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YORK REGION TRANSIT GO TRANSIT PROPERTY ACCESS AGREEMENT

The Transit Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, May 29, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council authorize execution of an agreement between The Regional Municipality of York and the Greater Toronto Transit Authority (GO Transit) to permit the access of GO Transit buses to York Region Transit properties for the purpose of boarding and alighting customers, and thereby providing inter-regional transit services to York Region.
2. The Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement, subject to review by Legal Services as to form and content.

2. PURPOSE

York Region Transit (YRT) staff are seeking Regional Council authorization to execute an agreement with GO Transit to permit them to operate Provincial transit services into various YRT properties.

3. BACKGROUND

YRT services a number of GO Transit properties and GO Transit now services YRT's Richmond Hill Centre Terminal

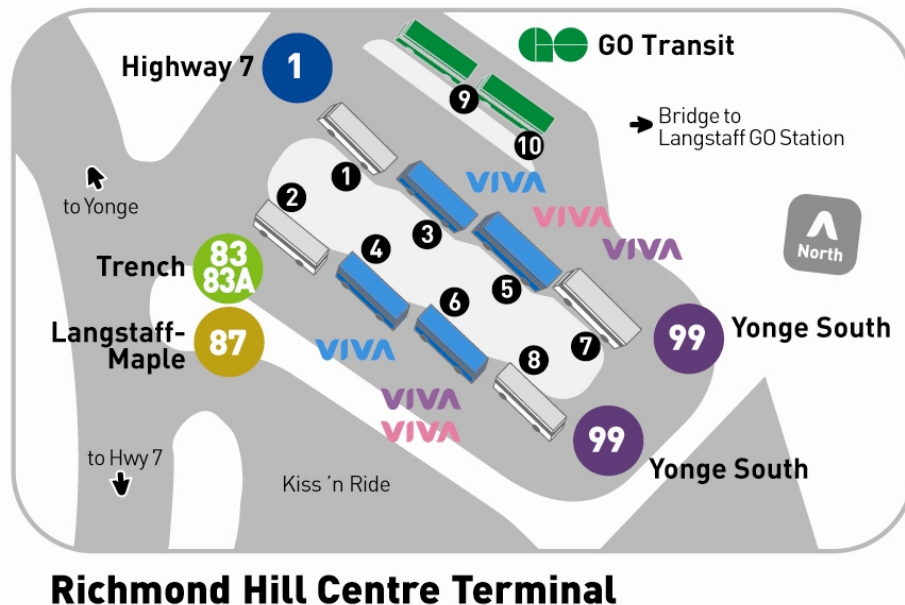
Prior to the amalgamation of transit services in the Region, the local municipal transit systems accessed a number of GO Transit properties. YRT continues to service these properties and has expanded service to other GO Transit properties. A formal agreement for YRT access to GO Transit properties was executed in 2005 as part of the requirement set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pertaining to the implementation of Viva in the Yonge Street corridor. The MOU also stipulated that two platforms were to be included for GO Transit as part of the construction of the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal and that a formal agreement be executed with respect thereto.

On April 26, 2008 GO Transit implemented an Airport Express bus service from Richmond Hill Centre Terminal

This hourly service operates from Richmond Hill Centre Terminal to Pearson International Airport and Square One Shopping Centre in Mississauga, and begins and ends at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal. This service provides an inter-regional connection with YRT's conventional and Viva services at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal, and also connects to GO rail services at the Langstaff GO Station via the new pedestrian bridge.

GO Transit services platform #10 at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal and may service additional YRT properties in the future. The terminal is also serviced by YRT routes 83/83A - Trench and 99 - Yonge South, as well as Viva Blue - Finch/Richmond Hill/Newmarket, Viva Purple - York University/Richmond Hill/Cornell and Viva Pink - Finch/Richmond Hill/Unionville.

Figure 1 – Services Presently Provided from Richmond Hill Centre Terminal



There will be future opportunities for GO Transit to service other YRT properties

YRT's Five-Year Service Plan identifies several key objectives, including the need to improve both intra and inter-regional transit connections and overall service quality in order to attract new users to transit, and increase transit's modal share. As YRT grows, there will be further opportunities to incorporate GO Transit services at both existing and future properties.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

There is an existing agreement for YRT access to GO Transit properties

YRT and Viva services operate on a number of GO Transit properties, such as GO Finch Terminal, Unionville GO Station, and Newmarket GO Station, and also service a number of train stations off-site, such as the Maple GO Station and Markham GO Station.

The existing agreement between York Region and GO Transit for YRT access to GO Transit properties provides for a cost sharing of the net operating and maintenance costs of the GO Finch and Newmarket terminals. The cost sharing for the two terminals is based on the percentage split of York Region's and GO Transit's respective ridership from the previous year and is calculated annually. GO Transit does not require the Region to share in net operating and maintenance costs at the other GO rail stations as these services are of benefit to GO since they feed their train services.

Formal agreement is necessary to identify terms and conditions

YRT staff are currently drafting an access agreement with GO Transit to enable GO access to YRT facilities. Upon completion of the draft agreement, it will be circulated to GO Transit and York Region's legal, finance and risk management departments for review. The agreement will provide for all necessary administration, operating and maintenance components required for the operation of GO buses in and out of the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal, and will include provisions for future access to other YRT facilities.

The agreement format is a standard document used by YRT and GO Transit and contains clauses relating to:

- Term of Contract and renewal options.
- Termination guidelines.
- Capital and/or maintenance costs.
- Terms of payment.
- Insurance requirements.
- Indemnification.
- Responsibilities.
- Operating guidelines and professional practices.
- Security.

Relationship to Vision 2026

The provision of access for GO Transit buses to YRT facilities supports the Vision 2026 principle of: "Partnerships: Co-ordinating, supporting and enhancing services through partnerships with area municipalities, other governments, community agencies and the

private sector” and also supports the Region’s goal to “...have efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation, waste management and water systems”.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no cost to GO Transit for accessing Richmond Hill Centre Terminal

As part of the aforementioned MOU with GO, the Region is to provide two platforms at no cost to GO Transit.

The current annual operating and maintenance costs for the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal are approximately \$11,000 per platform, for a total cost of \$110,000. The total annual operation and maintenance costs for the two GO Transit platforms are approximately \$22,000. Costs include all aspect of facility maintenance, such as litter pick-up, waste/recycling collection, winter maintenance, grounds maintenance and lighting.

Provisions are being made for the Region to recover future operating costs from GO Transit for additional platforms at YRT properties

If GO Transit requests additional platforms at Richmond Hill Centre Terminal or platforms at any other YRT properties, it is the intention that the Region will recover future operation and maintenance costs from GO Transit based on the percentage split of York Region’s and GO Transit’s respective ridership at the property. This is similar to the way GO Transit recovers costs from YRT for access to the Newmarket and Finch Terminals.

Capital improvements to be funded based on benefit to parties

Capital improvements will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The allocation of cost to either GO Transit or the Region will be based on overall determined benefit to each party. All capital improvements at YRT properties will be co-ordinated through YRT.

Sufficient funds are included in the 2008 Business Plan and Budget to maintain and operate all platforms at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The new GO Transit airport service to Pearson International Airport is a direct benefit to the residents of the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora, Markham, and Richmond Hill, and the City of Vaughan.

7. CONCLUSION

In keeping with the earlier MOU, an agreement between the Region and GO Transit was executed in 2005 to permit YRT to access GO Transit rail stations at no cost, and access to GO terminals based on cost sharing calculated by ridership. The MOU also contained provisions for YRT to provide GO Transit with two platforms at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal at no cost. An additional agreement is now required for the Region to formalize GO Transit's access to two platforms at the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal at no cost as well as accommodate future platform requests with the intention of recovering future operating costs based on ridership.

It is recommended that an access agreement be executed between The Regional Municipality of York and the Greater Toronto Transit Authority (GO Transit) to permit the access of GO Transit buses to YRT properties for the purpose of boarding and alighting customers and thereby providing inter-regional transit services to York Region. These services provide essential transit connections between YRT and GO Transit through efficient intra and inter-regional transit service.

For more information on this report, please contact Ann-Marie Carroll, Assistant Manager, Operations (ext. 5677) or Joshua Scholten, Facilities Supervisor (ext. 5696) in the Transit Branch of Transportation Services.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.