

Ministry of Infrastructure

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January 12, 2022

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chief Executive Officer & Chairman
The Regional Municipality of York
York Region Administrative Centre
regional.chair@york.ca

Dear Chair Emmerson:

I am writing to you today to share an exciting update that will further our shared vision for expanded transit in York Region.

As we continue to make progress on the provincial government's priority transit projects, we are ever mindful of the objectives of these investments – improving connectivity, employment opportunities, affordability, and quality of life for all Ontarians.

In the past year we have been making real and sustained progress on our transit mission, including refining the Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) alignment to minimize impacts to the community. Together through consultation with the municipalities and community, we have revised the tunnel route and design to significantly reduce potential noise, vibration, and property impacts. In addition, to support the advancement of the YNSE, we have progressed procurements for the Ontario Line which will provide critical capacity on the Yonge Line and we will be undertaking early works for the YNSE at Finch Station in the coming weeks.

To further improve connectivity, regional balance, and equity, the Province will be expanding the project scope, making it a more comprehensive, improved overall project by creating an additional station at Royal Orchard. This will bring the total number of stations along the YNSE to five.

This is another significant step towards bringing transit closer to the doorsteps of even more residents of York Region. While this expanded and improved scope will increase the project's current budget, we are not seeking additional funding from the Region to invest. Instead, the Province will take on sole funding for the incremental project scope and financing responsibilities to deliver the overall project. To do this the Province will secure Transit Oriented Community (TOC) proceeds to offset the incremental costs incurred. To be clear, municipalities will collect Development and Community Benefit Charges associated with these developments as they would with any other development. This approach will allow the residents of York Region to benefit from an improved project scope that delivers better connectivity, more housing, and greater economic benefits at no additional expense.

To ensure the realization of this opportunity, the Province would seek formal development planning-related assurances from the Region and impacted lower tier municipalities. These assurances will support the timely delivery of the expanded project as well as our ability to recover our investment, consistent with good city building principles. We will also seek at least 40 per cent contribution from the Federal government to support the updated capital costs for the project.

Investing in transit expansion and new, complete, vibrant communities concurrently will help us achieve our mutual goals, including increased housing supply and, more sustainable, liveable neighbourhoods. The YNSE project truly offers all levels of government an opportunity to build both new infrastructure and complete communities that will serve people in the Region for decades to come.

By working together, we will further our shared priorities for the region including transit investment, housing provision and economic growth.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure

c: The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
His Worship Frank Scarpitti, Mayor, City of Markham
His Worship Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor, City of Vaughan
Joe DiPaola, Acting Mayor, City of Richmond Hill
Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer, York Region
Mary-Frances Turner, President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation
Aryn Azzopardi, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Infrastructure
Michael Beaton, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Transportation
Lina Bigioni, Chief of Staff, York Region
Chris Giannikos, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure
Laurie Leblanc, Deputy Minister of Transportation
Phil Verster, CEO, Metrolinx
Michael Lindsay, CEO, Infrastructure Ontario