

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – APRIL 16, 2007

**SPADINA-YORK SUBWAY EXTENSION COMMITTEE
CITY SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
CONSTRUCTION OF SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION**

Recommendation

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends that:

1. The following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension Environmental Assessment, as undertaken by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Transit Commission, has been approved by the Minister of the Environment to permit the extension of the Spadina Subway from Downsview Station to Steeles Avenue;

AND WHEREAS the Highway 7 Corridor and Vaughan North-South Link Public Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment, as undertaken by the Regional Municipality of York, has been approved by the Minister of the Environment to, among other things, continue the extension of the Spadina Subway from Steeles Avenue to the Vaughan Corporate Centre;

AND WHEREAS the Region of York's response to the Ministry's EA conditions of approval in respect of the optimization of the Vaughan North-South Link subway alignment north of Steeles Avenue has been prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry in the near future;

AND WHEREAS funding has been committed by Toronto and York Region, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to build the extension of the Spadina Subway from Downsview Station to the Vaughan Corporate Centre;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension will function as the spine of a comprehensive transit solution, which will link the heavy rail (TTC and GO) and surface transit (conventional bus and rapid transit) systems in Toronto, York Region and Brampton),

AND WHEREAS the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee adopted the following resolution at its meeting on April 13, 2007:

The Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee fully applauds the funding announcements of the Federal and Provincial Governments for the Spadina Subway and continues to lend its support to the construction activities now underway.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan hereby resolves that the aforementioned resolution of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee, dated April 13, 2007, be and it is hereby fully supported and endorsed;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance (Federal), the Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance (Provincial), Mario Racco MPP, Thornhill, the Regional Municipality of York, the City of Toronto and the members of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee.

2. The Region of York be requested to support this resolution.

Economic Impact

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

Communications Plan

The resolution provides instructions as to who the resolution is to be forwarded to.

Purpose

To obtain Council's support and endorsement for a resolution that was adopted by the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee on April 13, 2007, which expressed its continuing support for the Spadina Subway Extension to the Vaughan Corporate Centre and the construction activities that are now underway.

Background – Analysis and Options

The Spadina Subway Extension project has been progressing well and a number of critical pieces have fallen into place. The City of Toronto/TTC and the York Region Environmental Assessments have been approved, the funding is in place and design work in both Toronto and York Region is now underway.

From time-to-time there are concerns raised that the subway extension is an inappropriate response to the transportation needs of Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area. As such, the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee, at its meeting on April 13, 2007, adopted a resolution reaffirming its support for the subway extension.

The Spadina Subway Extension will foster system-wide linkages, which will help connect Toronto with York Region and Brampton and ultimately Barrie and Simcoe County. The subway extension will link the heavy rail systems (TTC and GO) with the bus services (both conventional and rapid transit) provided by Toronto, York Region and Brampton. This will: Result in strategically located land use intensification and city-building; support the growth and evolution of York University; facilitate economic growth; mitigate the effects of gridlock; and help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by offering a viable alternative to the private automobile.

This report is seeking Council's endorsement of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee's resolution. In addition, it is requesting that the recommended resolution be forwarded to York Region for its endorsement.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the intent of Section 3, "Transportation and Transit Infrastructure", of Vaughan Vision 2007 in respect of supporting the Spadina Subway Extension.

Regional Implications

The endorsement of this resolution by Regional Council is also being sought in this report.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the recommendation set out above be adopted to endorse the resolution of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee reaffirming support for the subway extension and applauding the funding announcements by the provincial and federal governments.

Attachments

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Ward 4
Chair, Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee