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YORK REGION TRANSIT
FARE INTEGRATION PILOT PROJECT
YORK UNIVERSITY TO DOWNSVIEW SUBWAY STATION

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated June 4, 2009, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve a Fare Integration Pilot Project between the Regional Municipality of York and the Toronto Transit Commission to permit City of Toronto residents to travel on Viva Orange between Downsview station and York University and that the Region receives a share of the fare revenue as identified in the report.
2. Regional Council authorize the General Manager of York Region Transit or designate to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Toronto Transit Commission for the Fare Integration Pilot Project.
3. Application be made to the Ontario Highway Transport Board to amend the Region's Public Vehicles Licence to permit boarding and alighting of passengers for Viva Orange within the City of Toronto.

2. PURPOSE

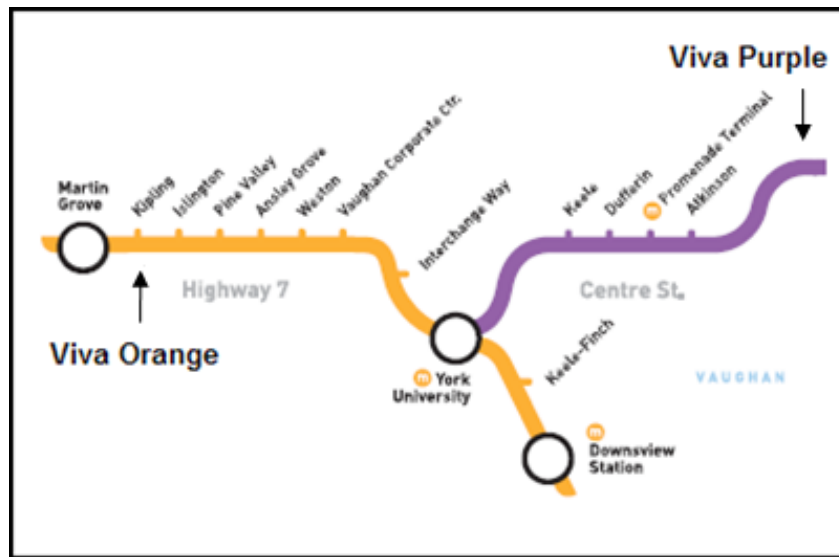
This report recommends a Fare Integration Pilot Project between the Regional Municipality of York and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to operate integrated transit services between the Downsview subway station and York University. The report also seeks Regional Council authorization to amend the Region's current Public Vehicles Operating Licence to permit boarding and alighting of TTC passengers for Viva Orange within the City of Toronto.

3. BACKGROUND

Viva Orange was implemented in the fall of 2005 with approximately 176 daily bus trips connecting Martin Grove/Highway 7 in the City of Vaughan with TTC's Downsview subway station via York University in the City of Toronto as shown in Figure 1.

TTC's Route 196 York University Rocket also provides transit services between Downsview station and York University which results in the two services overlapping each other.

Figure 1
Viva Orange Service



Viva Orange is not integrated with the TTC service between Downsview subway station and York University

The Viva Orange service cannot pick up and drop off passengers within the City of Toronto due to existing regulations unless otherwise approved by the Ontario Highway Transport Board and supported by the TTC.

Viva Orange has spare capacity between Downsview station and York University

Viva Orange carries an average of 2,642 riders per weekday. It operates a 10-minute frequency during weekday morning and afternoon peak periods and a 15-minute frequency during the mid-day, evening and weekends.

Table 1 below shows service frequency, average number of passengers per bus and maximum load standard for Viva Orange service between Downsview station and York University.

Table 1
Viva Orange Service

	AM Peak	Early midday	Late midday	PM Peak	Early Evening
Headway	10 min	15 min	15 min	10 min	15 min
Average passengers per bus	7	5	5	7	5
Maximum standard	48	48	48	48	48

As noted in Table 1, Viva Orange service carries on average only five to seven passengers per trip between Downsview station and York University. The services are, therefore, underutilized.

TTC services are overcrowded between Downsview station and York University

TTC 196 York University Rocket service is generally overcrowded during most periods and carries 22,200 riders per day. Transit services have increased by 30% in the last four years and have been improved every fall since 2002.

Table 2 below shows service frequency, average number of passengers per bus and maximum load standard for TTC service between Downsview Station and York University.

Table 2
TTC 196 York University Rocket

	AM Peak	Early midday	Late midday	PM Peak	Early Evening
Headway	2 min 15 s	2 min 15 s	2 min 30 s	2 min 20 s	4 min
Average passengers per bus	53	49	28	51	45
Maximum standard	51	39	39	51	39

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Service and fare integration between Viva and TTC benefits both organizations

YRT and TTC staff have met several times to discuss a Viva and TTC shared-service concept in light of the current overcrowded services on the TTC and underutilized services on Viva.

With this initiative, TTC passengers holding a valid Metropass or TTC transfer will be permitted to ride Viva Orange between Downsview station and York University. YRT and TTC are proposing a 50/50 average net cost revenue split between YRT and TTC. In 2008, the TTC incurred an average net cost per passenger of \$0.97. On this basis, the TTC will pay YRT \$0.49 per passenger carried on the segment of Viva Orange between Downsview station and York University.

The benefits of shared Viva and TTC service and fare integration include:

- New revenue opportunity for YRT.
- Optimum use of spare capacity on an underutilized Viva Orange service.
- Reduces/eliminates overcrowding on TTC buses.
- Reduces the need for TTC to increase fleet and service levels.
- New access to late evening and Sunday service for TTC customers.

A marketing campaign will be launched to inform customers of the fare integration pilot project

YRT, in consultation with the TTC, will launch a marketing campaign to inform customers about this initiative. Initially, access to Viva Orange by TTC passengers will be limited to those having passes and valid transfers only. YRT Enforcement Officers will inspect for valid proof of payment.

The Viva and TTC Fare Integration Pilot Project is scheduled to be implemented in August 2009

YRT and TTC are proposing to implement this Fare Integration Pilot Project in August 2009 and this will coincide with the opening of the York University busway. Both Viva and TTC services are scheduled to operate along the York University busway.

The Region's current Public Vehicles Operating Licence will need to be amended

The Region has a Public Vehicles Operating Licence (PV-5224) which enables YRT and Viva services to operate in the City of Toronto. These services are not permitted to pick up and drop off the same passenger while in Toronto. The licence will need to be amended to specifically permit pick up and drop off operation of the Viva Orange service to permit TTC passengers to travel on Viva Orange.

Relationship to Vision 2026

Vision 2026 includes a goal statement relating to the development of 'Infrastructure for a Growing Region', which states: *"In 2026, York Region will have effective, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation, waste management and water systems."*

To support this goal, the Region has identified specific action areas. The proposed service and fare integration satisfies these goals by:

- Continuing to improve service and infrastructure for a successfully integrated transit service and fare system.
- Developing and strengthening YRT and TTC transit services to meet the needs of our customer markets and communities.
- Promoting transit usage as a practical and wise alternative to private vehicle use.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

YRT could receive annual revenue in the range of approximately \$70,000 at no additional operating cost

Viva Orange service has spare capacity between Downsview subway station and York University. As a result of this initiative, YRT will receive an annual payment of approximately \$70,000 based on estimated TTC ridership. YRT will not incur any additional costs because of the shared-service concept.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This proposed change further supports the Viva service and network particularly in the Vaughan area.

7. CONCLUSION

Viva Orange has spare capacity available to provide full service pick up and drop off between Downsview subway station and York University. The proposed Fare Integration Pilot Project will provide additional revenue to the Region, and TTC passengers and Toronto residents will be able to utilize Viva Orange between Downsview subway station and York University.

The recommended pilot project will not negatively impact YRT/Viva customers due to available capacity between Downsview subway station and York University. The pilot project will benefit both York Region and the TTC by providing the foundation of a service integration agreement.

For more information on this report, please contact Ettore Iannacito, Manager, Service Planning, Marketing and Customer Service at ext. 5628.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.