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PROGRESS REPORT

YORK RAPID TRANSIT PLAN

The Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The presentation by Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Transit Corporation, be received;**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report, September 16, 2004, from the Vice President of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation be adopted:**

- 1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Progress Report for the months June through August 2004 be received for information.

- 2. PURPOSE**

This report provides a detailed description of the progress made in delivering the York Rapid Transit Plan from June to August 2004.

- 3. BACKGROUND**

The June 27, 2002 contract required York Consortium 2002 to file monthly progress reports with York Region.

- 4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1 YEAR ONE WORK PLAN**

The original Stage One (Year One) agreement entered into between York Region and York Consortium 2002 in June 2002 is illustrated in Table 1. 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), which have been impacted by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) requirement for revised Terms of Reference. An update of the major deliverables and outstanding work is provided in Table 1.

Table 1
Summary Stage One - Major Tasks (as of August 31, 2004)

Task	Task Completion	Major Deliverable
Program Management	100%	Fully operational office with expansion underway
Communications Plan/Events	100%	Complete
Data Collection	100%	Complete
Network Configuration	100%	Network Configuration Report complete
<i>Quick Start</i>	100%	<i>Quick Start</i> Program definition complete
Transportation Planning	100%	Ridership analysis complete
Ridership Peer Review	100%	Peer Review complete
Environmental Assessments		
Revised ToR (MOE Revised Process)	95%	Approvals anticipated in August
- Yonge Street	97%	Draft revised Yonge Street EA nearly complete
- Highway 7 / Vaughan NS Link	92%	Final Alignment analysis complete. Revised EA report in progress
- Markham N/S Link	90%	Terms of Reference complete
Program Implementation Plan	100%	<i>Quick Start</i> / Network Plan complete
Construction Feasibility	100%	Yonge / Hwy. 7 complete and Markham N-S underway
Financial Planning and Analysis	100%	Financial modeling complete
Transition Plan	100%	Amended and Restated Agreement ready for execution
Overall Completion	99%	

4.1.1 Environmental Assessments

4.1.1.1 South Yonge Corridor and Highway 7 Corridor / Vaughan North-South Link

The public, MOE and Government Review Agencies have reviewed the revised Terms of Reference (ToRs). All comments have been addressed in the original EA scope and MOE approval of the revised ToRs was received during July 2004. The draft EA Report is to be completed by mid-September and submitted to MOE after the final Public Consultation Centres to be held at Promenade, Hillcrest and Markville Malls on September 9, 10 and 17 respectively. Approval of the EA Studies can be expected in spring 2005 if the regulated maximum 30-week period is required.

4.1.1.2 Markham North-South Link

The revised Terms of Reference was reviewed by the public, MOE and Government Review Agencies during July. MOE approval was received early in August 2004. The

second Public Consultation Centre is scheduled for early October, with evaluation of route options, analysis of environmental effects, final public consultation and draft EA Report submission by the end of 2004. Consequently EA Study approval can be expected in summer 2005.

4.1.1.3 North Yonge Corridor

Data Collection, public consultation and preparation of the Terms of Reference has continued. A draft document has been completed and submission to MOE and government review agencies is targeted for mid-September 2004. Following ToR approval, anticipated by year-end, continuation of the EA Study itself is contingent on approval of funding for the work programme beyond end-September 2004.

4.2 YEAR TWO WORK PLAN

The activities and accomplishments under the Year Two Work Plan from June to August 2004 included:

4.2.1 Operations and Maintenance

Operations & Maintenance (O & M) activities from June to August 2004 included:

4.2.1.1 Procurement of Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Contractor

- Definition of the O & M Procurement Activities continued.
- Revised O & M Procurement Schedule completed.
- O & M strategy and contract scope updated.
- Ongoing development of the O & M contract documentation.
- Completed prequalification process and requirements.

4.2.1.2 Off Board Fare Equipment

- Ongoing development of Operations & Maintenance requirements.
- Ongoing development of outline of Operations Enforcement Policy.
- Ongoing development of revenue management/servicing approach.

4.2.1.3 Quick Start O & M Facilities

Newmarket Maintenance Facility

- Development of preliminary cost estimate for improvements to the existing facility to suit YRTP's planned operation completed.
- Ongoing review with GO Transit of private road access co-owners agreement.
- Overall planning completed and Regional Staff are in the process of procurement for architectural services.

Satellite Maintenance Facility

- Staff continue to investigate sites for the Satellite Maintenance Facility.

4.2.1.4 Transit Agency Technical Meetings

- GO Transit Technical Meetings continued.
 - Finch, Langstaff, Newmarket, Unionville terminals.

- YRT / YRTP Shared Stops Meetings continued.
 - Relocation of existing YRT advertising shelters.
 - Construction communications, schedule and temporary relocation of stops.
 - Stop signage and passenger information.

4.2.1.5 Transit Operations Center

- Operating responsibilities and requirements of TOC finalized by Regional staff and change order issued
- Outline contractor responsibilities for operation of the TOC in line with above.

4.2.1.6 Other

- GO MOU issues remain under consideration.

4.2.2 Communications

Communications activities from June to August 2004 included:

- Presentations:
 - Area Municipal Communications Officials – June 4.
 - Thornhill Heritage Presentation – June.
 - IBM Presentation – June.
 - Smart Commute 404/7 TMA Launch – July
 - CIP/OPPI Conference Panel – July.
 - Delegates from Durban Transport Canada Sustainable Cities – July.
 - Briefing for senior civil staff in the Ontario Government – August 6.
 - APTA International Operations Planning Workshop presentation – August 9.
- Environmental Assessment
 - North Yonge Public Information Centres – June.
- Branding:
 - Ongoing development of the vehicle interiors and exteriors, route maps and tag line with update presentation to Steering Committee.
- Marketing Communication:
 - Undertook peer review of marketing communications plan.
 - Finalized marketing communications plan for presentation to Committee.
 - Engaged the services of Indusblue, award winning web design firm to design and create rich internet applications to establish a visually compelling web experience for the new rapid transit service – commenced development of navigation and modules in preparation for brand launch.

- Communication Collaterals:
 - Launched rapid transit newsletter in both print and electronic formats – distributed in June to contact database of 650 people and distributed in print format to local municipalities, libraries, community centres etc.
 - Designed and printed YRTP Fact Book – June.
 - Designed and printed Posters – June.
 - Developed YRT Fact Sheet – June.
 - Designed abstract stop/route map – June.
 - Design and production of DVD package holder – July.
 - Commenced design of YRT shelter posters – August.
- Newspaper/Magazine Articles:
 - “York Region's Answer to Traffic Congestion” – OGRA’s Milestones, June.
 - “Unions about to end city roadwork strike” – Toronto Star, June 9.
 - “Court ruling puts big plans on hold” – Toronto Star, July 27.
 - “Searching For Solutions” – Era Banner, Sunday, August 8.
- Television Coverage:
 - New VR – news story regarding the start of construction – June 14.
 - Rogers Cable 10 – news story regarding the start of construction – June 14.
 - Toronto 1 feature on York Rapid Transit – July 26.
- Upcoming Media:
 - Aurora Food and Home Magazine – September 2004.
- Pursuing coverage in the following media:
 - Toronto Sun.
 - Toronto Star (providing regular updates).
 - CBC Radio.
 - Asian Media.
 - Era Banner (providing regular updates).

4.2.3 Technical Support to *Quick Start*

- Detail interface planning underway with GO Transit and TTC for both services and facilities.
- Interface planning with key stakeholders related to intermodal facilities and stops continued, including:
 - York University – terminal location and on-campus routing agreed to.
 - Markham-Stouffville Hospital – terminal location for both YRT and *Quick Start* still under discussion.
 - IBM – decision made by IBM to have walking access to stops on Town Centre and Highway 7 and Warden and Enterprise, rather than on-site.
- Meetings held with property owners of land adjacent to the corridor.

4.2.4 Fare Policy

A fare policy for *Quick Start*, including a comprehensive strategy to fully integrate YRTP fares, fare media and fare collection procedures with the rest of the YRT network, has been developed jointly by YRTP and YRT staff and was presented to the Steering Committee and Council in June, 2004. Operational policies and procedures and other implementation activities continue to be developed. Also YRT is developing recommendations for fare levels and fare structure revisions that would affect both *Quick Start* Rapid Transit (RT) and YRT services. A final fare policy report for *Quick Start* which addresses YRT fare structures and a full range of operational considerations, including proof-of-payment enforcement, etc. will be presented later this fall.

4.2.5 Service Planning

The detailed service plan for *Quick Start* has been developed in close consultation with YRT staff. The preliminary operating costs for all new or changed services have been estimated and have been used as input to the Regional budget process for 2005.

4.2.6 Transit Oriented Development / Joint Development

- Reviewed all referred development applications (Official Plan, Subdivision, Site Plan) for transit compatibility.
- Reviewed City of Vaughan's Steeles Corridor Land Use Review /Draft OPA for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) / Joint Development compatibility. Supported Region in discussions with York University Development Corporation with respect to same corridor.
- Prepared preliminary analysis of joint development opportunity at Bayview / 407.
- Prepared Draft TOD use and design guidelines and reviewed with York Region Planning Staff.
- Provided support for Centres and Corridors Strategy.

4.2.7 Passenger Facility Plans

- Integration of passenger information into *Quick Start* facilities design; coordination with YRT.
- Concept plans for pedestrian bridge at Langstaff.
- Concept development of YRT/YRTP joint signage program.
- Ongoing coordination with GO Transit on passenger facility improvements at Finch Terminal.

4.2.8 Fare Equipment and IT Equipment Contract

- Fare Collection Equipment subcontract has been finalized with Traf-Park.
- Design and shop drawings for Fare Collection equipment are being completed for review.
- Subcontract with Init for IT system has been executed.
- System Design Specifications are being developed by Init and are under review by KED and the Region.

4.3 QUICK START DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT

Quick Start Design-Build activities from June to end of August included:

- Utility Relocations continued and completed in all locations.
- All required submittals have been approved.
- Detail Design is over 80% complete for the intersections. 82 stops have been issued for construction and the remaining 27 are at the 90% design stage. All stops in Toronto are in the latter category.
- Detail Design at the terminals is continuing with issues still to be resolved at Finch Station, Markham-Stouffville hospital, Langstaff Terminal and Newmarket GO Station.
- Construction started the week of June 14th. Work has commenced on 34 stop locations.
- Assisting with the rapid transit vehicle procurement process.
- ITCC design at the 90% stage, with negotiations to start this week with Metrus for final design and construction of the facility.
- Langstaff Terminal at the site plan application stage, and building permit stage.

4.4 QUICK START VEHICLE CONTRACT

A contract was entered into with Van Hool on March 24, 2004 for the purchase of 22 sixty-foot vehicles and 55 forty-foot vehicles. To date, options selected by YRTP staff in conjunction with YRT include more extensive use of stainless steel panelling, photoelectric passenger door controls, roof hatches, aluminum wheels and three-tone painting. The prototype vehicles are currently being manufactured.

4.5 FEDERAL PROVINCIAL BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

On July 9, 2004 the updated Business plan was hand delivered to provincial government officials at Queen's Park, including the Premier and his staff, Ministers of Finance, Public Infrastructure Renewal, Transportation, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Economic Development and Trade and their staff, local MPPs, along with senior civil servants.

At the same time the Business Plan Executive Summary was distributed to all members of Regional Council.

The Business Plan was also couriered to federal government officials, including the Prime Minister's Office, local MPs and senior civil servants at Transport Canada and Infrastructure Canada. It was not sent to federal ministers at this time because the Prime Minister had not appointed his new cabinet.

On July 30, 2004 the Business Plan was couriered to federal government ministers in Ottawa including Human Resources Minister Joe Volpe, Transport Minister Jean Lapierre, Minister of State (Infrastructure) John Godfrey, Minister of Industry David Emerson and Treasury Board President Reg Alcock.

On August 16, 2004 copies of the Business Plan were sent to members of the Conservative Party of Canada and the federal NDP.

As a result of the distribution, provincial government officials contacted York Region and requested a briefing on the refreshed Business Plan. On August 6, 2004 senior civil servants from the Ontario Ministries Public Infrastructure Renewal and Transportation attended a meeting at the Rapid Transit Offices in Richmond Hill. During the afternoon session senior members of the York Consortium joined Mary-Frances Turner and Paul May to make a comprehensive presentation, highlighting the fact that York Region's Rapid Transit Business Plan reflects the government's guiding principles of Protecting the Public Interest, Preserving Public Control and Ownership, Demonstrating Value for Money, Maintaining Accountability, and a Fair, Transparent and Efficient Process. All parties agreed to meet again in September. YRTP will be providing additional financial information to supplement the case for funding the Full Build System.

As a follow up to the Business Plan distribution, YRTP is setting up a series of face-to-face meetings to answer any questions and support the case for phase 2 funding.

Over the summer the province released its discussion papers "Places to Grow" and "Building a Better Tomorrow". Public transit investment is a major theme throughout these documents and appears to be a genuine priority of the government. This forward-looking approach is something that YRTP certainly supports and is working to make a reality. In fact, York Region is clearly leading the way on this front with its Rapid Transit Project.

Distribution of the Business Plan was approved by Regional Council on September 18, 2003, but there were delays as a result of changes at both the senior levels of government. The Business Plan was subsequently updated to reflect the considerable progress made and to acknowledge the "New Deal" for municipalities that was outlined in both the Federal and Provincial Government Budgets. Changes to the Business Plan were relatively minor in nature.

It was felt that, to maintain the tight timelines outlined in the Network Configuration Technical Report, and adhere to Regional Council's direction to, "bring full BRT to all corridors", there should be no further delay in presenting the updated Business Plan to the senior levels of government for funding consideration for Phase 2.

Quick Start is an excellent first step, with the introduction of various rapid transit elements. But Phase 2 puts the "rapid" in rapid transit through the development of dedicated rapid transit lanes that are separated from mixed traffic. To maintain the momentum that has been built up over the last several months, action is being taken now.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A work program and budget for remaining *Quick Start* work and continuance of full system development is the subject of a separate report on this agenda

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications associated with this report.

7. CONCLUSION

York Consortium 2002 and York Region staff made significant advancements during the period June to August 2004, particularly in advancing elements critical to the success of the *Quick Start* program and related communications.