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Provincial budget met with positive reaction: Sorbara

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

What a difference a budget year makes, according to Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara.

Following a firestorm of protest over the health care premium in his first

budget last May, the Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP noted a big difference in the reaction to his second budget this week.

"Like night and day," Mr. Sorbara told The York Region Newspaper Group Friday. "Last year's was a tough budget but

this time around, there's a very positive mood right across the province."

The highlights of a budget that halved Ontario's deficit included a five-year, \$6.2-billion plan for post-secondary education, a \$1.8-billion increase in health care spending and the promise of \$30 billion over five years in infrastructure funding. But it also fell short of a promise last year to erase the deficit by 2007. That may take until 2008, Mr. Sorbara said.

Because criticism seems to be evenly split between those who wanted more spending and those who felt deficit reduction should have had a higher priority, Mr. Sorbara said he did something right.

"When you hear those criticisms, you know you're on the right track. In our pre-budget discussions, we heard hundreds of requests — passionate requests — for increased programs and services. We had to use a lot of discipline. We simply looked at our priorities — health care, education and strengthening the economy."

He admitted details on the \$30-billion infrastructure plan are vague, but said they will soon be available.

"The criticism is valid; we haven't said much about what specific transit projects or buildings or hospitals will be getting that money. Those details will follow."



GREG SORBARA: Ontario finance minister says budget is "on the right track" with voters.

The government will continue to look at potential private investors for some infrastructure projects, but insisted there's a right way to do that.

"If you look at Hwy. 407, the government of the day made a wise decision to build that in one fell swoop, with a single company to design, build and operate it. On the other side, selling it was the single largest mistake the government ever made. There are risks to private investment and we want to avoid them."

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

VIVIAN ROAD (Y.R. 74)

From Highway 48 to York-Durham Line (Y.R. 30)

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Regional Municipality of York has completed a Class Environmental Assessment for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Vivian Road (Y.R. 74) from Highway 48 to York-Durham Line, to provide a basic two lane paved road including revisions to the road profile and intersection improvements at Ninth Line. The proposed improvements are required to address safety and operational deficiencies present on the existing road and structural deficiencies in the pavement.

The study has been conducted in accordance under Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000) under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Subject to the comments received as a result of this Notice and the receipt of other approvals, the Regional Municipality of York intends to proceed with the detailed design and construction of this project.

A Schedule C Environmental Study Report has been prepared for this project. The Report describes the problem, the assessment of alternatives and the preferred solution, as well as public and agency consultation program conducted during the Study.

This Notice places the Environmental Study Report on public record for review and is available for public viewing at the following locations and times:

The Regional Municipality of York
Office of the Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Clerk's Office
37 Sandiford Drive, 4th Floor
Stouffville, Ontario
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library
30 Burkholder St.
Stouffville, Ontario L4A 4K1
Hours: Mon to Thurs 10am to 8:30pm
Fri 10am to 6pm, Sat 10am to 5pm
Sun 12noon to 5pm

The public review period will commence on May 12, 2005. Interested persons may provide written comments to the Region representative listed below within the review period.

Cynthia Martin, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Regional Municipality of York
Transportation and Works Dept.
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
phone: (905) 764-6345 ext. 5134
fax: (905) 836-4590
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Gordon Murray, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
7270 Woodbine Avenue, Suite 300
Markham, ON L3R 4B9
Phone: (905) 474-0455
Fax: (905) 474-9889
E-mail: gmurray@stantec.com

If concerns cannot be resolved through discussions with the Regional Municipality of York, a person may request the Minister of the Environment issue a Part II Order to this project. A Part II Order request must be received by the Minister at the address below no later than June 14, 2005.

The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

A copy of the Part II Order request shall be sent to:

The Regional Municipality of York
Clerk's Department
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Bill Fisch Regional Chair
Kees Schipper Commissioner of Transportation and Works
Thank you for your participation in this study

This notice is issued on May 12, 2005.

YorkRegion

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NEW DEADLINE: MAY 13th 5:30 PM
DVD or tape required with application

All applicants must be a resident of York Region and application must be accompanied by a \$15.00 non-refundable entry fee (either by cheque or credit card). Elimination judging begins in July and runs through August with the Finals held in September at the Newmarket Theatre.

City Playhouse Theatre
Newmarket Theatre
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