

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: YORK REGION TRANSIT'S 2024 TRANSIT INITIATIVES IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

This report provides a summary of the 2024 York Region Transit initiatives for the City of Vaughan and is in addition to the York Region Transit presentation to Committee of the Whole (1) on October 31, 2023.

Report Highlights

- A summary of 2023 Transit initiatives and ridership trends across York Region and the City of Vaughan.
- Overview of York Region Transit's annual planning process, including stakeholder and public consultation.
- A summary of proposed 2024 York Region Transit (YRT) initiatives for the City of Vaughan.

Recommendation

1. That the presentation from York Region Transit on the 2024 transit initiatives for the City of Vaughan be received.

Background

York Region Transit's 2021-2025 Business Plan and annual Transit Initiatives continues to guide the delivery of transit service to all nine municipalities. Service increases are focused on major corridors, such as those identified as part of the Frequent Transit Network, Express Network and Viva system, and adding connections for travellers to all

transit, including GO trains, GO buses and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) subway. YRT will continue working with GTHA transit agencies and the federal and provincial governments to advance fare and service integration opportunities.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options

York Region Transit Annual Planning Process

York Region Transit service planning includes the design, planning and monitoring of new routes and existing service. Extensive research, analysis and field investigation are conducted in order to build an innovative, reliable and customer-focused transit system in York Region.

As part of the 2023 Transit Initiatives, service adjustments were or will be implemented to expand services, improve service reliability and provide safe and convenient connections. Implementation of any transit initiative is dependent on ridership levels and travel patterns. Service changes are communicated to travellers through collaboration among key stakeholders and using various forms of electronic communication platforms.

In addition, the following key programs were implemented in 2023:

- Fully opened Major Mackenzie West Terminal in April 2024
- Launched open payment (debit/credit) on YRT
- Expanded the use of articulated buses on Route 107B – Keele
- Expanded service area coverage on Mobility On-Request Kleinburg-Nashville
- Made Mobility On-Request Maple-Rutherford GO a permanent service in May 2023, after a successful one-year pilot
- Made Mobility On-Request 65+ a permanent service in January 2023, allowing travellers 65 and older to book a trip to and from a destination within 5 kilometres of their home
- Participated in the development of the 2023-2027 York Region Plan for Seniors, enhancing programs that support seniors

Public consultation for the 2024 Transit initiatives took place from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 and consultation is in the final stages with local municipal presentations on the proposed plan and will be finalized the annual budget review process.

Approximately 19% of total feedback received was from City of Vaughan residents

Highlights of feedback received through public consultation include:

- Support for improved fare integration between YRT, TTC and GO Transit
- Support for improved Saturday frequency on Route 88 – Bathurst
- Support for improved Sunday/Holiday service on Route 7 – Martin Grove
- Support for new route 472 – Tommy Douglas Secondary School via Nashville
- Dislike for restructure of Route 4 – Major Mackenzie into Highway 404 carpool lot
- Request to extend Route 4 – Major Mackenzie to Highway 427 to service Nashville community
- Request to provide all-day service on Route 361 – Nashville Express
- Request to extend Viva Orange to Humber College or Pearson Airport

Public feedback received was considered alongside thorough analysis of operational feasibility and budget availability. As part of the 2024 Transit Initiatives, a total of five service adjustments are planned in City of Vaughan to improve service availability, including the implementation of a new Express and School Special route.

Transit ridership continues to grow. In August 2023, ridership recovery surpassed pre-pandemic levels

Ridership continues to grow most notably on weekends and on routes providing connections to the TTC subway, industrial areas, and key destinations along major travel corridors. Weekday ridership growth is slower with fewer commuter travellers, likely due to continuation of hybrid work practices.

The 2024 Transit initiatives will help YRT provide quality public transit services which support the economic vitality and environmental sustainability

YRT will continue to undertake a series of activities to support travellers including:

- Accelerating the purchase of electric buses through Infrastructure Canada's Zero Emission Transit Fund
- Update Mobility-On-Request (MOR) Plan to guide future delivery of MOR services across the Region
- Replace monthly passes with fare capping for all fare categories, per the YRT Fare Structure and Policy Update endorsed by York Regional Council in June 2023

Through the myRide Travel Training Program, YRT continues to provide travel training and facilitate presentations for York Region residents, newcomers, people with disabilities, seniors and students on how to use the YRT system and assist with cross-boundary travel to neighbouring municipalities.

Financial Impact

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

Operational Impact

N/A

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

York Region staff are committed to providing cost effective, quality services that respond to the needs of the Region's growing communities. Together with the annual service planning process, and the operating and capital budget programs, YRT will continue to improve public transit in York Region.

For more information, please contact: Selma Hubjer, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, x8674.

Attachment

1. 2024 YRT Transit Initiatives (to be provided prior to the meeting).

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Approved by



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Reviewed by



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