

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**REPORT NO. 3
OF THE REGIONAL
YONGE SUBWAY ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

**For Consideration by the
Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee of
The Regional Municipality of York
on October 16, 2008**

Chair: Mayor D. Barrow

Members: Councillor V. Burke
Regional Councillor J. Frustaglio
Regional Councillor B. Hogg
Regional Councillor J. Jones
Mr. B. O'Donnell
Mr. J. Ricciuti
Councillor A. Shefman
Mr. D. West
Regional Chair B. Fisch, ex officio
Councillor D. Shiner, ex officio

Also Present: Regional Councillor V. Spatafora

Absent: Mayor L. Jackson
Mayor F. Scarpitti, Vice-Chair
Mr. H.T. Wilson

Regional Staff: N. Garbe, P. May, B. Tuckey

Rapidco Staff: D. Albers, D. Clark, M.F. Turner, K. Webber

Others: S. Bowers, T. Middlebrook, Owner's Engineer, R. Staples, YC2002;
A. Brown, Town of Markham; J. Anderton, A. Bassios, I. Brutto,
T. Myatt, Town of Richmond Hill; W. McEachern, R. McQuillin, City
of Vaughan

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force began its meeting at 9: 10 a.m. on September 17, 2008.

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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:

A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, began the presentation with a video clip of the proposed 6 km extension of the Yonge subway line from Cummer to Richmond Hill, highlighting the six proposed subway station locations.

The Yonge subway study process timeline was reviewed by Ms. Turner. She stated that the recommended concept design stage is nearing completion and a second Public Consultation has been scheduled for September 25, 2008.

1. Yonge Subway Public Consultation Centre (PCC) Summer Workshops

Tom Middlebrook, Owner's Engineer, noted that under the new 6 month Environmental Assessment process the first notice will be filed on approximately October 3, 2008 and a decision from the Ministry of Environment will be made in mid-March 2009.

Mr. Middlebrook reviewed the comments received at the PCCs held June 17 and 18, 2008 and at the workshop on July 31, 2008.

Review of Public Input and On-line Surveys

Mr. Middlebrook stated that the results indicated six stations were favoured with the following key findings:

- Cummer/Drewry – good transit connections to local routes
- Steeles – numerous connections between bus and subway
- Clark – good transit connections to local routes; opportunity for intensification along with existing medium and high density development
- Royal Orchard – good opportunity for intensification of existing medium density development
- Longbridge/Langstaff – high potential for intensification; key location for future park-and-ride

- Richmond Hill Centre – key intermodal passenger terminus of subway.

Ms. Turner advised that based on technical and public feedback, six stations are warranted and it is recommended that they be carried forward in the EA.

Review of Stakeholder Discussions

Workshops were also held on August 25 and 26, 2008 with general concurrence to the following:

- Six stations
- Heritage-style Bridge over East Don River
- Align transit near existing services

Steeles Station Layout

Mr. Middlebrook reviewed the key considerations for the Steeles Station and several preliminary station layout concepts were discussed.

Various issues discussed included an underground bus terminal and impacts on access/entrances; higher capital cost, disruption during construction and visual marketability of the subway.

Staff was requested to provide more details as to how the level of bus movement going to Finch station would be alleviated by having a station at Steeles. More details relating to ridership numbers were also requested.

Ms. Turner stated that advertisements for public consultations and workshops have been placed in the Toronto Star and post card and mail drops have been made within the communities south of Steeles, including commercial and residential land owners within 250 m of the proposed station location.

East Don River

The public consultations and workshops indicated the preferred subway crossing over the East Don River is via a heritage-style bridge, allowing for a shallow, relatively flat subway tunnel that will be operationally least costly. Staff indicated that noise was a consideration and that measures to mitigate noise, such as enclosure of the subway will be examined as part of the design.

The Task Force was provided with a copy of the Yonge Subway Extension Workbook dated July 31, 2008 and the Draft Recommendations for the Yonge Subway Extension dated August 26, 2008.

2. Project Update and Final Alignment Recommendations

Longbridge/Langstaff Station

The development of the Longbridge/Langstaff station layout concepts was discussed.

Mr. Middlebrook stated that considerations at this location included:

- Significant development site on Langstaff lands east of Yonge Street
- Protection of Holy Cross Cemetery
- Provision of commuter parking facility
- Avoid impact to Hydro One's transmission facilities
- Passenger pick up and drop off facility

Richmond Hill Centre Station

The Richmond Hill Centre Station layout concepts were discussed. It was noted by staff that as a major transit hub the subway would interface with YRT, the GO Bus, the 407 Transitway and the GO Train.

Ms. Turner stated that staff have been working with landowners in the area for opportunities for TOD development. She also noted that extensive work has been done on cost considerations looking at the alignment options in the study area.

Staff was requested to consider aesthetic design options for the parking areas which would promote naturalization and improve the quality of life for residents by providing sound barriers.

Staff was requested to investigate a fourth option for a station location south of Highway 7 near the Langstaff lands. Ms. Turner stated that all options will be considered and that dialogues are continuing with stakeholders for station locations.

3. Metrolinx Update

Ms. Turner stated the Metrolinx benefits case and Infrastructure Ontario's alternative financing procurement analysis are progressing. The benefits case will confirm that the respective projects will deliver optimal economic, environmental and social benefits, in accordance with the principles of the Regional Transportation Plan. The Technical Teams continue to meet to discuss the analysis for the Yonge Subway project.

4. Municipal Technical/Policy Co-ordination Update

Major Land Use Studies

David Clark, Chief Architect, provided an update on the major land use studies which are being conducted along Yonge Street. He noted that the Markham public meeting was being held tonight (September 17, 2008) and Vaughan held a public meeting last night (September 16, 2008). The Richmond Hill study is also underway.

5. Next Steps

Ms. Turner advised the Task Force of the following next steps:

- The next public meeting will be held on September 25, 2008 at the Premiere Ballroom in Richmond Hill.
- The Toronto TTC Co-ordination Public Consultation will be held on October 16, 2008.
- Stakeholder Workshops are on-going from September to November for the East Don Bridge design, Richmond Hill Centre and Steeles Station.
- Public Meeting No. 3 will be held in November in the Premiere Ballroom in Richmond Hill.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2, Town of Richmond Hill Municipal Offices.

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**September 17, 2008
Richmond Hill, Ontario**

**D. Barrow
Chair**

Karin Price, Committee Co-ordinator
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