Every Viva has its day - Era Banner, January 20, 2005.
- Rapid transit system shows its colours - Thornhill Post, January 2005.

TRADE PUBLICATIONS

- Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce Newsletter – article printed.
- Municipal World Magazine – submitted article.
- Canadian Urban Transit Association – submitted article.
- Transportation Association of Canada – submitted article.
- My Transit (YRT Publication) – article submitted.
- Economic Developers Council of Ontario – article in approvals.
- Metro Magazine (US Publication) – article in approvals.
- New Canadian BRT System Named "Viva" - Transport Innovator (US Publication), January 2005.
- Transit Villages Coming to Toronto Suburbs - Planetization, January 12, 2005.
- Viva York - York Region celebrates its new rapid transit system, Viva - SurfWax, January 2005.
- Transit Key to York Vision - Ontario Community Transportation Association, January 2005.
- Viva Rapid Transit System to Connect Municipalities in York Region - OnVaughan.com.
- Viva York - York Region celebrates its new rapid transit system, Viva - iRail Newsletter.
- York region Rapid Transit Arrives - Richmond Hill Business Hot News.

FUTURE MEDIA

- Fairchild TV – interview scheduled for February 2, 2005.
- Toronto Sun – actively pursuing
- CBC Radio – actively pursuing.

4.5.3 Additional Communications Activities

In January, a program update presentation was given to Aurora Committee of the Whole on January 18th. This presentation was the last of the municipal update presentations to

municipalities delivered last fall (postponed due to scheduling issues). A new series of update presentations to local municipalities is planned for early spring.

Viva collateral materials were provided to the following for distribution to the public:

- Regional Councillor Jack Heath in support of his levy held January 23, 2005.
- Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio for distribution to community groups in her riding.
- Markham Centre Advisory Board for distribution at events and meetings.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report.

7. CONCLUSION

YC2002 and York Region staff made significant advancements during January 2005, particularly in advancing elements critical to the success of the Viva Phase One program and related communications.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.