

Stouffville GO service, bus rapid transit to be expanded

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mentation of phase two of Viva for Yonge Street and Hwy. 7.

The second phase of Viva's plan will see the construction of special rapid transit bus-only lanes that will run down the centre of the the aforementioned roads.

Other initiatives include a GO Bus rapid transit expansion along Hwy. 407 and Markham Road, the expansion of GO Transit's rail service on the Richmond Hill, Bradford and Stouffville lines, the electrification of GO Transit's Lakeshore rail corridor and two rapid transit lines across Hamilton.

York Region chairperson Bill

Fisch welcomed the news and applauded the government's new investment in transit, which is over and above the nearly \$1 billion already invested in York Region Transit over the past four years.

The announcement of the Yonge subway line's extension will be a great thing for York Region, he said.

"It's very exciting and it's what we've been pushing for," Mr. Fisch said.

"We are starting the Spadina subway and we could be able to move the Yonge subway forward in late 2008 or early 2009."

There is still an environmental assessment to be completed, Mr. Fisch said, but that could be

wrapped up within six months.

It's exciting to think York Region could have access to two subways in five to six years, he added.

Mr. McGuinty heralded the investment in sustainable transit as a social and economic necessity.

"The time to make this sort of ambitious, but realistic investment is now," Mr. McGuinty said, four months before an election.

"FAMILIES DESERVE IT"

"Our economy demands it and, what's more, our families deserve it because gridlock not only saps strength out of our economy, it steals time from our families."

Mr. McGuinty also emphasized the 52 transit projects the \$17.5 bil-

lion will help support will create about 175,000 jobs during construction, boost economic productivity, make the GTA more attractive for business and improve air quality by eliminating 300 million car trips.

"Tackling gridlock is one of the most important things we can do to build a strong and prosperous economy," he said.

"Building a modern rapid transit system that moves people and goods quickly and efficiently will ensure we can attract and keep thousands of good high-paying jobs."

Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield called it a great day for transit, but cautioned the expansion would not happen instantly.

"Transforming our system will not happen overnight, but it must be done," Ms Cansfield said.

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees admitted he had no qualms with the items in the announcement as they were all things outlined as necessities four years ago.

He said he believes that Mr. McGuinty has no intention of bringing the project to life and is simply fishing for votes.

"I'm not arguing with the importance of the projects," Mr. Klees said. "I'm asking where have you been Mr. McGuinty? These are projects that were top priority four years ago and now that we are going into an election he's had a revelation."

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York studies incinerator's health impacts

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incinerator called into question a "put or pay" clause. The clause would mean if the region doesn't produce a set amount of waste for the facility, it would pay fines because less energy will be produced.

At that time, Mr. Campbell said the region was trying to ascertain exactly what York's needs are.

With Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill all using green box programs for organic waste and the northern six municipalities scheduled to implement similar programs in September, the region be divert more, potentially less-

ening the need for the incinerator.

York and Durham are feeling pressure from community groups raising environmental and health concerns about the proposed facility.

On Monday Ed Candolini, who represents a residents' group called Communities First, made a presentation to Markham council recommending it challenge the region on why it has a stake in the incinerator at all.

York's consultants are preparing a study on the health impacts of the incinerator. Results will be presented later this month.

"We want to make sure it is safe. We need to look at everything before

making a decision," said Mario Ferri, Vaughan regional councillor and chairperson of the region's solid waste management committee.

While one site for the proposed incinerator has been identified in East Gwillimbury and others in Clarington, a preferred site will be recommended to York and Durham regional councils in the fall.

York will host a public consultation session Tuesday, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Roman Palace Banquet Hall, 1096 Ringwell Dr. in Newmarket.

The session will provide background information and staff will discuss the results of a preliminary study of the

york region

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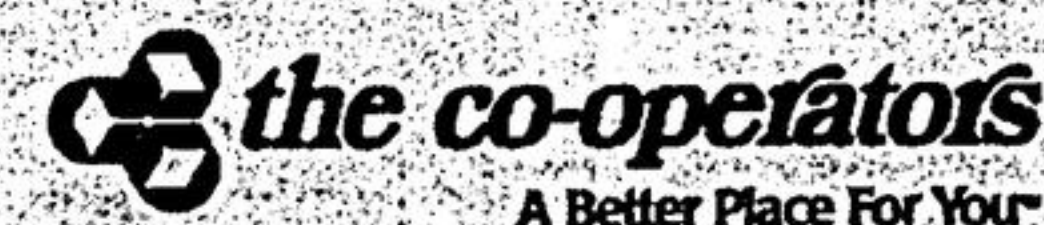
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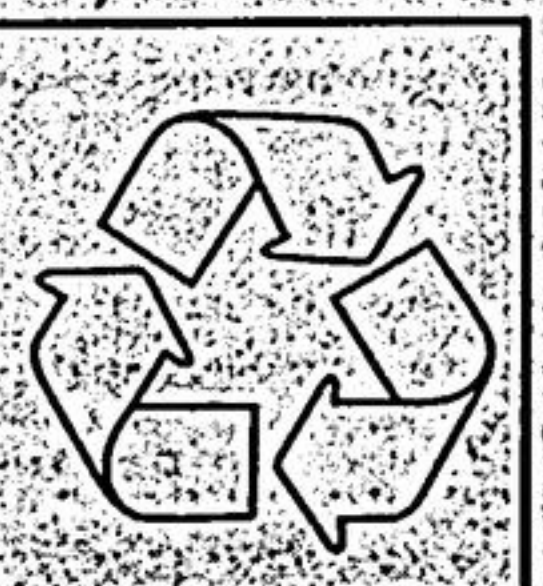
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