

COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 11, 2002

DRAFT RESOLUTION – TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION SUPPORT FOR INITIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS RAPID TRANSIT SERVICES IN THE SPADINA – YORK UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Recommendation

Councillor Mario G. Racco recommends:

That the intent of draft resolution forming Attachment 1 to this report BE ENDORSED.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's support for the draft resolution, which forms Attachment 1 to this report. The intent of the resolution is to have the Toronto Transit Commission commit to providing its portion of the funding for the Environmental Assessments for the extension of the Spadina Subway from Downsview Station to Steeles Avenue and for the interim Bus Rapid Transit service.

Background – Analysis and Options

The Toronto Transit Commission is currently going through its budget process for the year 2003. In order for the above noted Environmental Assessments to proceed, it will be necessary for the TTC to commit the required funding. This commitment, combined with financial contributions from the Federal and Provincial Governments (1/3 each) would allow for the EA studies to commence.

There is a Toronto Transit Commission meeting on November 22, 2002. Toronto Councillor Peter Li Preti, a member of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee, is proposing to introduce this resolution at the meeting. In order to provide additional support for the resolution, Council is being requested to provide its endorsement of the intent of the resolution.

York Region and its private sector partner have initiated the required Environmental Assessment for the rapid transit link between Steeles Avenue and the Vaughan Corporate Centre. The completion of the connection from Steeles Avenue to Downsview Station will be critical to the success of the York Region Transportation Master Plan and ultimately the Vaughan Official Plan (Vaughan Corporate Centre).

Conclusion

Support for the intent of the resolution allows the City of Vaughan to indicate that the Environmental Assessments in the City of Toronto are important and timely, given the work that the Region of York is now undertaking. Therefore it is recommended that Council support the intent of the resolution.

Attachments

1. Draft Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

Mario G. Racco
Councillor Ward 4

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the provision of high quality public transit is vital to attracting more travelers away from the automobile;

AND WHEREAS the extension of rapid transit service north from the Downsview Station to Steeles Avenue was identified as one of two priorities for the TTC in the recent Rapid Transit Expansion Study;

AND WHEREAS the Region of York has also identified such an expansion as a priority in its Transportation Master Plan;

AND WHEREAS the Region of York has initiated the Environmental Assessment process to establish the long and short term rapid transit solutions in the Spadina corridor, from Steeles Avenue to the Vaughan Corporate Centre.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Toronto Transit Commission approve, in principle, the undertaking of the necessary Environmental Assessment Studies to determine the preferred subway alignment between Downsview Station and Steeles Avenue and the preferred alignment for an interim Bus Rapid Transit service, which would act as a precursor to the subway extension;
2. The Toronto Transit Commission demonstrate its commitment to these studies by moving the applicable costs of the two projects in the 2003-2007 Capital Program, entitled, "Environmental Assessment for Subway Extensions" and "Bus Rapid Transit from Spadina Subway to York University/Steeles Avenue" estimated at \$3.0 million and \$500,000.00 respectively, from "below the line" into the expansion category of the TTC's 2003-2007 Base Capital Program, subject to these costs being equitably shared by the TTC, the City of Toronto, the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada;
3. The Toronto Transit Commission formally request that these funding partners commit to the sharing of the cost of these studies on an equitable basis; and
4. TTC Staff enter into discussions with the Region of York and York University to develop strategies: To reduce the cost of the Environmental Assessments through the co-ordination of studies and the sharing of information and resources; to obtain the necessary funding; and to secure the facilities that may ultimately be required to implement the results of the EA s (e.g. rights of way, terminals, parking).