



Office of the Commissioner
Planning and Development Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Planning and Economic Development Committee

FROM: John B. Waller, Acting Commissioner, Planning and Development Services

DATE: September 7, 2011

RE: **Smart Commute Award for York Region's Staff Trip Reduction Program**

I am pleased to inform you that York Region recently received an award from the Smart Commute Association recognizing the success of its employee trip reduction program *Smart Commute York Region*.

At the 2010 Smart Commute Awards, York Region was recognized for the "most improved mode shift to sustainable transportation" for organizations with 500+ employees. This category includes all Smart Commute member businesses across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

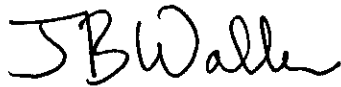
Since York Region initiated the *Smart Commute York Region* program for Regional staff in 2006, the number of staff using sustainable modes of travel to get to work (i.e. active transportation, public transit, carpooling, flexible work arrangements) has increased by 17.5% overall. A survey of how staff travel to work was conducted in late 2009/early 2010. The results were compared with the initial survey of York Region staff in 2006, when the program launched.

The Region is using its involvement with Smart Commute to help gain LEED certification on several existing and new facilities, including the Administrative Centre and the new Central Services Centre. As a "government-sponsored" trip reduction program, Smart Commute's survey meets LEED's requirements as a survey tool. Another follow-up survey will be conducted in Fall 2011 to provide an updated picture of staff travel habits, and support LEED certification of the Administrative Centre.

York Region helped to create the Smart Commute program, which partners with businesses across the GTHA to help staff shift to sustainable modes of travel, and has been a participant in the program since 2006. The Region works closely with Smart Commute Central York, our local Transportation Management Association (TMA), on an ongoing basis to promote sustainable modes of travel. The initiatives that make up *Smart Commute York Region* include:

- Carpool parking
- YRT/Viva Employee Commute Options (ECO) Pass
- Emergency Ride Home
- Bike parking (indoor & outdoor) and change rooms
- Compressed Work Week
- Flexible work hours

Smart Commute York Region is managed by staff in Infrastructure Planning in partnership with other departments such as Property Services and YRT/Viva.



John B. Waller, Acting Commissioner
Planning and Development Services Department

AM/LC/gr

Copy to: Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Commissioner, Transportation Services
Jim Davidson, Commissioner, Corporate Services

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