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VIVANEXT BUS RAPID TRANSIT MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2008

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

- 1. The presentation by Mary-Frances Turner, Vice President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report, November 6, 2008, from the Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Council receive this report for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides a comprehensive description of the activities of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and York Consortium 2002 (the “Rapid Transit Office”) during October 2008, relating to progress on the implementation of the vivaNext bus rapid transit programme, Phase 1 capital enhancements, York University Bus Rapid Transit, the site selection study for an operations and maintenance facility, and communications and public engagement activities.

3. BACKGROUND

Viva Phase 1 rapid transit runs today in mixed traffic in four key corridors. VivaNext includes the construction of 67 kilometres of surface rapid transit in these same corridors, integrated with the extension of the Yonge Street and Spadina subway lines north to the Richmond Hill Centre and Vaughan Corporate Centre, respectively. Connections of vivaNext to the larger existing and proposed GTA rapid transit network are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1
Viva: Part of a Proposed GTA-wide Network

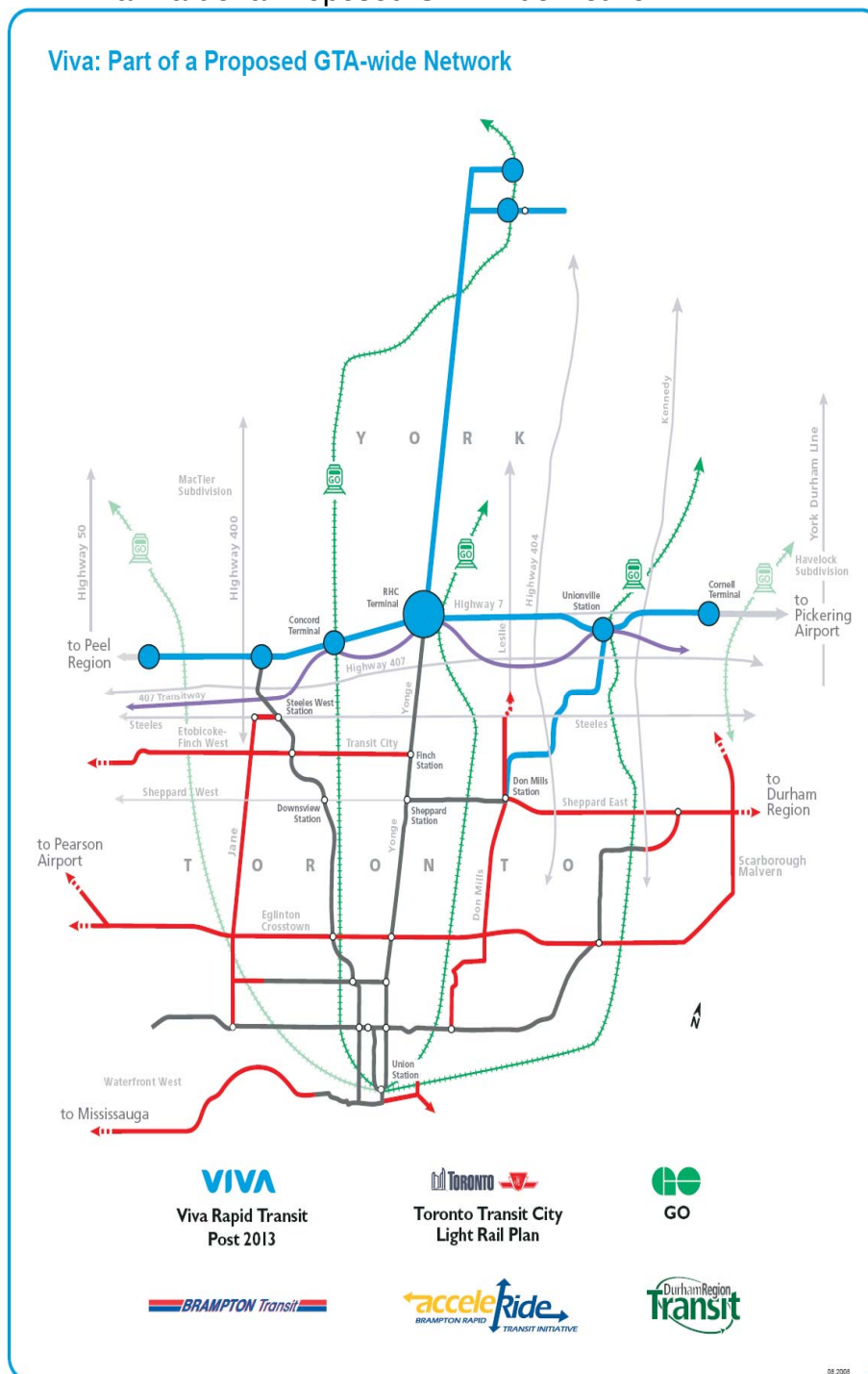


Figure 2
York Region Rapid Transit Network – vivaNext



4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 VIVA BRT RAPIDWAYS

A detailed summary of activities during the month of October is provided in *Attachment 1*.

H3 - Highway 7, Richmond Hill Centre to Unionville GO/Kennedy Road

Engineering layouts are nearing completion

The engineering layouts for the rapidway on the Highway 7 - H3 corridor are nearing completion. All key preliminary engineering activities for the H3 corridor continue to make good progress to finalize the Guaranteed Maximum Price and Construction Programme by the end of April 2009. Preliminary engineering tasks status to date:

- As a part of the Design Criteria, continued design coordination with relevant Town of Richmond Hill and Town of Markham studies and reports, including streetscape issues. The design criteria is now 95% complete.
- Digital Mapping – existing conditions, 100% complete.
- Pavement and Geotechnical Design Report – 85% complete.
- Drainage Design Report – 75% complete.
- Utility Identification and Coordination – 95% complete.
- Property Requirements and legal Descriptions – 95% complete.
- Preliminary Engineering Drawings – 90% complete.
- Transit Priority and ITS Deployment – 90% complete.
- Viva Station Design – 50% completed.

Enterprise Simcoe Promenade construction is scheduled to commence in November

Phase I construction of the Enterprise Simcoe Promenade rapidway from Warden Avenue to Birchmount Road, and station, is expected to begin in mid-November. The remaining construction will continue in the spring of 2009, with completion scheduled for the fall of 2009.

Highway 7 and Bayview Avenue Study Area

The Highway 7 and Bayview Avenue study programme was initiated to review the pedestrian accessibility needs for the vivastation stops on Highway 7. Bayview Avenue passes over Highway 7 by a bridge and currently is accessed by stairs down the embankment. Work is proceeding to finalize the requirements for this area and results should be available shortly.

Highway 7 and Highway 404 Study Area

The Highway 7 and Highway 404 study programme was initiated to review the operation of the rapidway underneath Highway 404, specifically to look at implementing bicycle lanes and a single bidirectional rapidway through this 350 metre section. Work is proceeding to finalize the requirements for this area and a report will be available shortly.

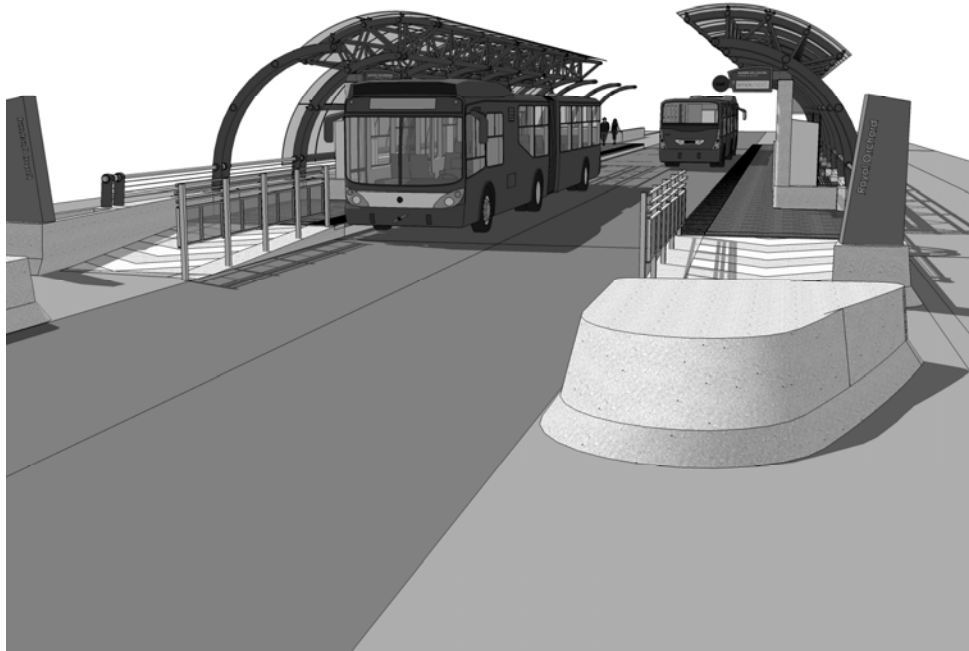
Y2 –Yonge Street, Highway 7 to 19th Avenue

Engineering layouts continue to be developed

The engineering layouts for the rapidway on the Yonge Street - Y2 corridor continue to be developed. All key preliminary engineering activities for the Y2 corridor continue to make good progress to finalize a capital cost estimate and an Implementation Plan by the end of April 2009.

Several meetings have been held with Richmond Hill staff to review the preliminary layout and to seek their input and comments. The property acquisition programme and public consultation are being dovetailed with Richmond Hill's Official Plan review process. The coordination and timing of the public consultation and priority acquisition programmes will be subject to a future report to Committee. Activities to date have included:

- As a part of the Design Criteria, continued design coordination with relevant Town of Richmond Hill studies and reports including streetscape issues. The design criteria is now over 80% complete.
- Digital Mapping – existing conditions, 100% complete.
- Pavement and Geotechnical Design Report – 85% complete.
- Drainage Design Report – 75% complete.
- Utility Identification and Coordination – 85% complete.
- Property Legal Descriptions – 90% complete.
- Preliminary Engineering Drawings – 65% complete.
- Transit Priority and ITS Deployment Plan – 90% complete.
- Viva Station Design – 50% complete.



H2 – Highway 7, Richmond Hill Centre to Pine Valley Drive

York Consortium 2002 continues to progress the conceptual design for the Highway 7 rapidways from Richmond Hill Centre to Pine Valley Drive

Ongoing work includes field investigations to review existing conditions and update base plans, collection of drainage and utility information, reviewing the alignment and cross-section, including the inclusion of bicycle lanes, and commencing operational planning studies in key corridors.

D1- Davis Drive, Yonge Street to Southlake Regional Health Centre

Environmental Assessment Report is complete and being reviewed by local municipalities

Finalization of the EA alignment is now complete and comments from the local municipalities and Public consultations have been consolidated in the final wording and recommendations in the environmental assessment report, which has been distributed to local municipalities for comments.

The property acquisition programme for Davis Drive is being initiated

With Council's endorsement, concept engineering work for the Davis Drive rapidways and the property acquisition programme are underway. The next steps will be to contact landowners by registered mail to initiate site survey work to confirm boundaries and potential land requirements for the implementation of the recommended improvements,

and to introduce the property appraisers. When the appraisals of the property requirements are completed and reviewed by regional staff, the owners will be contacted to commence negotiations.

A proposal to determine the feasibility of relocating underground power lines on Davis Drive has been received

The York Region Rapid Transit Corporation has received a proposal from Giffels to undertake a study to determine the feasibility for underground relocation of power transmission lines along the Viva rapidway corridors on Davis Drive and on Yonge Street. This will be added to the existing Giffels scope of work.

4.2 SITE SELECTION STUDY – O&M FACILITY

Site selection for the southern operations and maintenance facility is underway

A study to identify and evaluate potential sites for an operations and maintenance facility for the Viva fleet has commenced. The existing facilities have now reached capacity and to support the ongoing and future expansion of the Viva service a new facility is required by end of 2012.

An evaluation methodology is being used to review sites that meet a series of technical and operational criteria, and to recommend a preferred location or locations, that maximize cost-effectiveness and support reliable operation and integrated development.

Local sites that meet the basic criteria and are on the property market are being further assessed for suitability.

A workshop will be held with Region staff early in November, during which the candidate sites will be evaluated and a preferred site will be identified. The appropriate municipality will be consulted on the preferred site before authority to purchase the land is sought from Council. The draft report with the recommended operations and maintenance site(s) is anticipated in December 2008. The project timetable anticipates procurement of the necessary land in 2009, and commencement of the design/build process in late 2009/early 2010.

Requirements for an environmental assessment, federally or provincially, will be addressed as part of the property investigation.

4.3 PHASE 1 CAPITAL ENHANCEMENTS

The Jefferson vivastation construction contract awarded to Kiewit EllisDon is making good progress

Kiewit EllisDon is close to completion for the construction of a new vivastation, with platforms in both directions, on Yonge Street in the vicinity of Jefferson Sideroad. It is expected that the station will be fully functional by November 16, 2008.

Preliminary engineering of the Savage Road vivastation is now underway

York Consortium 2002 has commenced preliminary engineering of a new vivastation at Savage Road in Newmarket. Preliminary engineering will be followed by final design, and pending utilities coordination will be completed by end of November 2008 with construction now expected to commence in the spring of 2009.

4.4 YORK UNIVERSITY BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

The City of Toronto has begun the York University to Downsview Station Busway project which will include new vivastations

The Toronto York University to Downsview Busway project to provide dedicated bus lanes between York University and Downsview station is underway with work having commenced on rapidway construction on Keele Street between Murray Ross Parkway and the hydro corridor and on the hydro corridor from Keele Street to Dufferin Street. Completion is anticipated for November 2009.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Staff continued to engage the public by attending local fairs in Markham and Richmond Hill.

A booth was staffed at community fairs in Richmond Hill and Markham to engage the public in discussions about vivaNext and the proposed BRT projects. It is estimated that literature and a small promotional item was handed out to over 4,500 people as staff engaged them in a discussion and answered their questions.

Communications material was produced for public distribution and a presentation was given at the Richmond Hill fair

The communications team produced various information handouts and a small giveaway to distribute to the public at community events. A presentation was also developed and presented to some attendees of the Richmond Hill fair.

Anticipated public engagements in November include:

- November 17 – Richmond Hill & Vaughan presentations to Council.
- November 25 – Markham Development Services presentation.
- November 26 – BRT, Highway 7 Public Consultation Centre.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Viva is being closely coordinated with local planning and economic development activities along the rapid transit corridors.

7. CONCLUSION

This report provides a comprehensive description of the activities of the York Region Rapid Transit office during October 2008, relating to progress on the implementation of the vivaNext bus rapid transit programme, Phase 1 capital enhancements, York University Bus Rapid Transit, the site selection study for an operations and maintenance facility, and communications and public engagement activities.

For additional information, please contact Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation at (905) 886-6767 ext. 2226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included with the November 13, 2008 agenda.)