

3

YORK REGION 2009 TRANSPORTATION FACT BOOK

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated September 22, 2009, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council receive the attached 2009 Transportation Fact Book and approve it for general distribution.
2. The Transportation Fact Book be made available for public distribution to local and adjacent municipalities, local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, stakeholder groups, public libraries and available for download on the corporate web site.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerks of the local area municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to present the 2009 Transportation Fact Book to Committee and Regional Council, and request authorization to make the report available for public distribution.

3. BACKGROUND

A broad range of data on road and transit usage, travel characteristics, and traffic safety are collected on a regular basis by various York Region departments. Some data are published in various Committee reports, however, most information are not readily accessible to other agencies, staff and the public. The Transportation Fact Book was written to provide a forum to publish general information and statistics about the transportation system in York Region and highlight the major aspects about the road and public transit infrastructure, and commuter support services available in the Region.

This is the third edition in a series of reports that will provide a historical perspective of the nature and use of the transportation system in York Region. The previous editions of the Transportation Fact Book were published in 2005 and 2007.

Transportation Fact Book summarizes key information about the Region's transportation system and acts as a high level reference document

The objective of the Transportation Fact Book is to capture the nature and use of the transportation system in York Region. More specifically, the Transportation Fact Book meets the following purposes:

- As a reference document, it gives an overview of York Region's transportation system components and its use, and provides a context for monitoring the performance of the system components.
- As a high level document, it informs Regional Council, senior management, other Regional departments and the public of transportation services and programs available.
- As a report, it serves to demonstrate the policy value of data collection, and the reliability and consistency of the data and collection methods used in the Region.

Organized into seven chapters to assist the reader in quickly locating valuable information and statistics on the transportation system in York Region

The Transportation Fact Book is organized into seven sections to provide the reader with a series of related transportation facts and figures. Included within the seven sections are:

- Section 1 - A general overview of the Regional Municipality of York.
- Section 2 - Road System provides an overview of the Regional road network including jurisdiction and number of lanes.
- Section 3 - Sustainable Transportation System provides information on the Region's transit, pedestrian and cycling networks, and supportive policies and programs such as the Region's Transportation Demand Management programs.
- Section 4 -System Usage describes the usage and demand on both the road and transit systems.
- Section 5 -Traffic Safety provides a general overview of traffic safety statistics.
- Section 6 - Travel Patterns and Characteristics provides an overview of two Regional and GTA transportation surveys.
- Section 7 – Provides contact information for key Regional and Municipal Transportation Departments, and Transit System Providers.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Transportation Fact Book is updated biennially and will include new topics to meet the needs of a maturing Region

This is the third edition of the Transportation Fact Book. The Fact Book report will be updated on a biennial basis.

The Transportation Fact Book will evolve over time with new information added in each subsequent report. Although many of the content topics within the previous versions of the Transportation Fact Book are consistent with this update, the 2009 Transportation Fact Book has been reorganized to provide the reader with a consistent grouping of content.

Monitoring the sustainability of the transportation system over time will play an important role in meeting the Region's growth targets

In recent years, York Region has sought a more balanced approach to transportation planning to accommodate population and employment growth. This balance is reflected in the 2002 Transportation Master Plan which changed how the Region looked at its transportation system. Building upon this plan, the Region's Transportation Master Plan Update has resulted in a set of progressive transit, roadway and policy recommendations that support the Region's vision of a more sustainable transportation system.

A critical component to ensure the success of these initiatives is through the ongoing monitoring and benchmarking of system usage. A new **Sustainable Transportation System** section has been included in the Fact Book (Section 3) to provide a distinction between content that is dependant on the Regional Road system, and systems and policies that will support the Region's Sustainability Initiatives. The sustainability section builds upon the existing content regarding Transit and Transportation Demand Management and includes new information on the Region's work at implementing infrastructure identified in the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

The section on Sustainable Transportation System's along with indicators from all sections of the Transportation Fact Book will serve as valuable input to assist in monitoring the status of the Region's transportation systems. In addition, this data can be drawn up for broader regional initiatives such as the Sustainability Report Card, transportation studies and Environmental Assessments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for limited printing of the Fact Book are included in the 2009 Planning and Economic Development Services approved budget. The report is available electronically through the Region's website.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The 2009 Transportation Fact Book will be made available to, local municipalities and stakeholder groups, and other Regional departments to provide a consolidated overview of transportation in the Region. Local municipalities can also use the data to assist in their

planning activities and provide a better understanding of the transportation needs of their communities.

7. CONCLUSION

The 2009 Transportation Fact Book represents a valuable resource for Regional Council, staff and the public. This third edition of the Transportation Fact Book (and subsequent editions undertaken biennially), is part of a series of reports that provides a historical perspective on the nature and use of the transportation system in the Region. Each report will provide an overview of the Region's transportation system components to help monitor and plan for future transportation needs.

For more information on this report, please contact Mark Hanlon, Senior Transportation Specialist at Ext. 5079 or Loy Cheah, Manager, Transportation Planning at Ext. 5024.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(Attachment 1, the York Region 2009 Transportation Fact Book, was circulated separately. A copy is also on file in the Clerk's office.)