

COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 12, 2006

**RESOLUTION TO THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE
SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FOR THE SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION**

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase and Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommend:

That the following resolution as set out below, in support of federal funding for the Spadina Subway Extension, be adopted and be forwarded to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities, the Members of Parliament representing the City of Vaughan, the Honourable Greg Sorbara Provincial Minister of Finance, Mario Racco MPP for Thornhill and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, His Worship Mayor David Miller of the City of Toronto, Regional Chair Bill Fisch of the Regional Municipality of York and the members of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee.

WHEREAS the planned Spadina Subway Extension to Steeles Avenue is a critical rapid transit link that will promote the inter-regional coordination of transit in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), improve Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) services in northwest Toronto and support the continuing improvement of services in the "905 Area", including those provided by GO Transit (such as rail and bus serving King Township, Aurora, Newmarket, Bradford, Barrie and Simcoe County), York Region Transit (YRT) and the Viva Rapid Transit System and Brampton Transit;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension will relieve traffic gridlock to the economic and environmental benefit of both residents and businesses of the Greater Toronto Area by reducing congestion and travel times for commuters and goods movement vehicles and by controlling the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by providing a convenient alternative to the private automobile;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension will foster the growth and evolution of York University by placing it at a transit hub of GTA-wide importance, which will broaden educational choice for students throughout the Greater Toronto Area, provide better connections to other institutions of higher education in the GTA and help make it an academic destination of choice;

AND WHEREAS the subway extension will place Parc Downsview Park at the centre of the GTA's rapid transit infrastructure by providing it with a subway station and the opportunity for a future inter-modal connection to a GO Rail station on the Bradford Line;

AND WHEREAS the subway extension will support current provincial and municipal planning initiatives seeking to make the transformation to "Smart Growth" and transit supportive development;

AND WHEREAS the Toronto Transit Commission and the City of Toronto have completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (Ontario) the *Spadina Subway Extension Environmental Assessment Report*, which will provide for the extension of the Spadina Subway from Downsview Station through York University to a major inter-regional terminal/commuter parking facility planned for a Steeles Avenue Station east of Jane Street;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York has completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (Ontario) the *Highway 7 Corridor and Vaughan North-South Link Public Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment Report*, which will provide for the continuation of the subway extension from Steeles Avenue to the Vaughan Corporate Centre;

AND WHEREAS both Environmental Assessments are in the latter stages of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's review process;

AND WHEREAS on March 23, 2006, in its 2006 provincial budget, the Province of Ontario committed \$670 million to extend the Spadina Subway to the Vaughan Corporate Centre on the basis that the project would be financed by way of equal contributions from the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government.

AND WHEREAS such provincial monies have been secured in trust and the City of Toronto and the Region of York are now working to apportion costs and develop appropriate funding mechanisms in consultation with the Province;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension from Downsview Station to the Vaughan Corporate Centre is a public infrastructure project that will provide a comprehensive range of economic, social, educational and environmental benefits that are consistent with the policy objectives of the Federal Government;

AND WHEREAS the timely investment in public infrastructure by all levels of government will serve to support and enhance the Greater Toronto Area's role as the economic engine of the province and the nation.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VAUGHAN HEREBY RESOLVES:

THAT the City of Vaughan is strongly supportive of the Spadina Subway Extension from the TTC's Downsview Station to the Vaughan Corporate Centre;

AND THAT the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance, be respectfully requested to work in partnership with the Province of Ontario to confirm and specifically identify that the federal portion of the funding for the Spadina Subway Extension is available;

AND THAT it is further requested that such funding be made available in a timely manner in order to ensure that the design work on the subway extension can commence immediately after the approval of the Environmental Assessments;

Economic Impact

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

Purpose

To adopt a resolution requesting that the Federal Government, through the Minister of Finance, work in partnership with the Province of Ontario to confirm the availability of the federal portion of the funding for the Spadina Subway Extension and to obtain direction to convey the resolution to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and

Communities and the Honourable Greg Sorbara, Provincial Minister of Finance, among others.

Background – Analysis and Options

A number of conditions are now coming together, which will support the realization of the Spadina Subway Extension. The Environmental Assessments are now nearing the completion of their Ministry of the Environment review process. The Provincial Government, in its 2006 Budget has allocated funds for the provincial portion of the financing of the subway extension (1/3 of total) and these funds have been placed in trust. The Region of York and the City of Toronto are working to apportion the municipal costs and establish appropriate funding mechanisms for the municipal one-third of the cost of the project. It will also be necessary to secure the timely provision of the federal one-third of the project financing.

The resolution requests that the Federal Government, through the Minister of Finance, work with the Province of Ontario to confirm that the federal portion of the funding is available and that it can be provided in a manner that would allow for design work to start immediately after the approval the Environmental Assessments. The resolution also highlights the many attributes of the project and that it is very consistent with many of the policy objectives of the Federal Government.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The policies of Section 3 of Vaughan Vision 2007, "Transportation and Transit Infrastructure" provide in 3.1 that Vaughan support the TTC subway extension projects, with the Spadina Line as top priority; and under 3.1.1 that Vaughan support the City of Toronto and York Region in the extension of the subway(s) to Vaughan.

Conclusion

The Spadina Subway Extension is an infrastructure project that will have widespread benefits for the residents and business of the Greater Toronto Area and that such benefits are consistent with the objectives of federal policy. Therefore, it is appropriate for Vaughan Council to continue to express its support for the project and to request that the Federal Government work in partnership with the Province to confirm that federal funding for the project is available. It is recommended that the resolution set out above be adopted and forwarded to the Federal Minister of Finance, among others, indicating Vaughan's support for the project and the confirmation of the availability of federal funding.

Attachments

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Ward 4