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July 17, 2007

Ms. Mary-Frances Turner, MCIP, RPP
Vice President
York Region Rapid Transit Corporation
One West Pearce Street
6th Floor
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3K3

REGION OF YORK TRANSPORTATION & WORKS

JUL 25 2007

YORK RAPID TRANSIT PLAN

M.F.

Dear Ms. Turner:

Thank you for your letter dated June 28, 2007 requesting a TTC contact to work with York Region Rapid Transit on pre-EA functional planning for the Yonge Street Subway.

As you are aware, the Commission at its meeting on July 11, 2007 had before it a report entitled, "Transit City Light Rail Plan - Implementation Work Plan Update in response to the MoveOntario 2020 announcement which calls for the start of construction of new rapid transit lines by 2008 rather than 2010 as previously indicated. Through this report, the Commission has clearly re-confirmed that implementation of the Transit City Light Rail Plan remains its first priority.

In relation to the north Yonge Street corridor, the Commission's priority is to deliver significant service improvements through the construction of the Yonge Street Bus Rapid Transit facility. This should proceed immediately in order to improve the quality of service for the tens of thousands of customers who travel in this corridor daily, given that it will take many years to complete the extension of the Yonge Subway to Highway 7, and given that the busway is an excellent, cost-effective, near-term measure that will build ridership in this corridor in the interim period. Any proposal to extend the Yonge Street subway north from Finch Station should be assessed and prioritized by the GTTA as part of their forthcoming Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTAH) Regional Transportation Plan, and should not delay the more-immediate significant improvement that would result from early implementation of the busway.

As you can appreciate, the aggressive and ambitious nature of the Transit City Light Rail Plan is placing enormous pressures on our current resources. However, in response to your letter, we are willing to commit staff time to this initiative on the understanding that our role will be strictly consultative in nature and be limited based on other work requirements that have a higher priority for us.



RECYCLED PAPER

I have asked Bill Dawson, Superintendent, Route & System Planning to represent the TTC on the York Region Yonge Subway Project. Mr. Dawson can be reached at (416) 393-4490 in order to make the necessary arrangements regarding his participation.

Sincerely,



Gary Webster
Chief General Manager
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