

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**REPORT NO. 1
OF THE REGIONAL
YONGE SUBWAY ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING HELD ON MAY 15, 2008**

**For Consideration by the
Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee of
The Regional Municipality of York
on June 12, 2008**

Chair: Mayor D. Barrow

Members: Councillor V. Burke
Regional Councillor J. Frustaglio
Regional Councillor B. Hogg
Mayor L. Jackson
Regional Councillor J. Jones
Mr. B. O'Donnell
Mr. J. Ricciuti
Mayor F. Scarpitti, Vice-Chair
Councillor A. Shefman
Mr. D. West
Regional Chair B. Fisch, ex officio

Absent: Mr. H.T. Wilson

Regional Staff: P. Casey, N. Garbe, S. Hertel, J. Hulton, D. Kelly, K. Llewellyn-Thomas, B. Macgregor, P. May, B. Tuckey

Rapidco Staff: D. Albers, J. Hulse, T. Middlebrook, S. Tuckey, M.F. Turner, K. Webber

Others: S. Bowers, R. Staples, YC2002; J. Livey, A. Brown, Town of Markham; I. Brutto, Town of Richmond Hill; M. DeAngelis, B. Robinson, City of Vaughan

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force began its inaugural meeting at 1:05 p.m. on May 15, 2008.

1

UPDATE - COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force advises the Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee of the following matters having been considered by the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force with the following action:

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

1. The Task Force elected Mayor Barrow as Chair and Mayor Scarpitti as Vice-Chair of the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force.

A. COMMUNICATION

1. Extract from City of Vaughan Council Minutes of May 12, 2008, regarding Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force – Draft Terms of Reference, Response to Request for Comments from the Region of York, and approving the appointment of Mr. H. Tom Wilson to the Task Force as Vaughan's non-elected representative. **Received.**

B. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force

The members of the Committee and Senior staff were introduced as follows:

Regional Chair Bill Fisch, York Region Council, as ex officio in his capacity as the Regional Chair of York Region. Chairman Fisch is also a member of the Metrolinx Board

Mayor David Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill, Member of Rapid Transit Committee

Mayor Linda Jackson, City of Vaughan, Vice Chair of Rapid Transit Committee

Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Town of Markham, Member of Rapid Transit Committee

Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, City of Vaughan, Chair of Transit Committee and Member of Rapid Transit Committee

Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Town of Markham, Member of Transit Committee

Regional Councillor Brenda Hogg, Town of Richmond Hill, Member of Transit Committee

Local Councillor Valerie Burke, Town of Markham, Ward 1

Local Councillor Alan Shefman, City of Vaughan, Ward 5

Bill O'Donnell, Businessman and Former Regional Councillor, Town of Markham,

Joe Ricciuti, Businessman and Member of North Yonge Subway Committee, Town of Markham

David West, Chair of Government Affairs Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Town of Richmond Hill

Staff

Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, (Rapidco)

Susan Tuckey, Chief Financial Officer, Rapidco

Jon Hulse, Chief Engineer, Rapidco

Dale Albers, Chief Communications Officer, Rapidco

Katherine Webber, Project Assistant, Rapidco

Tom Middlebrook, Owner's Engineer, McCormick Rankin

Scott Bowers, Owner's Engineer, McCormick Rankin

Rick Staples, York Consortium 2002

Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer, York Region

Bryan Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning and Development Services

Katherine Llewellyn-Thomas, Commissioner of Transportation Services

Joy Hulton, Regional Solicitor

Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning

Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk

Neil Garbe, Director of Strategic Planning, Office of the CAO

Roles and responsibilities of the task force

Ms. Turner provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Task Force and its roles and responsibilities as follows:

- To provide guidance, advice and a forum for the coordination of the many considerations that will shape the evolution of the Yonge Street Subway.
- To act as a forum for stakeholder consultation to promote and support the goals and objectives of the Region and local municipalities for the delivery of a comprehensive higher order transit network, intermodal connectivity and transit oriented development (TOD).
- To act as a forum for discussions with City of Toronto stakeholders for the integration of transit facilities with the subway at Steeles Station and for consideration of an intermediate station at Cummer Avenue within the City boundaries.

Schedule

Mr. May commented on the Yonge Subway proposed timelines with project initiation in January 2008, municipal and public consultation during the summer and fall of 2008 and Ministry of Environment review and approval in spring 2009.

The members suggested moving up the timeline to ensure the deadlines were met in time for provincial budget approvals.

2. Project Status and Review

Mr. Middlebrook provided an overview of the project status and major activity areas including subway construction techniques and surface impacts at stations.

Review of evaluation criteria for station locations and alignments

Mr. Middlebrook reviewed the possible station locations noting the following key considerations: ridership/boardings; safe passenger access and egress; surface transit connections; physical environment; urban intensification and cost effectiveness. He also discussed related technical and alignment challenges in connection with the East Don River Crossing Options and terminal requirements at Steeles Avenue and Richmond Hill Centre.

Environmental Assessment Process and Timing

Mr. Middlebrook informed the members that the Environmental Assessment process will take six months (October 2008 to April 2009). If the EA is approved, the design work can begin in 2010 and construction will commence in 2011 with service beginning in late 2016.

Staff noted that there is a sustainability program in place as part of the EA process. The project will also take into consideration readily renewable resources which will be addressed through the Environmental Protection Act.

Public Consultation Programme

The first public consultation is scheduled for June 17 and 18, 2008 at the Premiere Ballroom and Convention Center in Richmond Hill. Presentations relating to the Highway 7 rapidways and the Yonge Street subway will be made on both days.

Staff invited the Task Force members to attend if possible.

The draft invitation was circulated to the members and suggestions were made to highlight the subway in some way on the front page. It was also suggested that vegetable based colours be used and recycled materials for printing.

Staff was requested to follow up with the City of Toronto regarding advertising south of Steeles for the open houses.

3. Municipal Technical/Policy Co-ordination

Status and coordination of major land use studies

Ms. Turner advised that stakeholder meetings would also be held over the summer months.

Staff were requested to ensure local ratepayers groups and business associations were kept informed of public meetings. Staff noted that presentations would be made to these groups and as well to any other major stakeholders the Task Force members suggested.

Technical staff liaison with technical project team

Staff have been meeting with local municipal staff. It was noted that due to the tight timelines, it was necessary to streamline the process and to ensure local councils were kept informed by the Task Force members. Staff will continue to make presentations to local councils during the summer months. Local municipal staff will also be expected to report back to their local councils after meeting with the technical project team.

4. Next Steps

Toronto TTC Coordination

Mr. Macgregor advised that discussions are underway with City of Toronto staff and the TTC with a view to including them as co-proponents to the EA.

Report to York Region Rapid Transit Committee in June

Staff will be reporting to the Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee in June looking for an endorsement of the next steps, including the commencement of public meetings, stakeholder consultations and municipal presentations on preferred design, including Toronto.

Ms. Turner advised that a communication strategy will be brought forward incorporating the input from this Task Force.

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force recommends that:

- 1. Staff reconsider the timing of the submission of the environmental assessment project report to the Ministry of the Environment to ensure the Environmental Assessment process is completed in time for consideration with the provincial budget.**
- 2. Staff proceed with the public information sessions on June 17 and 18, 2008 in the Town of Richmond Hill.**
- 3. Future meetings of the Task Force be held in a suitable location relative to the Yonge Subway extension.**
- 4. Staff prepare a resolution to be sent to Metrolinx and the Province, outlining the Task Force's position regarding the importance of the Yonge Street subway and the balance of the rapid transit system, to be considered by the Task Force at the next meeting scheduled to be held on June 24, 2008.**

CARRIED

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force adjourned at 3.28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**May 15, 2008
Newmarket, Ontario**

**D. Barrow
Chair**

Karin Price, Committee Co-ordinator
Tel. (905) 830-4444 x 1322