



York Catholic District School Board

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October 22, 2009

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Boulevard,
Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 9W3

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Micheal Carnovale
Vaughan
(Woodbridge,
Area 3, Ward 3)

Victor Schiralli
Vaughan
(Thornhill/Concord)

Dear Mayor Scarpitti,

At the September 22, 2009 Board meeting, York Catholic District School Board Trustees approved a motion from Vaughan Trustee, D. Giuliani regarding YRT/VIVA student fares and service levels. The Board is seeking the support of the York Region District School Board, the Region of York, and the municipalities to encourage YRT/VIVA to:

- i) expand programs and services for York Region students;
- ii) consider further reductions in student fees and the elimination of the two zone fees; and to
- iii) consider alternative programs such as the one in Durham (student restricted pass).

Among his rationale, Trustee D. Giuliani noted that:

- using public transit reduces congestion and improves air quality
- using public transit makes cities cleaner, quieter and safer
- using public transit is a 'greener' alternative
- secondary students have a strong relationship with public transit as they are less likely to be licensed drivers and less likely to have access to a car. Their needs can be better met through innovative transit services, and through engaging outreach programs that encourage them to make their travel choices more sustainable
- transit systems are finding that partnerships with school boards are win-win opportunities. By making use of spare capacity outside peak hours, systems can increase ridership without a proportional increase in operating costs.

I am hopeful that you will join us in passing a motion at your Board/Council to encourage YRT/VIVA to reduce transit fares and enhance service levels for students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Crowe
Chair of the Board

Susan F. LaRosa
Director of Education

cc: Chair, York Region Rapid Transit Steering Committee

