

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: YORK REGION TRANSIT'S 2025 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 2025 York Region Transit initiatives for the City of Vaughan and is in addition to the York Region Transit presentation to Committee of the Whole (2) on September 17, 2024.

Report Highlights

- A summary of 2024 service improvements 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 2025 York Region Transit (YRT) initiatives for the City of Vaughan.

Recommendations

1. That this report be received for information.

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 is implementing its 2024 Transit Initiatives and finalizing its 2025 Transit Initiatives as part of the annual plan 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.

The following service improvements and programs were or will be implemented in 2024:

- Replaced monthly passes with fare capping for all fare categories
- Extended Route 26 – Maple to Maple GO Station and Route 165 – Weston to Major Mackenzie West Terminal
- Introduced a new route in Woodbridge connecting to Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and Sunday service along Martin Grove Road
- Launched mobile wallet for riders using an iPhone or Apple Watch
- Launched One Fare in partnership with the Province and the TTC
- Update On-Request Plan to guide future delivery of on-demand services across the Region
- Accelerated the purchase of electric buses through Infrastructure Canada's Zero Emission Transit Fund

As part of the 2025 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 digital and print communication channels.

YRT received over 300 virtual comments from Vaughan residents about the planned 2025 Transit Initiatives.

Virtual and in-person public consultation for the 2025 Transit initiatives took place from May 5 to June 8, 2023. Staff engaged with 307 residents/customers during public outreach events at Pierre Berton Resource Library and Vaughan Mills Terminal, and 220 residents through route surveys.

Highlights of feedback received through public consultation include:

- Support for restructuring Route 469 – Father Bressani School Special to service the community of Vellore
- Support for increased frequency and weekend service to Humber College on Route 7 – Martin Grove
- Support for increased Saturday frequency on Route 85 – Rutherford
- Request to improve frequency and service span on Route 165 – Weston
- Request to extend Route 13 – Islington north to Kleinburg Village and south of Steeles Avenue to Finch Avenue
- Request for weekend service on Route 13 – Islington
- Request to extend Viva orange to Pearson Airport
- Request for overnight On-Request service

Public feedback received was considered alongside thorough analysis of operational feasibility and budget availability. As part of the 2025 Transit Initiatives, a total of 13 service adjustments are planned in City of Vaughan to improve service availability, including the implementation of three new routes.

Transit ridership continues to grow. In July 2024, ridership in City of Vaughan increased approximately 17% compared to 2023.

Ridership continues to grow on routes providing connections to the TTC subway, industrial areas, and key destinations along major travel corridors. Jane Street is one of YRT's busiest corridors, carrying approximately 10,500 travellers daily with ridership increasing 33% compared to 2023.

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.

Attachments

N/A

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