

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2008

Item 15, Report No. 24, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 12, 2008, as follows:

By approving Clauses 1 and 3 of the recommendation contained in the report of the City Manager, dated May 5, 2008; and

By approving that Mr. H. Tom Wilson be appointed to the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force.

15 YONGE SUBWAY ADVISORY TASK FORCE - DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE REGION OF YORK

The Committee of the Whole recommends that this matter be referred to the Council meeting of May 12, 2008.

Recommendation

The City Manager, in consultation with the Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that:

1. That the draft Terms of Reference for the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force, forming Attachment No. 1 to this report, be endorsed;
2. Council provide direction in the matter of the appointment of a third Vaughan representative to the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force, consistent with the Terms of Reference, being a non-elected member, who represents local stakeholder interests;
3. This report be forwarded to the Region of York, the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact resulting from the adoption of this report.

Communications Plan

A communications plan is not required at this time. Any necessary communication measures will need to be discussed by the Advisory Task Force when it begins operations.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide comments to the Region of York on the draft Terms of Reference for the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force; and to obtain direction on the appointment of a third non-elected representative to the Task Force, to represent local stakeholder interests. The elected representatives of Vaughan Council were appointed on March 31, 2008.

Background – Analysis and Options

a) Background

On January 24, 2008 Regional Council, on recommendation from the Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee, adopted the following motion:

1. Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force as outlined in this report.

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2. Endorse the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force membership to be comprised of the appointees of York Region and the City of Vaughan, the Town of Richmond Hill, and the Town of Markham as outlined in this report.
3. Authorize the Regional Clerk to circulate the draft Terms of Reference for the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force to the City of Vaughan, the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Markham for comment and request their endorsement of the draft Terms of Reference and their Task Force appointments.
4. Authorize staff to bring back the Terms of Reference for the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force for finalization following the City of Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill and Town of Markham responses.

On March 31, 2008 Council confirmed Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio and Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman as its representatives on the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force and the Region of York has been advised accordingly.

This report is in response to the Region's request of January 24, 2008.

b) The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force

On June 15, 2007 the Province announced the *MoveOntario 2020* program. It committed \$17.5 billion in funding to 52 transit projects in the GTA, including the extension of the Yonge Street Subway from Finch Station to Richmond Hill Centre at Highway 7. On June 21, 2007 Regional Council directed staff to initiate an EA for the subway extension, including functional design work.

The purpose of the Advisory Task Force, as described in the Region's report, is to "provide guidance, advice and a forum for the coordination of the many issues that will shape the evolution of the Yonge Street subway".

The Task Force will facilitate stakeholder consultation to support the goals of the Region and the local municipalities in the delivery of a comprehensive higher order transit network, intermodal connectivity and transit supportive development. It will also foster discussions with the City of Toronto on the integration of surface transit facilities with the Steeles Subway Station and consideration of the need for a station at Cummer Avenue.

The January 24, 2008 report to Regional Council entitled "Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force Draft Terms of Reference", forms Attachment No. 1 to this report.

c) The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force Draft Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference for this project are similar to those adopted for the Spadina Subway TOD (Transit Oriented Development) Advisory Task Force. The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force differs in that its membership recognizes the multiple jurisdictions that will be affected by the subway extension. As such it will include representatives from York Region, the City of Vaughan and the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill. The Terms of Reference are set out below.

The Goal of the Advisory Task Force:

To support and promote Transit-Oriented Development in the areas adjacent to the Yonge Subway Extension, from Steeles Avenue to the Richmond Hill Centre, in accordance with the policies, plans and guidelines of the Region of York, the City of Vaughan and the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill and to liaise with the City of Toronto on matters of mutual interest.

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The Objective of the Advisory Task Force:

To support the Yonge Subway Extension and the integration of the subway with the Rapid Transit Network, YRT, GO Rail and the GO 407 transit initiatives, consistent with the objectives of the Region of York and local Official Plans, through the application of the principles of Transit-Oriented Development, in order to:

- a) Achieve development densities adjacent to station sites that support a sustainable higher order rapid transit system, based on heavy rail (subway) and VIVA rapid transit technologies;
- b) Benefit from the creation of attractive, well-designed, compact and pedestrian friendly communities;
- c) Achieve a diverse mix of land uses that contribute to the creation of vibrant communities;
- d) Realize the environmental and social benefits of developing communities consistent with the principles Transit-Oriented Development;
- e) Fulfill the potential of the Richmond Hill Centre as an “Urban Growth Centre” (*Places to Grow Plan* – June 2006) and a “Regional Centre” under the Region of York Official Plan;
- f) Take advantage of the opportunities emerging in the Greater Richmond Hill Centre and Langstaff areas on the north and south side of the 407/Highway 7 Corridor to become the premier intermodal hub and transit oriented gateway in York Region;
- g) Integrate surface transit and subway support facilities into the Steeles Avenue station district;
- h) Consider the location, function and character of potential intermediate stations along the Yonge Corridor between the Finch Avenue Station and Richmond Hill Centre.

The Mandate of the Advisory Task Force:

It is the mandate of the Advisory Task Force to:

- a) Provide strategic support and assistance to the Region of York and the local municipalities in facilitating and implementing Transit Oriented Development, in accordance with the respective municipal policies, plans and guidelines;
- b) Promote and support the efficient integration of Transit Oriented Development and subway station sites with surface transit, commuter parking, passenger pick-up and drop-offs and pedestrian routes;
- c) Act as a forum for discussion for the purposes of issue identification and problem solving and to partner with the Region of York and the local municipalities in the planning and implementation of required responses;
- d) Communicate the economic, financial, social, environmental and aesthetic benefits of Transit Oriented Development to all sectors of society;

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- e) Undertake specific tasks, in partnership with the municipalities, to support or advocate Transit Oriented Development, including working with external agencies, landowners and senior levels of government to address such matters as funding or planning/development issues affecting the implementation of Transit Oriented Development;
- f) Liaise and consult with the City of Toronto stakeholders and support the free-flow of information between municipalities.

Location:

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force's will primarily focus on three areas of interest along the Yonge subway alignment:

- The Intermodal Gateway at Richmond Hill Centre and the adjoining Langstaff areas;
- Transit facilities and transit-oriented development integration within the Steeles Station district;
- The consideration of intermediate stations along the subway corridor in addition to Steeles and Richmond Hill Centre.

Areas of interest may also include properties within a convenient (5 to 10 minute) walking distance (400 – 500 metres) of the station sites.

Relationship to the Municipal Planning (*Planning Act*) Processes:

The Advisory Task Force will operate independently from the on-going municipal planning processes and will not affect the planning processes carried out by the Region of York and local municipalities. The Advisory Task Force will not be a commenting body to either the Region or the local municipalities in matters relating to development applications or initiatives pursued under the *Planning Act*. Technical comments relating to station integration with surface transit facilities and Transit Oriented Development will be provided by the staff of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation.

Advisory Task Force Membership:

The Advisory Task Force will be composed of:

- The Regional Chair who will be ex officio;
- Two (2) appointees from York Region, who shall be members of Regional Council;
- Two appointees from each of the City of Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill and Town of Markham who shall be members of Municipal Council;
- One non-elected member, who represents local stakeholder interests, may be appointed by the Region and each Municipal Council.

The appointments shall be at the sole discretion of the respective Councils.

Chair:

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee members at the inaugural meeting for a term of two years.

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Term:

Members of the Advisory Task Force will serve concurrently with the terms of Regional/Municipal Council. Such appointments shall expire at the end of term for both Councils.

Remuneration:

Not Applicable.

Meetings:

The Advisory Task Force will meet not less than quarterly throughout the calendar year. The quarterly meetings will be established annually at the first meeting of each calendar year. More frequent meetings may be required from time to time. Such meeting dates will be set by the Chair in consultation with the Task Force members.

Reporting:

Minutes of the Advisory Task Force meetings will be recorded and forwarded to the appropriate Committees/Councils of York Region and the City of Vaughan for their consideration and action as necessary.

Administration and Technical Services:

Administrative (Secretariat) Services will be provided by the Region of York. Technical support will be drawn from the staff of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, the Region of York and the local municipalities, as required.

d) Appointment of a Non-Elected Member to the Advisory Task Force

The Terms of Reference provide that each Council may appoint, "one (1) non-elected member, who represents local stakeholder interests". Should Council wish to make an appointment there are a number of options: Make the appointment now or at the next Council meeting; defer the appointment for further consideration; or decline to make an appointment at this time. It is noted that the Markham and Richmond Hill have both appointed their non-elected member to the Task Force. Should the Terms of Reference be satisfactory, Recommendation 1 may still be adopted and conveyed to the Region. This would allow for the work of the Task Force to start, if further consideration of the appointment is warranted.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

Participation in the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force fulfills a number of objectives under Vaughan Vision 2020. These include, under "Plan and Manage Growth & Economic Vitality":

- Work with other levels of government to continue to support the expansion of the GO system and public/rapid transit;
- Support and coordinate land use planning for high capacity transit at strategic locations in the City.

Regional Implications

This is an initiative of the Council of the Region of York. It will be administered by Regional Staff. Technical support will be provided jointly by the Region and the local municipalities, as required.

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Conclusion

The proposed Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force presents an opportunity for the Region of York, the City of Vaughan and the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham to work together to support the Yonge Subway Extension and to realize their respective planning objectives for the subway corridor.

The Task Force, as an advisory body, will focus on providing strategic level assistance to the Region and the local municipalities and it will work with other governments and agencies involved in the planning of the subway project. The Task Force will not be involved in the *Planning Act* approvals processes for development around the station sites. It will support the implementation of Transit Oriented Development based on the local and regional official plans, policies and guidelines.

This project is still in its early stages. Subject to final approval of a new regulation, entitled "Transit Projects and Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Undertakings", it is expected that the Environmental Assessment will be able to proceed under an accelerated six month process. Cabinet approval for the new regulation is expected in June of 2008.

The first four months of the new process are devoted to the finalization and submission of the EA, including public consultation (three public consultation centres), with the remaining two months accommodating the approval processes. This will allow the Region to start the formal EA process in the fall of 2008 with the objective of obtaining approval by April 2009. Preliminary engineering is being carried out by the Region, with the concurrence of the City of Toronto, as a precursor to the Environmental Assessment.

The Committee is being formed at an opportune time in the life of the project. It will allow for its involvement at the initial planning stage of the project. Attachment No. 2 shows the preliminary timetable for the process leading to the approval of the Yonge Street Subway Environmental Assessment, including the participation of the Advisory Task Force.

It is recommended that Council endorse the draft Terms of Reference, forming Attachment No. 1 to this report; and that direction be given to the appointment of a third Vaughan representative to the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force, consistent with the Terms of Reference, being a non-elected member, who represents local stakeholder interests.

Attachments

1. Report to Regional Council: "Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force Draft Terms of Reference", January 24, 2008
2. Yonge Subway Extension Study Timelines – 2008/09

Report Prepared by:

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)