

To: York Region Rapid Transit Corporation Board of Directors  
From: Mary-Frances Turner, President  
Subject: **Metrolinx Project Prioritization Framework and York Region Rapid Transit Project Priorities**

## Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) Board of Directors direct YRRTC to undertake an examination of the prioritization of Metrolinx projects.

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that Metrolinx has adopted a project prioritization framework, initially for the top fifteen unfunded projects, and to establish a Board position with respect to Yonge Subway and all other unfunded rapid transit projects.

## Background

### ***The Yonge Subway Extension Transit Project Assessment Process was approved in April 2009***

- York Region, in consultation with the TTC and the City of Toronto, formally initiated the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) for the Yonge Subway Extension in October, 2008.

***Metrolinx completed the initial Benefits Case Analysis (BCA) for the Yonge Subway***

- The initial BCA for the Yonge Subway was completed based on the findings of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and was submitted to the Metrolinx Board in July of 2009.
- The Metrolinx Board received the BCA and directed staff to undertake additional analysis related to the Yonge Subway.
- The additional analysis was to include:
  1. possible adjustments in timing or phasing of the subway extension
  2. review of the necessity of some stations to reduce capital costs
  3. consideration of the parallel GO Richmond Hill rail corridor to off-load some of the demand on Yonge Street
  4. the costs impacts of the various options on the subway yards strategy, Yonge/Bloor subway station improvements, and a future Downtown Relief Line to bypass the Yonge/Bloor congestion “pinch point” (Metrolinx Board report – July 23rd 2009).
- Additional conceptual design work and network planning was required in order to address the issues that may arise out of Metrolinx’ analysis.

***Work was initiated on the Yonge Subway Conceptual Design Study to address outstanding issues from the BCA***

- York Region and the City of Toronto authorized YRRTC and the TTC to proceed with the Conceptual Design Study for the Yonge subway extension in October of 2009.
- The purpose of the study is to undertake the additional analysis resulting from the initial Metrolinx BCA, including an update of the estimated capital costs as well as to continue to advance the Yonge Subway Extension project.

**Analysis**

***Metrolinx has developed a proposed Project Prioritization Framework (PPF) to assist with capital investment decisions***

- A PPF was presented to the Metrolinx Board at their meeting in June 2010.
- The PPF was developed to establish an ordering of projects based on highest benefit grouped into three categories.

- The initial PPF focus is on the unfunded top 15 projects included in The Big Move for which BCA's have been completed. The Yonge Subway Extension is one of those projects.
- Metrolinx staff intend to report on the following to the Metrolinx Board in November 2010:
  - A finalized PPF
  - A prioritization of unfunded projects for which BCA's have been completed

***YRRTC and the Region are working with Metrolinx to refine the proposed PPF***

- Metrolinx staff is proposing to meet with municipal stakeholders to discuss the prioritization of projects this fall and present their recommendations to their Board in November 2010.
- YRRTC will be working closely with the Commissioners of Transportation Services and Planning and Development Services to provide feedback on the ranking of the Yonge Subway and all other contemplated rapid transit projects in the Transportation Master Plan.

***Work underway on the Yonge Subway Conceptual Design Study will address the principles documented in the proposed PPF***

**Building Communities – Land Value Uplift**

- Municipal planning studies and development applications continue to advance along the Yonge subway alignment since the completion of the EA.
- These studies and applications represent approximately 60,000 new residents and over 35,000 employees.

**Transit Ridership Growth**

- The projected transit ridership for the Yonge Subway extension was updated to reflect this anticipated growth.
- The revised subway ridership projections for the year 2031 are expected to increase by approximately 25 percent from what was included in the EA.

**Regional Connectivity/ Destinations**

- The designs at the key intermodal stations at Richmond Hill Centre (RHC), Clark and Steeles have been advanced.
- As per commitments made during the EA, the proximity of the Langstaff and RHC stations has been assessed to address the needs of the entire mobility hub.

**Capital Cost Refinement**

- Capital costs included in the initial Yonge Subway BCA were \$2.379 billion with an additional \$360 million for Yonge/Bloor improvements.

- Current capital costs are being refined based on the following:
  - more detailed design work completed since the EA,
  - more reliable costing information available from the Spadina Subway extension which is currently under construction, and
  - more geotechnical data collected along the Yonge corridor.
- Capital costs will include the costs associated with train storage in the area of RHC as required by the Subway Rail Yard Needs Study (SRYNS), which was endorsed by the Board in May 2010.

***Work on related studies is progressing***

- The TTC is nearing completion of the Yonge/Bloor Capacity Improvement Study. Results are expected by the end of this year. A portion of the cost of these improvements was allocated to the Yonge subway project in the initial BCA.
- The Downtown Rapid Transit Expansion Study is on-going and the TTC are working with Metrolinx staff. Results are not expected until spring 2011.
- Additional studies are underway to demonstrate the level of investment and coordination of work underway on Yonge Street.
- Work has begun on the South Yonge Street Corridor Streetscape Master Plan, with a final report expected in early 2011. This study was initiated by York Region to develop a comprehensive master plan and implementation strategy for the corridor.
- York Region has initiated a Centre-Wide Transportation Study Richmond Hill/Langstaff Urban Growth Centre. Project award is expected at the end of September 2010. This study was initiated by the Region as a peer review of the numerous transportation studies completed to date to develop a cohesive strategy for the entire growth centre.

***Discussions are on-going with Metrolinx staff to coordinate the results of the conceptual design study into the update of the Yonge Subway BCA***

- Staff is working with Metrolinx to advance the RFP for a consultant to undertake an updated BCA for the Yonge Subway.
- The objective is to ensure that the Yonge Subway project is prioritized based on the most current information available, and that the full network benefits of the subway extension are taken into account.

- Some deliverables of the conceptual design study will be advanced to facilitate a revision to the Yonge Subway BCA.

## Conclusion

- YRRTC and York Region are working with Metrolinx to refine the proposed Project Prioritization Framework.
- Work Completed on the Conceptual Design Study is being developed to be consistent with principles documented in the proposed Project Prioritization Framework.
- Work on related studies is progressing.
- Discussions are on-going with Metrolinx staff to coordinate the results of the conceptual design study into the Yonge Subway BCA update.

For more information on this report, please contact, Paul May, Chief Engineer, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation at 905-886-6767, Ext. 1030.

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President

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