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2005 SMOG SUMMIT

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends that:

- 1. Item 4.1, bullet point 2, Hybrid Bus Demonstration Project be amended to read “four hybrid buses have been ordered for the transit fleet”;**
- 2. Item 4.2 be amended to reflect the date of the Smog Summit as June 8, 2005; and**
- 3. The recommendations contained in the following report, April 20, 2005, from the Commissioner of Health Services be adopted.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Committee and Council receive this report on the activities of the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (GTA CAC) and the proposal for the sixth annual Smog Summit.
2. Committee and Council endorse the GTA CAC draft proposed 2005 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air (*see Attachment 1*) that will be signed by participating municipalities at the 2005 Smog Summit.
3. The Regional Clerk distribute copies of this report to all local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an update on GTA CAC activities and the proposal for the 2005 Smog Summit
- present the draft 2005 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air that will be announced at the 2005 Smog Summit and signed by all participating municipalities.

3. BACKGROUND

The first annual Smog Summit was held in June 2000 in Toronto as a response to the May 2000 Toronto Medical Officer of Health's *Burden of Illness* study associated with smog and air pollution. Political representatives from federal, provincial and municipal governments convened to develop short-term concrete measures to improve air quality.

Subsequent to the 2000 Smog Summit, the GTA CAC was formed to explore opportunities for joint initiatives to reduce air pollution and related health risks in the GTA. The GTA CAC includes representatives from federal and provincial governments as well as municipalities across the Greater Toronto Area. Representatives support the CAC through in-kind and financial annual contributions for joint initiatives.

An important initiative of the GTA CAC is the planning of the annual Smog Summit and the development of the Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air for each summit. The Regional Municipality of York has been a member of the GTA CAC since 2001 and is represented by the Health Services Department at monthly meetings.

The GTA CAC addresses local air quality through networking, information exchange, workshops and public awareness campaigns. Examples of this are the 2004 Idle-Free Campaign, Air Quality Monitoring, Emissions Modelling, Energy Star Procurement Guide, 20/20 The Way to Clean Air and the Clean Air Online Website.

Since 2001, a member of Regional Council has attended the annual Smog Summit in Toronto to announce York Region's clean air actions and initiatives and to sign the Inter-Governmental Declaration.

Last year a letter from the Chairman was sent to the GTA CAC offering to host the 2005 Smog Summit in York Region. The GTA CAC was appreciative of the offer, however, chose to continue holding the event in Toronto for 2005. This decision was based in part by the strong support for the event from the City of Toronto, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the Smog Summit Secretariat and the Clean Air Partnership.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 York Region Clean Air Initiatives

York Region is committed to making clean air a priority in its operations as demonstrated by the announcements made at the 2004 Smog Summit and in several new and existing initiatives that will have the co-benefit of improving air quality. Clean air initiatives can reduce emissions directly (e.g. tail pipe emissions) or indirectly (e.g. reducing energy use which in turn reduces emissions from coal fired power plants):

York Region's Direct Initiatives are:

- GTA Smart Commute Initiative – will provide sustainable transportation alternatives such as transit and carpooling.
- Hybrid Bus Demonstration Project – four hybrid buses have been added to the transit fleet as part of a one year hybrid bus demonstration project.
- Rapid Transit – with the launch of Viva in September 2005, York Region will introduce rapid transit services along Yonge Street, Highway 7 and two north-south links to the TTC subway system.

- Draft Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 43 – Regional Centres and Corridors – the strategy promotes the development of a planned urban structure of centres and corridors and strengthens the relationship between land use, transportation and transit.

York Region's Indirect Initiatives are:

- Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) – EEMS software captures energy consumption and expenses of buildings, street lights and other Region-owned facilities. EEMS can provide analysis on utility performance and green house gas/nitrogen oxide/sulphur dioxide emission reductions and performance.
- Light Emitting Diode (LED) Traffic Signal Retrofit and Replacement Program – older style incandescent traffic lights have been converted to low maintenance, energy saving LEDs.
- Wind Energy Pre-Feasibility Study – York Region is carrying out a pilot wind energy investigation which includes pre-feasibility studies for the towns of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Georgina.

Combined Initiatives (both direct and indirect) include:

- 20/20 The Way to Clean Air – 20/20 continues to be promoted in workplaces, schools and in the community.
- York Region's Corporate Clean Air Task Force – the Task Force will be developing a comprehensive Regional Air Quality Policy that will ensure how and to what extent clean air plans are incorporated into every initiative and operation.

4.2 2005 Smog Summit Activities

The sixth annual Smog Summit will be held on June 4, 2005, which coincides with Clean Air Day. There will also be a number of pre-summit events including a Fresh Air Fair on Saturday, June 4, 2005. This public event is aimed at families with small children and will promote clean air actions through theatre, music, a "Clean Air Champion", youth essay contests, information booths and other interactive events.

The theme of this year's Summit is Transportation and Health. Components of the Summit include a keynote address, municipal roundtable discussion and announcements by the Federal and Provincial governments.

As in past years, an Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air will be signed by political representatives of federal, provincial and municipal GTA CAC members. As this year's declaration will focus on joint CAC actions to improve air quality, initiatives undertaken by individual jurisdictions will be updated periodically through the inventory of *Governments' Actions on Clean Air in the GTA*. This inventory is available online at www.cleanairpartnership.org.

Components of the 2005 Declaration include: a commitment to joint actions to address smog and greenhouse gases focusing on areas of concern including transportation and health, to continue to undertake research and action that was begun as part of

commitments made in the 2004 declaration, and to host a cross border Smog Summit in 2006. The components of the draft Toronto and Region 2005 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air are outlined in Attachment 1.

4.3 Relationship to Vision 2026

Ongoing participation on the GTA CAC, joint initiatives and research to improve air quality, support the goals of Vision 2026, such as promoting clean air policies and initiatives and promoting alternative transportation methods that improve air quality.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regional Municipality of York continues to contribute \$10,000 (\$4,500 net tax levy for 2005) annually to support the GTA CAC. This amount is included in the approved 2005 Health Services Business Plan and Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The GTA Clean Air Council includes representation from all levels of government including several York Region area municipalities. Local municipalities benefit from and contribute to the initiatives of the CAC. Examples of this are the improved air benefits of joint initiatives such as the anti-idling campaign and the 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Campaign.

7. CONCLUSION

Since 2001, York Region has demonstrated leadership and commitment to improve air quality through participating in the GTA CAC and the annual Smog Summit. The clean air components of Regional initiatives and most recently the formation of the Corporate Clean Air Task Force, ensure that clean air actions are made a priority in York Region. It is recommended that Committee and Council continue to support the CAC at the sixth annual Smog Summit on June 8, 2005 and endorse the 2005 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the May 12, 2005 Committee meeting.)