

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2017**

Item 2, Report No. 4, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on January 24, 2017.

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#### **YORK REGION RAPID TRANSIT UPDATE CITY-WIDE**

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends that consideration of this matter be deferred to the March 8, 2017 Committee of the Whole (Working Session), in accordance with Communication C2, memorandum from the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management, dated January 17, 2017.

#### **Recommendation**

The Deputy City Manager Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning recommend:

1. THAT the presentation from York Region Rapid Transit Corporation staff on the status of rapid transit projects in Vaughan be received.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

Higher order transit infrastructure such as the Spadina and Yonge Subway Extension projects and the VivaNext Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway will support compact urban form and will offer an alternative mode of transportation to the single occupant vehicle.

#### **Economic Impact**

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

#### **Communication Plan**

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) has developed a comprehensive communication program for the Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway project, which will be overviewed in the presentation. Staff in the Office of Corporate Communications, Economic Development and Culture Department and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Project Management Team support communication efforts from YRRTC.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report and associated presentation from YRRTC staff is to provide Council with the status of the rapid transit projects in Vaughan and to update Committee on actions being taken by the City and Region with support or involvement of Metrolinx to facilitate delivery of transit projects in Vaughan.

#### **Background – Analysis and Options**

Since the last rapid transit update in June 2016, significant progress has been made on rapid transit projects in the City. The following is a brief update on the YRRTC projects:

Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension is more than 80 per cent complete

The construction of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension (TYSSE) is now more than 80 percent complete with the completion of track installation in June 2016. The above grade structures for the three subway stations in Vaughan continue to take shape and the overall

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project completion date of December 2017 remains in place. The City has undertaken actions and is facilitating efforts to ensure the project schedule remains achievable.

#### VivaNext Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway – Phase 1 (H2-VMC) commissioning in 2016

Construction of the first phase of the VivaNext Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway east of Jane Street is complete including the final treatments/facades for the Viva stations. Commissioning is expected in December 2016. Construction activity for the short section west of Jane Street is also well underway with the installation of the cupola shaped canopy for the Viva station which is scheduled to open in spring 2018.

#### VivaNext Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway - Phase 2 (H2) Construction activities are underway

This phase of the project includes the extension of the Rapidway on Highway 7 from Edgeley to Helen Street and from the intersection of Centre Street and Highway 7 to Yonge Street along the existing Viva route on Centre and Bathurst Streets. Phase 2 will also include the reconfiguration of Highway 400/Highway 7 northbound off ramps to accommodate a new intersection with Applewood Crescent into the VMC. Construction activities for the second phase of the VivaNext Highway 7 Bus Rapidway have commenced with the utility locations and water main upgrades at Bathurst Street. Phase 2 is expected to be open for service in 2020.

#### Construction of the VMC York Region Transit Bus Terminal will commence before the end of the year

The contract for the construction of the VMC York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) bus terminal has been awarded and construction is expected to start in December. The objective is to have the bus terminal partially operational when the subway begins service in late 2017, with full completion in 2018.

Staff is currently working with YRRTC, TTC and SmartReit to coordinate and schedule the many components associated with the reconstruction of Millway Avenue and surrounding streets. In September 2016, Council authorized staff to engage SmartReit and its consultant team to undertake the detailed design of Millway Avenue on behalf of the City as opposed to YRRTC in an effort to maintain the project schedule. Discussions related to the SmartReit proposed YMCA mixed use building and temporary parking lot have resulted in additional streets (e.g. Applemill Road extension to Jane Street) being considered as part of this work.

The current implementation strategy provides for the design of Millway Avenue to be finalized in early 2017, with construction to commence spring 2017 and reconstruction of the roadway to be completed for opening day of the subway in late 2017.

#### Regional Express Rail will improve service on the Barrie GO Line

York Region, YRRTC and Metrolinx together with City staff continue to collaborate on many components of the Province's Regional Express Rail (RER) program to ensure it is fully integrated within the Region's transit initiatives, and network connectivity. Some of these components include: participating in technical advisory meetings, new station planning, rail grade separations, station access and parking capacity, and electrification. Vaughan will benefit from this initiative through improved service on the Barrie GO Line.

Staff continues to work closely with Metrolinx and York Region on initiatives related to RER including:

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- Planning for the new Kirby GO Station in the vicinity of Kirby Road and Keele Street in conjunction with the Block 27 Secondary Plan and associated transit hub sub-study;
- Advancing the Transportation Connectivity Study and Transit Hub Study in support of the future Concord GO station
- Facilitating parking and station expansion at the existing Maple and Rutherford Go Stations including associated grade separation improvements; and
- Addressing various technical information and property requests related to the Metrolinx Network Electrification Environmental Assessment currently underway.

#### **The design of the Yonge Subway Extension is being advanced**

The proposed Yonge Subway Extension (YSE) will extend approximately 6.8 kilometers north from Finch Station to Highway 7. This critical rapid transit link will include up to six stations, underground train storage, two major bus terminals and Park-and-Ride for up to 2,000 cars. A funding commitment has been made to advance the Yonge Subway project to the 15% preliminary design stage.

Vaughan staff is moving forward with a modified secondary plan for the Yonge and Steeles area that reflects the most recent subway design and station locations. This has been identified as a priority for the City and Council previously passed a resolution that supports the dedication of funding for design of the subway extension. City staff and elected officials are collaborating with YRRTC and Senior Leadership from the Cities of Markham and Richmond Hill to raise awareness of the importance of advancing further incremental funding for the project with Provincial and Federal decision makers.

#### **Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)**

The matters referred to in this report support Term of Council's priority of:

- Continue to develop transit, cycling and pedestrian options to get around the City
- Attract investment and create jobs
- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city
- Facilitate the development of the VMC

#### **Regional Implications**

York Region is responsible for the operation of public conventional and specialized transit services throughout York Region.

#### **Conclusion**

The presentation from York Region Rapid Transit staff will provide an update on the status of the key rapid transit project in Vaughan. These transit infrastructure projects will provide a spine network that support the City's initiatives.

#### **Attachment**

1. Rapid Transit Projects in Vaughan

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**Report prepared by:**

Jennifer Cappola-Logullo, VMC Project Manager, Ext.8433

Andrew Pearce, Director, Development Engineering & Infrastructure Planning, Ext. 8255

(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.)