

PRIORITIES AND KEY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 6, 2012

VAUGHAN METROPOLITAN CENTRE YORK REGION TRANSIT BUS TERMINAL UPDATE WARD 4

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works in consultation with the Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services / City Solicitor recommends:

1. THAT the presentation from York Region Rapid Transit Corporation with respect to the location of the proposed Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Bus Terminal be received;
2. That Council reaffirm its endorsement of:
 - a) The location for the permanent York Region Transit Bus Terminal at the south-west corner of Millway Avenue and Portage Parkway over the tail track of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension; and
 - b) The underground pedestrian connection between the subway station and the bus terminal;
3. That Council endorse in principle the proposed construction timing of the bus terminal to follow the subway tail track construction and the interim transit services strategy utilizing temporary facilities;
4. That Council direct staff to report back on the ownership and maintenance issues associated with the proposed east-west underground pedestrian tunnel under Millway Avenue; and
5. That Council direct staff to continue to work with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation on the design of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Bus Terminal.

Contribution to Sustainability

The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre York Region Transit (YRT) Bus Terminal will provide a relatively seamless interface between YRT bus service and the rapid transit facilities. These transit facilities will support compact urban form and offer an alternative mode of transportation to the single occupant vehicle.

Economic Impact

There are no immediate economic impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

Communications Plan

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation continues to engage in a comprehensive communication program in connection with the various rapid transit projects within Vaughan including the Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transitway and the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension projects.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to supplement the presentation from York Region Rapid Transit Corporation on the proposed location for the YRT Bus Terminal in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.

Background - Analysis and Options

In September 2010, Council adopted the secondary plan for the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC). In March 2011, the major landowners submitted an alternate development concept for the area of the VMC bounded by Jane Street, Highway 7, Highway 400 and Portage Parkway. This plan is currently under review by staff.

The alternate VMC plan locates the proposed YRT Bus Terminal at the south-west corner of Millway Avenue and Portage Parkway. Accordingly, the proposed YRT Bus Terminal would be an above ground facility situated over the tail track of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension with a direct underground pedestrian connection to the VMC subway station concourse level. Access to the bus terminal would be from Millway Avenue and a proposed north-south local road immediately west of the terminal block.

Council, at its meeting of May 3, 2011 adopted item 2, Report No. 23, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) by approving the confidential recommendations of the Council (Closed Session) meeting with respect to real property issues associated with the VMC YRT Bus Terminal. An update regarding the status of these recommendations will be provided to Council under separate cover via a confidential memorandum.

Further, Council at its meeting of July 6, 2011 adopted the following additional resolution regarding the YRT Bus Terminal:

"That Council only supports a VMC York Region Transit Bus Terminal location that includes a direct underground pedestrian tunnel connection to the VMC Subway Station"

Since July 2011 York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) has been in negotiations with the affected landowners with respect to the bus terminal location and related land issues. On January 26, 2012, YRRTC and TTC staff advised that a tentative understanding with the landowners has been developed that would see the YRT Bus Terminal located west of Millway Avenue and south of Portage Parkway. The key elements of this understanding are as follows:

- i. The YRT Bus Terminal Station will be located over the subway tail track at the south-west corner of Millway Avenue and Portage Parkway.
- ii. The Bus Terminal building will include both transit and commercial / retail uses.
- iii. The component of the bus terminal building dedicated to transit operations will be owned by YRT. The commercial / retail component will be owned by the affected landowners.
- iv. The YRT Bus Terminal site will be constructed in phases. The transit facility will be constructed first followed by the commercial / retail component when there is a business case for it.
- v. The construction of the bus terminal building can not commence until the subway is substantially completed; accordingly there will be approximately a one year interval between the opening of the subway and the bus terminal. In the interim, a temporary passenger pick-up / drop-off (PPUDO) facility will be provided on the bus terminal site next to Millway Avenue.

- vi. An underground pedestrian tunnel will be constructed between the north end of the subway concourse level and the bus terminal. The pedestrian tunnel will be approximately 35 metres long. The structure will include a knock out panel to facilitate future connections to the underground tunnel from adjacent buildings to the west. The pedestrian tunnel will be owned by TTC.
- vii. The underground pedestrian tunnel and escalator / elevator pits associated with the bus terminal will be constructed in conjunction with the subway project.
- viii. An additional east-west underground pedestrian tunnel under Millway Avenue and above ground entrance on the east side of Millway Avenue will be constructed with the subway at no cost to the City. The ownership of this tunnel has yet to be determined.

YRRTC is seeking the City's endorsement of the location for the permanent YRT Bus Terminal on the subway tail track as described above so negotiations with the affected landowners can be concluded.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- The pursuit of excellence in service delivery;
- Planning and managing growth, and economic vitality; and
- The demonstration of leadership and promotion of effective governance.

Specific Strategic Plan Initiatives applicable to the recommendations made in this report include Vaughan's corporate priorities to support and plan high capacity transit at strategic locations throughout the City and facilitate timely transit-oriented development within the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan area. Accordingly, this report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

The Region of York is a partner in the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension project and the proponent of the YRT Bus Terminal.

Conclusion

York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and TTC staff have recently advised they are now concluding negotiations with affected landowners to meet the City's objectives for the YRT Bus Terminal located at the southwest corner of Millway Avenue and Portage Parkway. YRRTC is seeking the City's endorsement of the bus terminal location together with the key elements of the design so negotiations related to the bus terminal, subway station and related land issues can be concluded.

Attachments

1. Confidential Memorandum to Honourable Mayor and Members of Council

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Respectfully submitted,

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