

# Region considers hiking fares

Raising transit fares in York Region by more than 7 per cent could deter more people from taking the bus, according to Vaughan Regional Councillor Linda Jackson.

Councillors agreed Thursday on an average 7.35 per cent fare hike as of Jan. 1 on York Region Transit and Viva rapid transit. The recommendation must be approved by regional council.

The region says high gasoline prices are largely responsible for the increase, but Ms Jackson

believes that's not enough to hike rates by twice the rate of inflation.

"Everyone's complaining about gas prices, but you don't see trucking companies or travelling sales people getting increases," Ms Jackson said.

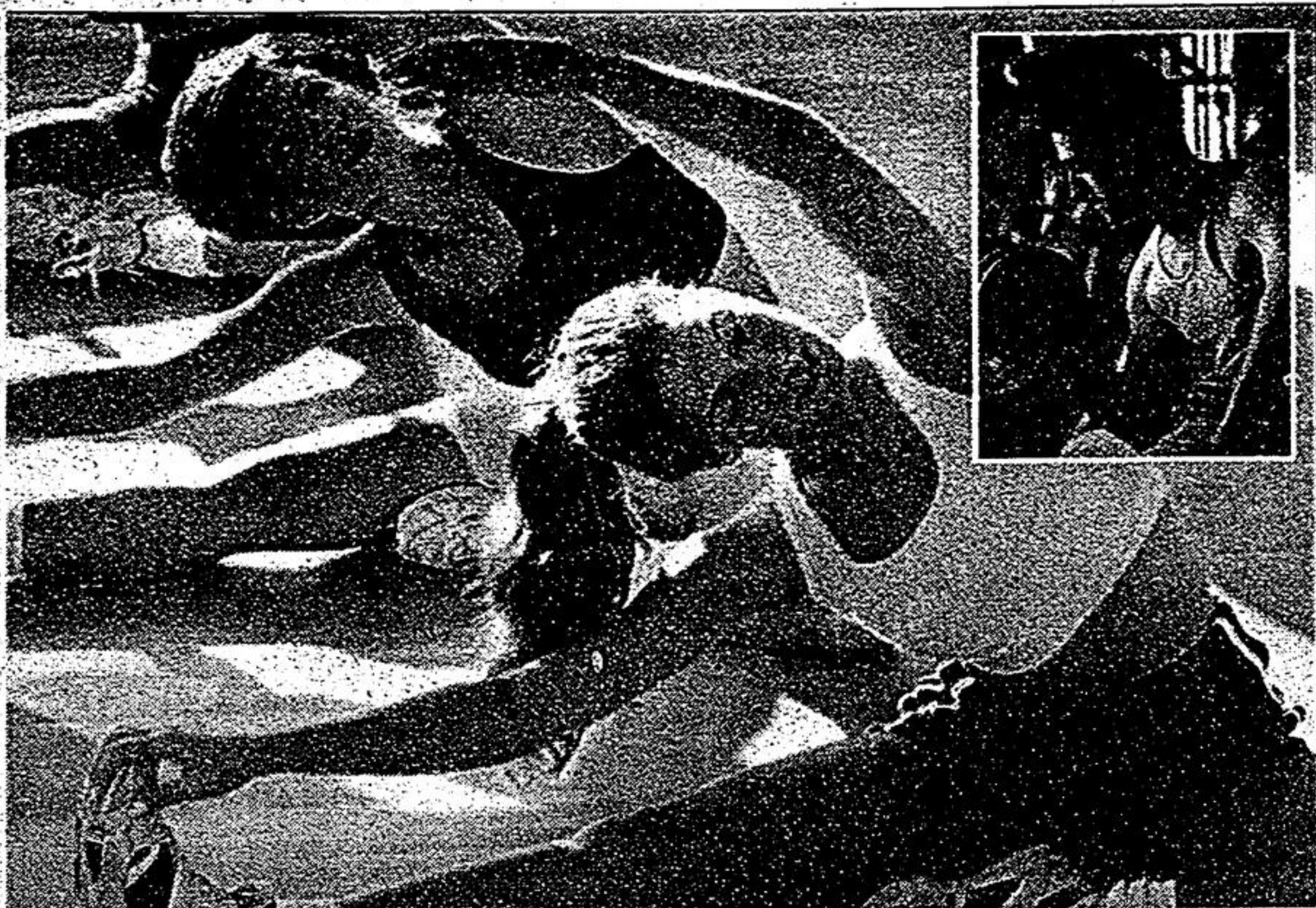
"We've just introduced Viva and we're trying to get people on the bus. The figures show they're starting to ride more."

"This is going to be a setback and the public is going to think we're raising the fares to offset the costs of introducing Viva."

The move will see adult tickets go from \$2.10 to \$2.20, senior/child tickets from \$1.20 to \$1.40, student tickets from \$1.50 to \$1.70, senior/child pass from \$1.17 to \$1.33 and all cash fares will be \$2.50, up from \$2.25.

"I can support raising the cash fare. After all, we want to encourage people to buy tickets or passes, but this will affect people who use transit the most, including students and the more disadvantaged."

—Roy Green



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## COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Stouffville – The Task Force on Safe Streets and Healthy Communities, co-chaired by MPP Jim Flaherty, is coming to Stouffville, October 29th. Bob Callow, the local CPC Candidate arranged for the Task Force to make a stop in Stouffville. The Task Force has been traveling across the country meeting with a broad cross-section of people to gain a better understanding of the emerging crime issues facing our nation. The goal of the task force is together with communities, find meaningful solutions to the problems we as a nation face in crime today.

A local meeting has been scheduled for October 29th at 10 am at the Community Safety Village of York Region – Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, 3291 Stouffville Side Road (between Warden and Kennedy). Local parents and their children are invited to come for a fun educational morning. Children will be given the opportunity to tour the safety village and learn about stranger awareness, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety and much more. At the same time, parents will also be given an opportunity to speak with MPP Jim Flaherty, Bob Callow, local politicians and community leaders to give input on how to combat the emerging crime trends across our nation.

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