

# Region to foot part of subway tab

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
Staff Writer

Regional councillors have agreed to their funding portion for the subway extension to Vaughan, but not before asking the provincial and federal governments to ante up their share.

York Region will take on 40 per cent of the municipal portion of the project while the City of Toronto will pay 60 per cent.

York Region's share would be \$268 million, with Toronto's share being \$402 million.

But in an attempt to ensure York doesn't get caught footing more than its share, a list of guidelines were also approved.

Those recommendations include a commitment of one-third of the funding of the project by the federal government by April 1, 2007, a commitment to top up the provincial contribution to at least one-third and the province to amend the Develop-

ment Charges Act to allow for money to be collected based on future transit plans, not historical data.

While many recommendations rely on provincial co-operation, York Region Chairperson Bill Fisch, believes the recommendations are realistic.

"We want to make sure that everyone pays their share," Mr. Fisch said, adding while they haven't received a concrete financial commitment from the federal government, he is optimistic it will be coming by the end of the year as the Liberal get closer to finalizing their own budget.

Regional councillor Tony Van Bynen said while the subway extension has merit, there are substantial financial concerns that go along with the project that is expected to cost about \$2 billion.

Noting there are still out-

standing projects, need regional funding, such as the York Durham sewage system, roughly estimated at \$800 million and Viva, a \$1.2 billion project, Mr. Van Bynen stressed how important the recommendations are.

"I have very serious concerns about the capital impact of the project," Mr. Van Bynen said, adding he doesn't have much confidence in how quickly the other tiers of government move. "If we don't get these concessions then we can't afford it."

Also key among the recommendations is the region getting provincial approval to exceed its regulated debt load.

There is also a concern with municipalities north of the moraine as far as what the subway will do for their communities, Mr. Van Bynen said.

"In the end enough hands went up that the project will go ahead," Mr. Van Bynen said.

**York Region**  
Planning for Tomorrow

## PEDESTRIAN & CYCLING MASTER PLAN STUDY

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE NO. 2

The Regional Municipality of York is conducting a study to develop a Regional Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan. This study is investigating how York Region can work with local municipalities to connect local pedestrian and cycling systems into a regional-scale network, improve connections to transit nodes and encourage the combining of walking and cycling trips with public transit. Scheduled to be completed in the spring, this study will result in a Master Plan that will consist of proposed pedestrian and cycling policies and guidelines, recommendations to improve the pedestrian sidewalk system on regional roads and a recommended regional cycling network. This network is expected to consist of on-road bike lanes, paved shoulder bikeways, signed-only routes and off-road, multi-use trails.

The study was initiated in April and the first public consultation meeting was conducted at two locations in the Region on May 30th and 31st. The first meeting provided interested parties with the opportunity to review the draft goals and objectives of the study and to identify ideas that could improve conditions for walking and cycling in York Region.

The study is now entering its second phase which will focus on the development of an improved sidewalk network on regional roads and a formal regional cycling network. The study team has assembled information from a number of sources using route selection criteria developed in the first phase of the study, and has prepared a preliminary candidate route map to guide the field investigation of potential routes in October and November.

You are invited to attend our second Open House to receive an update on the status of this study and to provide your comments on the candidate route map and other information prepared as part of this study. The meeting will be held at two locations from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as follows:

**Monday, October 2, 2006**

Regional Administration Centre  
17250 Yonge St., Newmarket  
Seminar Room

**Wednesday, October 4, 2006**

Regional South Services Centre  
50 High Tech Road,  
Richmond Hill

York Region will also consult with local municipalities, conservation authorities, and other stakeholders. Except for personal information, all comments received will be on public record.

Should you have any questions or comments, you may contact the following project representatives:

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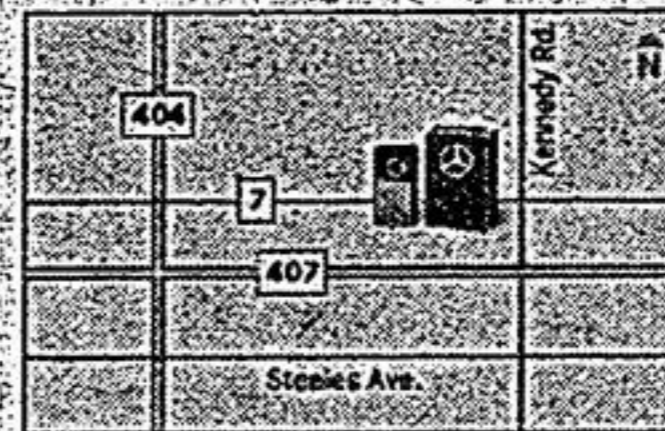
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