

COUNCIL - JUNE 23, 2003

RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION BY THE TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

The communication from Vincent Rodo, General Secretary, Toronto Transit Commission, dated May 22, 2003, regarding the motion adopted by the Commission in support of municipal level contributions to the funding for the environmental assessments for the Spadina and Sheppard subway extensions BE RECEIVED for information purposes;

Staff report back to Committee of the Whole on the TTC Resolution and on the results of the upcoming discussions between the Region of York and the TTC/City of Toronto on possible funding arrangements for the financing of the municipal portion of the cost of the Environmental Assessment for the Spadina Subway extension;

The Region of York be requested to keep the City of Vaughan apprised of any negotiations between the TTC and the Region on this matter and that the City of Vaughan be invited to attend any such meetings where the interests of the City may be affected; and

This Report be forwarded to the Region of York.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a resolution that was adopted by the Toronto Transit Commission, which has the effect of requesting financial contributions from the Region of York and the City of Vaughan to the municipal portion of the funding, for the Spadina Subway extension Environmental Assessment.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the May 1, 2003 Toronto Transit Commission Meeting, Toronto Councillor Peter Li Preti requested that the Commission adopt a resolution that would have the following effect:

1. That Toronto, the TTC, Vaughan and York Region each put forward \$250,000 to fund the municipal portion of the subway EA for the Spadina subway extension, totaling \$1 million being one-third of the total \$3 million cost.
2. That Toronto, the TTC, Vaughan and York Region jointly submit a new application to GTIP to fund the one-third provincial share of the \$5 million cost of the EA's for the Spadina and Sheppard extensions.
3. That Toronto, the TTC, Vaughan, York Region and York University jointly submit a new application to the federal Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund to pay the one-third federal share of the EA's for the Spadina and Sheppard extensions.

Commission Chair Howard Moscoe moved that Councillor Li Preti's motion be referred to TTC staff for consideration and a report back to the next meeting. The Commission approved this motion.

At the May 14, 2003 Commission Meeting, a memo was received from the Chief General Manager, with a revised motion. The intent of the revised motion was to:

- Remove the TTC as a financial contributor because Toronto provides the municipal funding for the TTC;
- Clarify that the funding of the municipal share would be borne equally by the affected municipalities; and
- Include York University as a participant in the funding applications submitted to the provincial and federal governments.

The Toronto Transit Commission adopted this resolution on May 14, 2003.

The major change from earlier resolution was that the TTC was deleted as a funding partner, which increased the Region's and Vaughan's contributions to \$333,000 from \$250,000.

This motion was approved by the Commission and was forwarded to York University, the Region of York, the City of Vaughan (Attachment No. 1 to this report) and the City of Toronto for information and appropriate action. This resolution has not been considered by the City of Toronto as yet.

The TTC resolution was placed on the agenda of the June 19, 2003 meeting of the Region of York's Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee. The Steering Committee recommended that the communication be received and be referred to the Regional Chair for a report. Chair Fisch advised the Committee that a meeting had been scheduled with the TTC/City of Toronto to discuss possible funding arrangements for the Spadina Subway extension Environmental Assessment. Mr. Fisch and Chief Administrative Officer Michael Garrett will be attending on behalf of the Region of York.

The City of Vaughan supports the extension of the Spadina Subway to Steeles Avenue and the Regional Bus Terminal/Gateway facility. The first step in proceeding with this project is to obtain the approval of the required Environmental Assessment. Securing the municipal portion of the funding under the 1/3 federal, 1/3 provincial and 1/3 municipal financing formula will be important. It will demonstrate a high level of commitment to the federal and provincial governments. This effect will be enhanced, if the support is also inter-regional and inter-municipal.

However, the formula suggested in the TTC Resolution is not supportable. Transit is no longer a responsibility of the City of Vaughan. The responsibility for the funding of transit rests with the Region of York. Therefore, the Region of York will need to take the lead in this matter and decide whether there is an opportunity for it to reach an arrangement with the TTC and the City of Toronto on a funding formula for the Spadina Subway EA. The City of Vaughan will need to be kept informed of these negotiations and be a party, if and when the interests of the City are affected.

Conclusion

The TTC's resolution is not supportable in its present form. Staff are not recommending a formal rejection of the TTC's resolution at this time. If talks between the TTC and the Region of York are successful, and a funding agreement is reached, it would be preferable to support an alternative resolution, which would meet the needs of all parties.

For this reason, it is suggested that the resolution be received and that a further report be prepared after the outcome of the discussions between York Region and TTC are known. It is also recognized that this is a matter of great importance to the City of Vaughan and the efforts of the Region to reach an accommodation with the TTC/City of Toronto should be supported. The City will also need to be kept apprised of the negotiations and be party to the discussions where its interests are affected.

Should Council agree then the recommendations set out above should be adopted.

Attachments

1. Letter from Vincent Rodo, General Secretary date May 22, 2003
Re: Toronto Transit Commission Resolution: May 14, 2003
(Contact the Clerk's Department for copy of attachments)

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeAngelis
City Manager

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