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YORK REGION TRANSIT TRANSIT-SECURE PROJECT UPDATE

The Transit Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, August 25, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report updates Regional Council on the Transit-Secure subsidy program.

3. BACKGROUND

At the January 2007 Regional Council meeting, staff reported on the Transit-Secure subsidy program offered by the Federal Government

The Transit-Secure Program was initiated by Transport Canada to address the most critical actions required to enhance security and operations in the area of public transit. It is intended to prevent or lessen the impact of potential terrorist attacks on passengers, employees and the public.

The program's primary goals are to enhance the security of Canada's urban transit systems, to provide an incentive to rapidly implement new and enhanced security measures and to support the adoption of best practices and guidelines for security enhancements.

York Region Transit's (YRT) application for funding was accepted and approved by Transport Canada to undertake the security plan and threat risk assessment. The total project cost was \$150,000, of which \$112,500 would be covered as a federal subsidy and the remaining \$37,500 by the Region. The initial completion date of the program, as established by Transport Canada, was March 31, 2008, but has been extended to March 31, 2009.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status of the Transit-Secure program since the initial report was submitted to Transit Committee on January 18th, 2007.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Request for Proposal was prepared by YRT staff in partnership with Supplies and Services in early 2007

Submissions received were evaluated using predetermined criteria and reviewed by a committee comprised of YRT and Supplies and Services staff and an outside consultant. LEA Consulting Ltd., in partnership with Globe Risk Holdings, who are experts in security and anti-terrorism planning and mitigation, was the successful proponent. The project was awarded in November 2007.

LEA Consulting identified two distinct stages for program development. Stage one, which deals with the threat risk assessment, provided three phases for project development:

- Phase one - confirm the consultant's work plan.
- Phase two - discovery and information sessions.
- Phase three - detailed analysis and preparation of the assessment plan and report.

Stage two of the project deals with the development of the security plan and is also divided into three phases:

- Phase one - confirm the consultant's work plan.
- Phase two - development and preparation of the draft security plan.
- Phase three - preparation of the final report and presentations.

Both stages of the program will be completed by the end of 2008. Implementation of the program recommendations will begin in 2009 and will be phased in over several years based on priority and budget approval.

As part of the identified deliverables, LEA Consulting will also be developing the security awareness training program. This will include the content, layout and design of the program. YRT will be responsible for the actual rollout and facilitation of the training. This will begin in 2009, after the Transit-Secure Program is completed.

LEA Consulting will also be providing a security escalation/de-escalation plan and recommendations for a software package to conduct threat risk assessments and security audits.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

York Region Transit received a \$112,500 subsidy from the federal Transit-Secure Program.

The 2008 Business Plan and Budget contains funding in the amount of \$122,596 for the Threat Risk Assessment and Security Plan project. The total project cost is \$150,000, of which the Region will be responsible for a net cost of \$37,500.

The funding program requires transit agencies to pay all costs up front then apply to the Federal Government for the subsidy payment.

No other funding opportunities are currently available from the Federal Government after the Transit-Secure Program has been completed and there are no funding opportunities available from the Provincial Government.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Development and implementation of a threat risk assessment and security plan is a proactive measure in dealing with security risks within the transit system and indirectly within the local municipalities.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transit-Secure Program funding allows the Region to develop and implement a system for conducting threat risk assessments, a comprehensive security plan and security awareness training for employees and contractors. The process will enhance safety and security measures for the protection of transit customers, employees, contractors, vehicles and properties.

For more information on this report, please contact Ann-Marie Carroll, Assistant Manager, Operations at Ext. 5677 or Angelo Apfelbaum, Enforcement Supervisor at Ext. 5352, in the Transit Branch of the Transportation Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.