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VIVA PROGRESS REPORT

May 2005

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report April 29, 2005, from the Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report 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 April 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 Stage One - Year One Work Plan

The original Stage One (Year One) agreement entered into between York Region and YC2002 in June 2002. 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) and the current status of each is summarized below.

4.1.1 South Yonge Corridor and Highway 7 Corridor / Vaughan North-South Link EA

The final South Yonge EA Report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) at the end of April. The Highway 7 / Vaughan N-S Link draft report was circulated to the MOE Government Review Team in April and will be finalized for final submission to MOE by end of May.

Approval of the Yonge EA is expected in late fall of 2005 as the regulated maximum 30-week period is required for MOE and public approval process. It is anticipated that Highway 7 approval should be achievable by the end of 2005.

4.1.2 Markham North-South Link EA

The preferred alignment and infrastructure selected was presented to Markham General Committee in April. The final public consultation will take place in early May and draft EA Report pre-submission circulation is planned for June, with final report submission to MOE by July 2005. EA Study approval is expected at the end of 2005 or early 2006.

4.1.3 North Yonge Corridor EA

The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the North Yonge Corridor was submitted to MOE and the government review agencies in April 2005. In parallel with ToR approval, anticipated in July of 2005, the EA Study itself will continue, subject to budget approval of the Viva Phase 2A work program.

4.2 Stage One – Year Two Work Plan

The Amended and Restated Year Two Work Plan is substantially complete and the status of remaining work will be reported in June.

4.3 Viva Phase 1 Design-Build Contract

Kiewit EllisDon will have progress billed 42% against the Viva Phase 1 Design-Build GMP contract with a revised value of \$69.5 million at the end of April 2005. Design-Build activities during April are described in Table 1.

Table 1
Viva Phase 1 Design-Build Contract

Component	Activity	Progress
Detailed Design Intersections	· All transit stops in York Region have been issued for construction except for locations where changes have been requested. Toronto stops have all been issued for construction. Work permits have been issued for all locations except for directional boring work at two locations to be done by Utilities.	· Over 95% Complete
Terminals	· Finch Terminal: York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (Rapidco) staff have been working with GO Transit and its consultants on exterior modifications to the existing terminal. · Newmarket Terminal: Meeting between design builder and GO Transit April 15th to finalize details for both interior and exterior work and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for May 5th.	· Exterior 50% Complete · Ext/Int 95/80% Complete

Component	Activity	Progress
Detailed Design (cont'd) Terminals	- Markham-Stouffville Hospital: A preferred location has been identified and needs to be discussed with Local Council and staff. - York University: YRT shelter proposal approval from York University is required. Approval in principle has been received, with minor details to be concluded. Building permit was issued April 15th. Shelter shop drawings are in progress. Anticipated construction start is mid to late May.	Postponed
Fare Collection Equipment	- Meetings to review the design documents between KED, Traf Park and the Region are ongoing and the designs are expected be completed over the coming weeks. - Exterior Graphics and Screen Graphics are being finalized for Ticket Machines. - Finalized Fare Media design details (including security features) have been issued to KED by the Region. - Shop drawings for the Fare Collection equipment have been submitted to the Region and are under review. - Prototypes of Fare equipment are being manufactured and factory testing will commence in the near future. A shop visit will be held in early May for KED and the Region to observe the working prototypes of the Fare Collection devices. - Design of the Revenue Management Software System continues.	On Schedule
ITS	- The INIT software is now up and running and Viva project particulars are currently being input. - Delivery of the first Variable Message Signs (VMS) is expected the week of May 16th and all will have been received by the end of May. - Testing of 'in-vehicle' INIT equipment has been successfully performed at the vehicle manufacturer's shop. - On site testing of ITS systems continues to be developed and will commence after delivery of the new vehicles.	On Schedule

commenced. The production for the remaining sixty-foot and forty-foot rapid transit vehicles is on schedule to meet the planned in-service dates.

4.5 Viva Phase 1 Support Activities

The activities and accomplishments for April 2005 that relate to operations and maintenance, communications and interface planning support for the Viva Phase 1 project are described in Table 2.

Table 2
Viva Phase 1 Operations & Maintenance Related Support

Component	Activity
Procurement of Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Contractor	· O&M contract was approved by Council on Mar. 31, 2005 · Notice to proceed was issued on Mar. 31, 2005 · Contract to be executed in early May
Off-Board Fare Equipment	· Development of POP program and requirements continue. · Development of the Revenue Management / Servicing approach continues.
14th Ave. Maintenance Facility	· Work has been discontinued as O&M operator's facility will be used until a permanent site is identified.
Viva Phase 1 O&M Facilities Newmarket Maintenance Facility	· Improvements needed to achieve the temporary occupancy permit are completed. · Some outdoor construction will continue to take place after the O&M contractor occupies the facility on Apr 20. · Additional work will be necessary to upgrade the current asphalt surface has been tendered by KED.
Transit Agency Technical Meetings GO Transit Technical Meetings	Finch, Langstaff, Newmarket, Unionville Terminals: Finch: · Closing for tender issued by GO Transit for the canopy and layover was extended to April 28th. · Approval in final stages with GO Transit for a bus layover provision on their property. · Biweekly update meetings on internal work. · Will attend weekly/biweekly meetings when external construction commences. Langstaff: · Continuing preliminary engineering design of pedestrian bridge. Construction of terminal continues.

Component	Activity
	Newmarket: · GO Transit design comments are being incorporated prior to review by Newmarket. GO Transit: · Rapidco is responding to comments from GO Transit regarding draft operating agreements.
Transit Agency Operational Meetings	· Rapidco meetings with GO Transit to develop operational terms related to the GO MOU continue and negotiations are nearing completion.

4.5.1 Fare Policy

A complete review of the final Viva Phase 1 fare policies and procedures will be presented to Committee and Council in June 2005.

4.5.2 Markham-Stouffville Hospital

With respect to a permanent facility in Cornell, Rapidco and YRT continue to participate in internal meetings with the Town of Markham and Markham-Stouffville Hospital staff to provide transit-planning support to the master planning work for the Hospital as well as the town's plans for other new developments to the southeast. We continue to work with all parties to ensure that rapid transit and local facility needs are integrated into the Town's and Hospital's plans, with the overall objective that rapid transit be extended into this important area at the earliest opportunity. Meetings with local Councillors and the community are proposed in May.

4.5.3 Transit Oriented Development / Joint Development / Planning

An increasing level of consultation and co-ordination between rapid transit and municipal planning staff is adding value to on-going efforts to establish transit-oriented development policies and attract development that supports transit ridership and investment. Rapid Transit staff are directly involved in key Regional and local planning initiatives that impact development and infrastructure investment in and adjacent to the Regional Rapid Transit corridors.

Staff involvement in planning and development activities generally occurs on three fronts:

- Consultation on policies and programs initiated by a municipality, including the development and/or review of major secondary plans, and transit-supportive land use guidelines for segments of Regional Corridors.
- Review of site-specific Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, Site Plan and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications through the Region's internal Development Review Committee or as circulated by the local municipalities.
- Direct negotiations with landowners with respect to Joint Development opportunities and improvements related to rapid transit facilities and services.

Recent planning activities include consultation on Vaughan's "Corporate Centre Streetscape and Open Space Master Plan Study" and a leadership role in the creation of Region-wide "Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guidelines". Advancing TOD through a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach is a unique and important opportunity to support the Region's investment in rapid and conventional transit services. Rapid transit staff are collaborating with the Regional Planning & Development Services Department and YC2002 in this effort, and will present a progress report to Council in June 2005.

Another emerging opportunity to advance rapid transit interests through planning policy initiatives is Markham's review of the Cornell Secondary Plan. An important part of this review will be to reinforce and update the transit-supportive land use policies of the Cornell Centre District, focused at the Highway 7 and Bur Oak Avenue intersection. This review also presents a further opportunity to establish a site for a Viva/YRT terminal facility, as described in Section 4.5.3 of this report. Town of Markham adoption of the new secondary plan is expected before the end of this year.

4.6 Communications and Launch Of Rapid Transit

4.6.1 Marketing Communications

The Viva Challenge, a public outreach program designed to create awareness of Viva, began in January and has continued through the month of April. To date, over 400 members of the public have entered the contest and we continue to receive positive feedback about our proposed new rapid transit service.

Team Viva has staffed electronic kiosks on the weekends in the following locations: Hillcrest Mall beginning March 26th, the Aurora Home Show April 22nd to 24th, Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre throughout the month of April and at Upper Canada Mall beginning April 25th. In addition to entering in person with our Team Viva members at our kiosks, people are also entering online through the vivayork website. The Viva Challenge is scheduled to continue until the end of May.

From April 1st to the 3rd, our materials were distributed at the Newmarket Home Show by staff of the Town of Newmarket. We met with the Canadian Federation of Students on April 7th and with Seneca College on April 19th to discuss opportunities for cross promotion.

In April, we prepared advertisements for placement in the Chamber of Commerce newsletters of Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill and Markham Board of Trade. We are also negotiating space for ad placement in the Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham Leisure Guides as well as in seniors publications in Markham and Thornhill. We are now in active negotiation with the various media agencies for placement of the media approved in April's Marketing Communication and

Education Plan. As well, we are proceeding with the deployment of the public relations and education components of the plan.

4.6.2 Media

Media interest in Viva has been growing steadily since the brand launch on December 6, 2004. As construction continues and Viva becomes more visible, reporters are generating their own stories. Rapid transit staff have responded to media requests from The New VR, Rogers TV, Fairchild TV, The Toronto Star, York Region Newspaper Group, The Ottawa Citizen and a variety of trade publications.

With the end of school approaching, we targeted the students at York University and Seneca College. Rapid transit staff are also working closely with the business community, seniors' groups and cultural groups to spread the Viva message. In April, we started providing articles and taking out ads in the Markham Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce publications.

Rapid transit staff are also issuing news releases at key times to try and inform the media and generate further stories. On March 31, 2005 we issued the following release: "York Regional Council approves Viva Rapid Transit Operating and Maintenance Contract".

Some of the results were:

- York University – Excaliber Newspaper – Release sent April 1, 2005.
- York's Daily Bulletin – "From A to Being... in class on time" – April 6, 2005.
- YRNG – "Viva contract comes in under budget" – April 3, 2005.
- Tandem Magazine – interview – April 4, 2005.
- Seneca Article - sent to Richard Douglas
- Markham Seniors Newsletter – Article sent April 1, 2005.
- Thornhill Seniors Newsletter – Article sent April 6, 2005.
- "Viva Rapid Transit Takes Shape in York Region" – Food and Home Magazine, April 2005.
- "Viva Rapid Transit Coming to York Region" – Municipal World Magazine, April 2005.
- "Viva RT – New Transit System Coming Soon – About Markham, Spring 2005.
- "Rapid Transit is Coming" – Dave Barrow Newsletter, Spring 2005.

4.7 Government Relations

Rapid transit staff have been working closely with staff in Minister McCallum's Ottawa office and with staff in Minister Sorbara's Queen's Park office to try and secure \$7.3 million from each level of government for preliminary design, planning and engineering of Viva Phase Two. Work is ongoing.

Letters of support for Phase Two funding have been sent to Federal and Provincial Ministers from the Viva Ambassadors, Markham Centre Committee, Mayor Cousens and Mayor Jones, and the Canadian Federation of Students.

Thornhill MPP Mario G. Racco has advocated strongly on Viva's behalf, making a statement in the Ontario Legislature and asking the Minister of Transportation directly for a funding commitment for Phase Two.

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 April 2005, particularly in advancing elements critical to the success of the Viva Phase 1 program and related communications.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.