

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JANUARY 13, 2009

EXTENSION OF GO SERVICE TO WEST SIDE OF VAUGHAN AND BEYOND

Recommendation

Ward 2 Councillor Tony Carella recommends adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS GO Transit is reported to be planning to purchase railway lines owned by CN (Canadian National) and CP (Canadian Pacific), as part of its strategy to improve the reliability of commuter services, thereby attracting a greater share of the commuting population; and

WHEREAS such purchases would be consistent with GO Transit's desire to align its operational vision with the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and the Province of Ontario's MoveOntario 2020 strategy; and

WHEREAS such purchases include railway lines to Hamilton, Milton, Georgetown, Barrie, Richmond Hill, Lincolnville and Oshawa; and

WHEREAS the west side of the City of Vaughan (including the communities of Woodbridge, Kleinburg and Nashville) continues to develop residential and employment lands, with an estimated 60,000 individuals slated to be employed in the Vaughan Enterprise Zone alone (being the area bounded by Highways 50, 7, 27 and Major Mackenzie Drive),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vaughan requests GO Transit to give immediate consideration to the inclusion of the CP railway line from Toronto to Bolton in the list of those lines it is considering for purchase, in order to enhance the opportunity to provide commuter services to the developing population of residents and workers commuting to and from residential and employment areas in the west side of the City of Vaughan; and that the Clerk inform GO Transit of the contents of this resolution, once adopted.

Economic Impact

Nil

Communication Plan

Upon the adoption of this resolution by Council, Corporate Communications will issue a media release.

Purpose

To underscore the City of Vaughan's position on the extension of GO Transit services through the west side of the municipality.

Background – Analysis and Options

Council of the City of Vaughan is on record as favoring the extension of Toronto-centred commuter rail services through Woodbridge and Kleinburg/Nashville, along the existing CP line to Bolton. Reports in the media indicated that GO Transit is considering the purchase of a number of railway lines in the GTA, as a prelude to enhancing commuter services as referenced in the the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and the Province of Ontario's MoveOntario 2020 strategy.

Regional Implications

Nil

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

GO Transit should include the purchase of the Bolton CP line in its strategy for enhancing rail-based commuter services in the GTA.

Attachment

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor – Ward 2