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COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2007 TO 2010

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 17, 2010, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report highlights some of the major accomplishments, events and successes of Regional Council during the 2007-2010 term through the Transportation Services Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

Transportation Services Committee provides strategic oversight of Regional mobility for all modes of travel and stewardship of Regional road rights-of-way and forests

In the broadest sense, Transportation Services Committee is responsible for the oversight of Regional mobility for all modes of travel. This includes moving people, goods and services in cars and trucks, on public transit, on foot and on bikes. Transportation Services is ultimately responsible for the stewardship of Regional road rights-of-way and forests. Transportation related infrastructure represents a significant amount of the Region's public realm and capital assets.

The Transportation Services Department mandate includes:

- Delivery of a 'family' of public transit services including YRT/Viva and Mobility Plus carrying almost 19 million passenger trips annually
- Service of 16 million veh/km of cars/bus/truck traffic daily
- Maintenance/operation of 785 traffic signals
- Planning, design and construction of new roads and related transportation infrastructure
- Maintenance of over 3,500 lane-km of road right-of-way and over 250 bridges/culverts
- Management of 22 sq km of Regional forest and planting over 80,000 trees and shrubs annually

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Transportation Services Department was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards during this past Council term 2007-2010

York Region Transit

- In 2008, York Region Transit was awarded Bus Safety Gold Award by the American Public Transit Association (APTA), for systems more than 4 million and fewer than 30 million passenger trips
- In 2007, Summit Creative Award for creative excellence for the marketing communications was awarded for a variety of communications programs
- In 2009, YRT was awarded an APTA Marketing Excellence award to the “Gas Relief” campaign
- National Quality Institute (NQI) Progressive Excellence Program (PEP) Level Two certification awarded to YRT for having achieved a commendable level of quality and organizational excellence

Roads

- American Public Works Association Project of Year Award in 2007
- Ontario Good Road Association (OGRA) Better Practices Competition 2007 and the 2007 Canadian Projects Excellence Award in the Environmental Category for the same project

Forestry

- 2007–2010 Maintained Forest Stewardship Council Certification demonstrating that the York Regional Forest is managed in a responsible and sustainable manner
- In 2008, Nature Conservancy of Canada certificate of thanks for years of support and commitment to biodiversity conservation as demonstrated through our Land Securement partnership agreements with them since 2001
- In 2009, York Region Greening Strategy was recognized for its significant environmental achievements by being awarded the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) Environment Award for municipalities with a population over 50,000 on June 3, 2009

- In 2010, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Canadian Boreal Initiative, David Suzuki Foundation and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Environmental Certificate of Appreciation for commitment to sustainable forest management within the York Regional Forest

The Transportation Services Department delivers on its mandate to provide mobility for all modes of travel through a variety of service related improvements and capital works

The delivery of transportation related services and capital works is based on three key strategic drivers:

1. Asset Management
2. Sustainable Growth
3. Network Optimization

Over the past Council term, significant progress has been made in each of these areas.

The following section lists the most notable deliverables and achievements.

Roads / Traffic

- Resurfaced and rehabilitated over 500 lane-kilometres of Regional Roads, (including Infrastructure Stimulus projects)
- Completed over \$240M in Road and intersection improvements including:
 - o Highway 427 Extension to Fogal/Zenway
 - o Widening of Ninth Line between Roseway and Donald Cousens Pkwy
 - o Widening of Bathurst Street between King Road and Mulock Drive
 - o Widening of Weston Road between Major Mackenzie Drive and Teston Road
 - o Widening of Teston Road between Bathurst Street and Dufferin Street
 - o Widening of Major Mackenzie Drive between Woodbine Avenue and McCowan Road
 - o Widening of Teston Rd from Weston Rd to Hwy 400 including the interchange at Hwy 400
 - o Reconstruction of Ravenshoe Rd from Prout Rd to Weir's Sdrd
 - o Widening of Dufferin St from Steele's Ave to Glen Shields Ave
- Initiated co-operative action to resolve mid-block flyover over Hwy 404 (Markham & Richmond Hill)
- Developed Municipal Streetscaping Partnership Program (\$1M annual contribution to municipal streetscaping projects)
- Approved Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) strategic plan including a web based Emergency Detour Roads (EDR) along Hwy 400 and Hwy 404
- Initiated York Region Speed Limit Policy review

Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) – 2009/2010

- \$26.5M for 10 rehabilitation & resurfacing projects in Roads (most projects have started and about half were completed in 2009)
- \$4.9M for 2 projects in YRT (rehabilitation of concrete bus pads and platforms at 750 bus stops to comply with YRT accessibility standards, the other to rehabilitate 11 bus loops locations)

Roads Project Outlook 2010

Plan to construct \$133 M in Road improvements with planned completion of:

- widening of Bathurst Street from Mulock Dr to Hwy 9
- widening of Ninth Line from Hwy 407 to Roseway Dr
- widening of Stouffville Rd from McCowan Rd to Hwy 48
- widening and reconstruction of Gamble Rd from Yonge St to Bathurst St
- widening of Stouffville Rd from Warden Ave to Kennedy Rd
- widening of Langstaff Rd from Hwy 50 to Hwy 27
- widening of Woodbine Ave from Major Mackenzie Dr to 19th Ave (front-end financed)
- King Road from Highway 27 to East of Greenside
- Resurface and rehabilitate 90 lane-kilometres of Regional roads
- Plan to develop snow removal and storage strategy

Forestry & Natural Heritage

- Secured 21 conservation properties (642 ha) through the implementation of the newly signed 3 year agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
- Adopted and began implementation of a hazard tree management strategy for 120 km of trails within the York Regional Forest
- Implement an accessible forest trail (April 2010 Committee report pending)
- Developed Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) partnership, with area municipalities, for back yard tree planting program

York Region Transit

- Implemented 100,000 hrs new revenue service hrs since 2007
- Introduced new Dial-a-Ride service concept to replace underutilized routes
- Completed five YRT/Viva/Mobility annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys
- Purchased over 200 new transit vehicles for service expansion and/or fleet replacement purposes
- Installed over 130 new transit shelters

- Installed over 2,000 new concrete bus stop pads
- Accessibility assessments/audits completed at all 4000+ YRT stops
- Developed and launched myRide Travel Training program to assist persons with disabilities using conventional public transit
- Formal designation of accessible transit routes that currently represent approximately 60% of total ridership
- Transit fares frozen for 2010 at 2009 levels
- Installation of security cameras on all YRT and Mobility Plus buses (including contractor-owned taxis and sedans)
- Construction of first major Region-owned transit operations and maintenance facility in Vaughan. (Facility will accommodate over 220 buses and is scheduled to open in the Summer of 2010)

New Transit Technology

- Commitment to new Presto Smart Card system on conventional YRT buses and Viva stations and terminals in partnership with Metrolinx/MTO (launch early 2011)
- Installed Computer Aided Dispatch and Automated Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) systems on entire YRT and Mobility Plus fleets
- Implementation of real-time bus arrival information through the internet, e-mail and IVR (integrated voice response)
- Complete the installation of Variable Message Signs (VMS) at all terminals advising customers of the real-time status of buses
- Introduced new Mobility Plus IVR (Interactive Voice Recording) system which now takes over 40% of all Mobility Plus calls, significantly reducing call wait times
- Technology upgrades for Mobility Plus including web-based trip booking and GPS units in all contracted vehicles

York Region Transit Outlook 2010

- Transit contracts:
 - Award new Operations and Maintenance 5 year contract for conventional and Mobility Plus transit services in the south-west division
 - Negotiate Viva service contract renewal/extension
 - Commence negotiation of the contract for the south-east division with Miller Transit
 - New Performance-Based Contracts for Mobility Plus for the operation of sedans and mini-vans in 2011
- Provide strategic and technical support to the Vivanext project that includes procurement of Viva vehicles, design of stations and rapid ways, and use of technology

- Design of YRT/Viva Street Furniture scheduled to be approved. RFP to be subsequently issued for implementation of Street Furniture program
- Implementation of Transit-Secure recommendations to improve safety and security on YRT service and at Facilities
- New Marketing plan to be developed aimed at attracting riders from targeted groups and improving current practices
- 2010 Customer Satisfaction Survey to be completed for both YRT / Viva and Mobility Plus services
- Install interface between CAD/AVL system and on-board security camera systems to allow transfer of images to control centre when needed
- Implementation of a fleet asset management system for YRT, Viva and Mobility Plus buses to improve fleet reliability and costs
- Extension of bus bays at Promenade and Richmond Hill Centre transit terminals
- Accessibility assessment/audit of all YRT terminals to be completed

Rapid Transit Accomplishments

During this past Council term, significant investment and progress has been made towards the Region's vision for an emerging rapid transit system. As part of Phase 2 of the Vivanext bus rapid transit program, engineering design and property acquisition is well underway for centre-median rapidways and new expanded stations. This new phase of Vivanext will begin to transform the road right-of-way to reflect a more comfortable pedestrian environment contributing to increased transit market share.

A detailed reporting of accomplishments over this term of Council has been prepared by YRRTC staff for consideration by the Board. The following highlights have been copied from the report as they capture some important milestones in the delivery of rapid transit. The continued leadership and vision of Regional Council with respect to the York Rapid Transit Plan has resulted in:

- \$1.4 billion in Provincial funding announced for the first 38 km of bus rapid transit (rapidways)
- Funding and commencement of construction of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension
- The receipt of approximately \$30 million in funding from the Province in the first quarter of 2010
- Finalized business arrangements with Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario
- A revised governance structure to report to a Board of Directors appointed by Regional Council. The Board helps establish future policies and objectives, and oversees the Corporation's overall performance;
- Being the first in Ontario to complete the streamlined environmental assessment process – Transit Project Assessment Process – for the Yonge Subway extension which was approved unconditionally by the Ministry of the Environment

- The commencement of a Conceptual Design study for the Yonge Subway extension
- Completion of a property acquisition program on Davis Drive and Highway 7 and the commencement of early works programs
- The construction of rapidways in 2009 along Enterprise Dr. in Markham
- The award of a \$45 million contract for 51 new Viva vehicles

Relationship to Vision 2026

The recommendations of the Transportation Services Committee that are subsequently endorsed by Council are consistent with the stated goals of York Region's Vision 2026 Plan and the Sustainability Strategy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Transportation Services delivers over \$440 million dollars worth of services and capital works annually to the residents and businesses of York Region, representing 45% of the Region's current asset value

Table 1
2010 Transportation Services Budget

Programs	Operating	Capital
Roads & Traffic	\$95.5M	\$133M
Transit	\$160.9M	\$52.6M
TOTAL	\$256.4	\$185.6M

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The costs of implementing the programs and initiatives cited in this report have been managed by Council in its administration of annual budgets between 2007 and 2010, and longer-term financial planning.

Priorities of Council are reflected in the annual budget and associated funding allocations. With responsible, prudent fiscal policies, sustainable financial strategies and proactive financial planning processes, York Region strives to ensure that programs and services are delivered to the community in an effective manner at reasonable cost. York Region's financial policies and practices ensure that ongoing operating requirements as well as growth and development needs are financed in a fiscally responsible manner to meet the current and future needs.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Regional staff has, and will continue to, work closely with local municipal staff to ensure the effective and efficient support of policies that are consistent with the strategic goals of local municipalities. Many of the accomplishments in the 2007-2010 term are facilitated by the spirit of collaboration between all municipalities in York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The 2007-2010 Transportation Services Committee and Regional Council have taken decisive steps to address the needs of York Region residents. Transportation Services staff have responded well to the significant demands associated with the tremendous pace of growth during the Council Term. Council has been extremely proactive in terms of the resources required to achieve the aggressive business goals. During the Council term, significant progress has been made in better understanding our business priorities. As a result, the focus for the next Council Term will now be an emphasis on the protection of our valued assets and stewardship of the public realm within the Region's Transportation Corridors.

For more information on this report, please contact Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas at Ext 5025.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.