

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

### **REQUEST TO YORK REGION TRANSIT**

#### **Recommendation:**

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that the following resolution be adopted:

*WHEREAS the safety of the children of Vaughan is of paramount importance to this Council; and*

*WHEREAS this is especially true when it comes to their travel from place within the boundaries of the municipality; and*

*WHEREAS one of the principal occasions for such travel is to and from school five days a week; and*

*WHEREAS Regional Roads are most heavily travelled roads; and*

*WHEREAS one means of such travel is via York Region Transit, a safe and reliable option for such travel;*

*NOW THEREFORE, Council, with the sole intent of encouraging greater use of York Region Transit by students traveling to and from school, requests that York Region Transit introduce a pass for the use of students limited to five-days per week (Monday to Friday), and at a rate below York Region Transit's current (24/7) student pass; and that this resolution be communicated to York Region Transit.*

#### **Economic Impact:**

There is no economic impact attached to this resolution

#### **Contribution to Sustainability:**

The greater use of public transportation is in itself a substantial contribution to sustainability.

#### **Purpose:**

To encourage greater use of York Region Transit by student-age residents.

#### **Background: Analysis and Options**

The cancellation of school bus service between the Kipling Avenue neighbourhood and Holy Cross Catholic Academy has precipitated an on-going discussion between the local residents and a number of agencies: the York Catholic School Board, the Regional Municipality of York, and the City of Vaughan. This discussion has focused on a number of issues: pedestrian safety along Regional Road 7, Woodstream Boulevard, and Martin Grove Road; how best to inform students of the safest routes to school; developing pedestrian linkages across Rainbow Creek between Kipling South and the range of institutions fronting onto Martin Grove Road (including Holy Cross Academy). Regional roads are the most heavily travelled roadways in the City and across the Region.

A topic of discussion by the group was the possibility of encouraging greater use by students of public transportation by the introduction by York Region Transit of a student pass limited to school days, as opposed to the existing pass scheme which is good for travel anytime, and that is necessarily more expensive than a time-restricted pass might be. Hence this resolution.

#### **Regional Implications:**

Nil

**Attachments:**

None

**Conclusion:**

Assuming that a week-day only student pass will encourage greater use of York Region Transit by students, Council requests York Region Transit to introduce such a pass.

**Report prepared by:**

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA

Councillor – Ward 2