

6

YORK REGION 2011 TRANSPORTATION FACT BOOK

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated February 28, 2012, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse the 2011 Transportation Fact Book for general distribution, including distribution to local municipalities, local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, local stakeholder groups, and public libraries in York Region.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report presents the 2011 Transportation Fact Book and requests authorization to make it available for public distribution.

3. BACKGROUND

This is the fourth edition of the Transportation Fact Book providing a snapshot of the travel characteristics and use of the transportation system in York Region

The previous editions of the Transportation Fact Book were published in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

The 2011 Transportation Fact Book highlights the aspects of the four major elements of the transportation system in the Region:

1. Roads Traffic Management
2. Public Transit
3. Active Transportation
4. Travel Demand Management

The Fact Book also contains information such as services and programs provided by York Region or in partnership with other local municipalities and agencies in the Greater Toronto Area.

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 and agencies

Broad range of transportation data is published in various transportation-related reports. However, most information is not readily accessible to other agencies, staff and the public. The Transportation Fact Book was created 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.

The objective of the Transportation Fact Book is to capture the characteristics 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.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Transportation Fact Book is updated biennially and includes new topics to reflect system changes

The Transportation Fact Book will evolve over time with new information added in each subsequent report. Although much of the content topics within the previous versions of the Transportation Fact Book remains in this update, the 2011 Transportation Fact Book has been reorganized to provide the reader with a consistent grouping of content. The groupings is intended to better represent the four major elements of transportation (traffic management, transit, active transportation, and TDM) in York Region using key projects and initiatives categorized under these elements.

This version of the Fact Book provides key information about traffic management, public transit, active transportation and travel demand management

York Region's shift towards a more balanced approach to transportation planning is reflected in the original 2002 Transportation Master Plan and the 2009 Transportation Master Plan

Update. The Master Plan has resulted in a set of progressive transit, roadway and policy recommendations that supports the Region's vision of a more sustainable transportation system. In addition to building new transportation infrastructure, the Region must also optimize and make efficient use of the existing infrastructure. This version of the Fact Book provides key information related to roads and traffic management, transit, active transportation and travel demand management.

The continuous monitoring of the transportation system will play an important role in assessing and evaluating the impact of improvements to transportation infrastructure and services in addressing the demands of growth in population and employment in the Region.

The 2011 Transportation Fact Book is organized into 5 major chapters to assist the reader in locating valuable information and statistics on the transportation system in York Region

This edition of the Fact Book is organized into five major chapters, in addition to the Introduction (Chapter 1) and Contact & General Information (Chapter 7) as per the previous editions. Below is a brief summary of all the chapters:

Chapter 1 – Introduction: a general overview of The Regional Municipality of York

Chapter 2 – Roads and Traffic Management: provides information about the Region's transportation systems and various roadway characteristics

Chapter 3 – Public Transit: provides information on the public transit services operation in the Region including York Region Transit, Viva and GO Transit

Chapter 4 – Active Transportation: provides information about non-motorized modes of transportation which are walking and cycling

Chapter 5 – Transportation Demand Management (TDM): provides information on initiatives provided by the Region to manage travel demand during peak periods

Chapter 6 – Travel Demand and Trends: provides an overview of weekday travel indicators based on transportation system surveys

Chapter 7 – Contact & General Information: provides contact information of road and public transit operators in York Region

The Fact Book provides readers with a list of contact information for various projects, studies and initiatives

Similar to the previous version of the Fact Book, this edition also provides contact information where further details on capital projects, road maintenance, transportation

studies and initiatives provided by the Region can be obtained. Chapter 7 (Contact & General Information) includes contact information for all nine local municipalities in York Region.

Link to Key Council–approved Plans

This report supports the 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan in the priority area of “Make Regional services more user-friendly”. This reference document informs residents and the general public of transportation services, programs and systems available in the Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for the limited printing of the Fact Book are included in the 2012 Transportation and Community Planning operating budget. The Fact Book will also be made available electronically on the Region’s website.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The 2011 Transportation Fact Book will be made available to local municipalities, 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 obtain a better understanding of the transportation needs of their communities.

7. CONCLUSION

The 2011 Transportation Fact Book represents a resource for Regional Council, staff and the public. This fourth edition of the Transportation Fact Book provides an overview of the Region’s transportation system components and a snapshot of the travel characteristics and use of the transportation system in the Region. The document will be used to help monitor and plan for future transportation needs in York Region.

For more information on this report, please contact Loy Cheah, Director, Transportation Infrastructure Planning at 905-830-4444, Ext. 5024.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the April 4, 2012 Committee meeting.)