

# Transit plan needs fund money

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is an essential element.

"Without the GTIP funding, it isn't going to happen," Mr. Fisch said.

Five initial candidates, who expressed interest in the public/private partnership, have passed the first-level of scrutiny and will be asked to submit more detailed proposals, regional works commissioner Kees Schipper said during a meeting of the steering committee last week.

The primary criteria were that candidates — there are five consortia, led by corporate heavyweights such as Bombardier, Hydro One and the Royal Bank of Canada — demonstrated the know-how to build and operate a sophisticated rapid transit system and the financial wherewithal to make it happen, Mr. Schipper said.

"All five consortia met all of the technical and financial criteria," he said. "The members of the consortia are all excellent and the documents they submitted were excellent as well."

Members of the steering committee were scheduled to meet Friday with representatives of the various consortia to go over the proposed schedule. The schedule reviewed last week calls for the issuing of requests for proposals next Friday, Feb. 22, with submis-

sions due March 29. It is hoped a private sector partner will be announced by April 30.

This week's discussions will determine whether or not that schedule is realistic, Mr. Fisch said. And the approval of regional council is necessary before a request for proposals can be issued. Council meets next Thursday.

The region has sent the province detailed applications for GTIP funding. The costs the region expects to encounter as it improves the YRT include buying more buses worth \$24.5 million, creation of dedicated bus lanes costing \$900,000, a transit priority traffic-control system costing \$500,000 and various other costs, amounting to more than \$31 million for short-term goals.

The region wants to remove one million automobile trips from York's roads and highways over the next two years.

In a separate submission, the region pitches its public/private partnership, which will create a sophisticated rapid transit system in the Hwy. 7 corridor to service the burgeoning municipalities of Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham and hook up with regional transit systems in Peel and Durham regions.

The plan calls for design and approvals to be completed in late 2004, with construction beginning then and continuing

on over the next several years.

The region's application states the municipality will contribute to the cost of the project, but partnerships with senior levels of government will also be necessary.

Markham Mayor Don Cousens suggested neighbouring municipalities be kept informed of the region's plans, with a view to forming further partnerships in the future.

"Who knows? They might share some of the costs when they see the potential benefit to their communities," he said.

"At some point, if they want to put some money on the table, they could become voting members (of the steering committee)," he said.

In the meantime, the region will spend another quarter-of-a-million dollars on consultants as the partnership plan moves along. KPMG Consulting, originally retained on a \$100,000 contract, will be paid another \$250,000 to stay on the job and help guide York Region.

Recognizing the "substantial increase", Mr. Schipper said the intense timetable for formation of the partnership has necessitated the expense.

"Obviously things have accelerated dramatically in the last little while and we have had to retain KPMG to be more than a process advisor," he said.

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Markham Stouffville Hospital is inviting applications to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hospital. The Board is composed of community volunteers with a mix of skills and experience necessary to provide leadership to the Hospital in meeting its community's health care needs. Board members provide governance to the Hospital Corporation. Working closely with senior management and medical representatives, the Board is responsible for establishing policies and procedures, monitoring hospital performance, and ensuring proper fiscal management of resources.

For 2002/03, the Board has a minimum of 4 vacancies to be filled. The Nominating Committee is specifically seeking individuals with one or more of the following skills:

- Corporate and/or strategic marketing
- Experience in senior management and leadership roles in the public or private sectors
- Real estate and/or land development experience

To be eligible, an individual must be a resident or employed or carry on business in the catchment area of Markham Stouffville Hospital. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed to ensure the Board has the right combination of expertise and community representation to fulfill its mandate. Volunteers receive no monetary compensation and should be prepared to devote 10-15 hours a month to Board activities.

All interested persons are invited to attend an information session on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital auditorium.

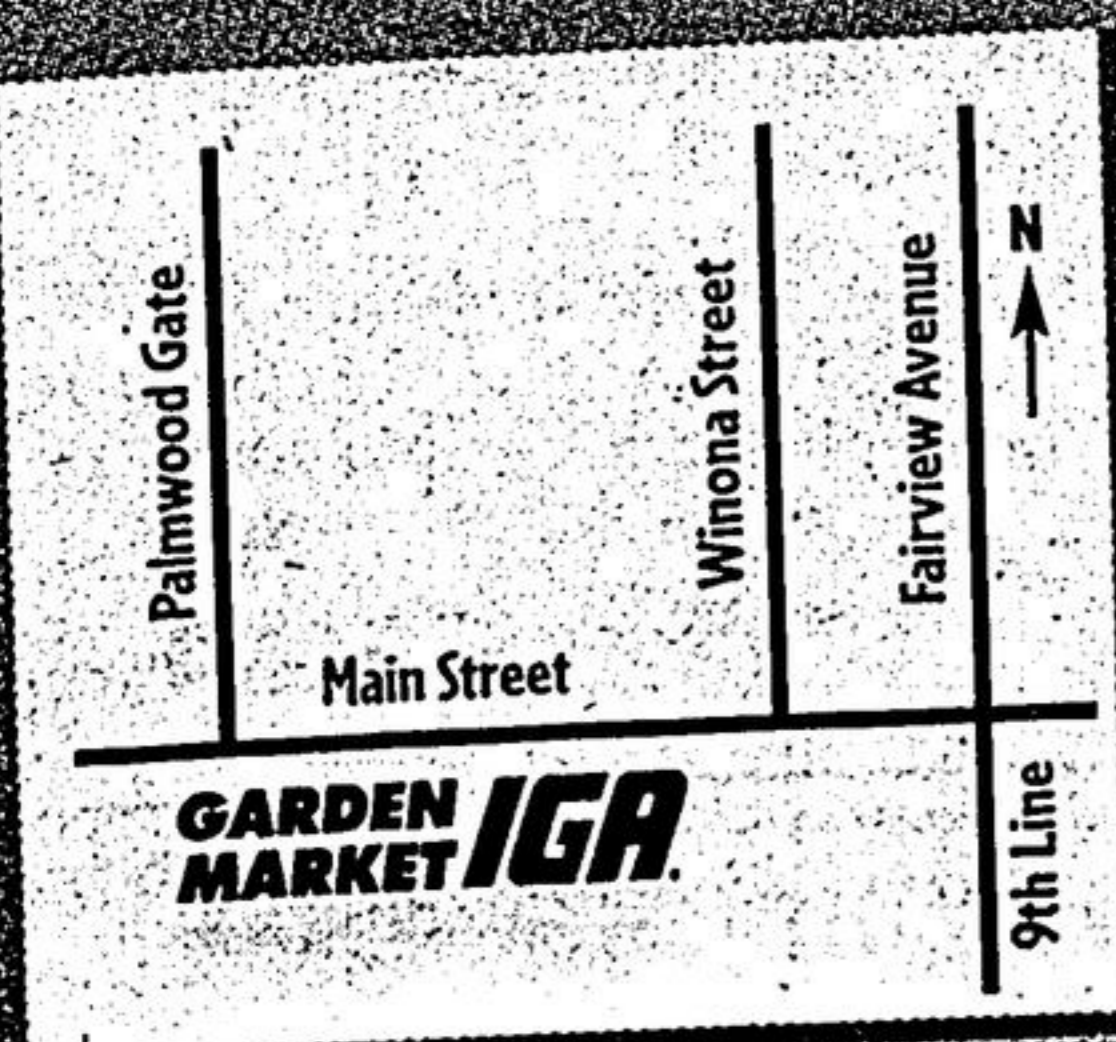
Applications including a résumé or letter outlining your experience should be sent by March 15th, 2002 to:

Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors  
Attention: Ms. Karin Lewis  
Markham Stouffville Hospital  
381 Church Street, P.O. Box 1800  
Markham, Ontario L3P 7P3

Fax: (905) 472-7086  
e-mail: kklewis@msh.on.ca

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