

COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 23, 2006

**RESOLUTION TO THE ONTARIO MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION
PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS – 2006 BUDGET**

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

That the resolution set out below, in support of provincial funding for the Spadina Subway Extension, be adopted and be forwarded to the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, the members of the Provincial Legislature representing the City of Vaughan and the members of the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee.

WHEREAS the Toronto Transit Commission and the City of Toronto have completed and will be submitting to the Ministry of the Environment 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 Steeles Avenue east of Jane Street;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York has completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment the *Highway 7 Corridor and Vaughan North-South Link Public Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment Report*, which provides for: An interim Bus Rapid Transit Service in the Vaughan North-South Link from the Vaughan Corporate Centre at Highway 7 to Steeles Avenue and the extended subway; and for the protection of a subway alignment in the north-south link for the future extension of the Spadina Subway from Steeles Avenue to the Vaughan Corporate Centre;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension to Steeles Avenue is a critical rapid transit link that will promote the inter-regional coordination of transit, improve TTC services in northwest Toronto and support the continuing improvement of services in the “905 Area”, including those provided by GO Transit (both Rail and Bus), York Region Transit, Viva and Brampton Transit;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension is consistent with the policies of the recently released, *“Places to Grow. Better Choices. Brighter Future – Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe”* (November 2005) whereby the subway extension will support land use intensification, increased transit modal share in an area underserved by transit and improved linkages to an Urban Growth Centre (Vaughan Corporate Centre);

AND WHEREAS the subway extension will support current municipal planning initiatives seeking to make the transformation to transit supportive development;

AND WHEREAS the Spadina Subway Extension will relieve traffic gridlock to the economic and environmental benefit of both residents and businesses by reducing congestion and travel times and by controlling the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by reducing reliance on 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 Ministry of Finance is seeking public submissions as part of the consultation process in its preparation of the 2006 Provincial Budget.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VAUGHAN HEREBY RESOLVES THAT THE HONOURABLE DWIGHT DUNCAN, MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BE ADVISED:

THAT the City of Vaughan strongly supports the Spadina Subway Extension as a public infrastructure project that will provide a comprehensive range of economic, social, educational and environmental benefits for the residents and businesses of the City of Toronto, York Region and the Greater Toronto Area;

AND THAT timely investment in public infrastructure by senior 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;

AND THAT the Honourable Minister of Finance is respectfully requested to include the required funding for the continued planning, design and the ultimate construction of the Spadina Subway Extension in the provincial budget for the year 2006.

Economic Impact

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

Purpose

To adopt a resolution in support of provincial funding for the Spadina Subway Extension and to obtain direction to convey the resolution to the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, and the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in response to the province's 2006 pre-budget consultation program.

Background – Analysis and Options

At the Spadina-York Subway Extension Committee meeting on January 13, 2006 it was brought to the Committee's attention that the Ministry of Finance is conducting its pre-budget consultations for 2006. It was decided that it would be an opportune time for the Committee and the organizations represented on the Committee to, where appropriate, voice their support for provincial funding for the extension of the TTC's Spadina Subway from Downsview Station, through York University to the inter-regional bus terminal/commuter parking facility at Steeles Avenue.

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is currently conducting hearings. It will be accepting written submissions until February 2, 2006.

The *Spadina Subway Extension Environmental Assessment Study* has been approved for submission to the Ministry of the Environment by the TTC and the City of Toronto. It is currently being finalized and its submission to the Ministry of the Environment is expected by the end of January or early February. Upon submission there is a 30 week

review period and it is possible that the EA could be approved by early Fall 2006. Having funding support in place by the time of approval would allow the process leading up to construction to be initiated in a timely fashion.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The policies of Section 3 of Vaughan Vision 2007, "Transportation and Transit Infrastructure" provide under 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 Toronto, Vaughan, York Region and the Greater Toronto Area. Therefore, it is appropriate for Vaughan Council to continue to express its support for the project and to request that the province participate in its funding. It is recommended that the resolution set out above be adopted and forwarded to the Minister of Finance and the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs for consideration in the budget process.

Attachments

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase