

# **The Regional Municipality of York**

Committee of the Whole  
Transportation Services  
April 16, 2020

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

## **Transportation Services Capital Infrastructure Status Update**

### **1. Recommendation**

The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities.

### **2. Summary**

This annual report provides Council with an update on 2019 accomplishments and projects that will be delivered in 2020 under the Transportation Services Capital Program to service the Region's growing communities.

Key Points:

- Communities continue to benefit from a Regional transportation network that serves more than 635,000 commuters every day, including 38,000 who use York Region's transit services for some of or all their trip.
- In 2019, Transportation Services invested \$256 million throughout the Region in roads and transit infrastructure. Construction was advanced on a number of major projects, buses were purchased for the fleet renewal and fleet expansion programs and work continued on pre-construction activities such as environmental assessment studies and detailed design.
- As a result of the transportation improvements, residents are provided with better, more efficient access to work, home, schools and other destinations across the Region.
- In 2020, \$404 million will be invested in roads and transit infrastructure programs for growth and asset management. Construction is planned at over 80 locations and pre-construction work will continue to prepare projects for delivery in future years.

### 3. Background

#### **The Region is investing \$3.1 billion through the Transportation Services Growth and Asset Management Programs over the next 10 years to better serve the Region's growing communities**

Transportation Services is responsible for delivering approximately 44% of the Regional 10-Year Capital Plan. The 2020 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Program (Program), with a budget of \$3.14 billion, is comprised of a Growth Program, valued at approximately \$1.76 billion, and an Asset Management Program, valued at approximately \$1.38 billion. The Growth Program includes \$251 million from the Roads Capital Acceleration Reserve (RCAR), approved by Council in December 2019, to help advance 14 growth-related road projects.

These investments reflect Council's support of building road and transit system improvements and maintaining transportation assets to provide an efficient transportation network and enhance the traveller experience for the more than 635,000 daily commuters, including 38,000 who use York Region's transit services for some of or all their trip.

#### **Growth Program focuses on expanding the capacity of the Regional road and transit network to offer travellers a range of services and options**

The Growth Program focuses on building system improvements to increase the capacity of the Regional road and transit network, including:

- Reconstructing and widening of roads and bridges
- Building new links in the Regional road network, including midblock crossings over Provincial highways
- Upgrading intersection to improve traffic operations
- Installing active transportation facilities
- Building or expanding transit terminals and operations and maintenance facilities
- Expanding the transit bus fleet, including electric buses

The Growth Program also supports improvements to enhance the traveller experience, including:

- Streetscaping on key corridors
- Green infrastructure, such as street tree and landscape plantings, irrigation systems and other supporting technologies
- Transit traveller amenities including shelters, electronic signs to provide real-time information, waste/recycling receptacles and bike racks
- Technology on buses to improve pedestrian safety

## **Asset Management Program focuses on rehabilitation and replacement of the Region's \$5 billion in existing transportation assets**

Transportation Services manages more than \$5 billion in roads and transit infrastructure, including Regional roads, cycling lanes, bridges, traffic signal controlled intersections, transit terminals, fleet vehicles and maintenance facilities. The Region's investment in the Asset Management Program is increasing significantly, with \$1.38 billion being invested over the next 10 years. This reflects Transportation Services' priority to extend the life of Regionally-managed assets and reduce life cycle costs.

The Asset Management Program focuses on rehabilitation and replacement of existing transportation assets, including:

- Pavement repair, preservation and rehabilitation
- Bridge and culvert rehabilitation or replacement
- Roadside safety device improvements
- Intersection improvements, including reconstruction of traffic control signals and upgrades to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements
- Transit terminal, station and bus stop maintenance, repair and rehabilitation
- Transit fleet midlife overhaul
- Transit fleet retirement and replacement

## **4. Analysis**

### **In 2019, work was advanced on many infrastructure projects to provide residents with a better and more efficient Regional transportation network**

With an investment of \$256 million in 2019, better and more efficient access to work, home, schools and other destinations across the Region was provided to residents through a number of roads and transit projects, including road widenings, intersection improvements, addition of cycling lanes and an enhanced suite of transit services. A list of 2019 accomplishments is included as Attachment 1.

### **In 2020, construction is planned at over 80 locations across the Region**

With an investment of \$277 million in the Growth Program, construction will continue on 11 major capital infrastructure projects and work will commence on 10 new projects. The projects include:

- Road widenings, such as the continued expansion of Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 50 to Pine Valley Drive
- Major intersection improvements to add lanes, such as the improvements underway at the intersection of King Road and Weston Road

- A rail bridge replacement on Highway 27 at the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks
- Road/rail grade separations, such as the Rutherford Road/GO Barrie Rail grade separation
- Expansion of a bus garage in the Town of Newmarket
- A new bus terminal opposite the new Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital

Under the Asset Management Program, \$127 million will be invested in roads and transit infrastructure and fleet. Construction is planned at more than 60 locations throughout the Region to keep road and transit assets in a state of good repair including:

- Road rehabilitation, such as Bayview Avenue, from Steeles Avenue to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Woodbine Avenue, from Mount Albert Road to Highway 404
- Bridge rehabilitation, such as the East Humber River and King Horne bridges
- Intersection improvements, including at the entrance to Vaughan City Hall
- The purchase of 37 buses under the Fleet Retirement and Replacement Program

Attachment 2 shows the locations of current road projects, with the exception of some asset management projects. Projects to be undertaken under the program in 2020 are summarized in Attachment 3.

### **Pre-construction activities are being undertaken to prepare projects for construction in future years**

On average, it takes eight to ten years to deliver major capital infrastructure projects. Before construction can commence, environmental assessment studies need to be undertaken, projects designed, permits and approvals/agreements from regulatory authorities obtained, property acquired and utilities relocated. Staff is, therefore, already working on pre-construction activities for numerous growth and asset management projects in preparation for construction in future years. The pre-construction work being undertaken in 2020 on 29 growth projects is summarized in Attachment 3 and locations are shown in Attachment 4.

### **Planning of projects is coordinated with other departments and agencies**

Coordinating with Environmental Services and other agency infrastructure programs, including the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), Metrolinx, local municipalities, rail authorities, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and York Telecom Network (YTN), is important when planning construction projects within the Region. Effective coordination may result in financial benefits and help reduce disruption to travellers. Examples include:

- Construction on Major Mackenzie Drive, from the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks to Highway 27, with MTO's proposed Highway 427 extension
- Widening and grade separation of Rutherford Road with Metrolinx's expansion of the Rutherford GO station

- Road and YRT bus terminal construction on Major Mackenzie Drive, from Highway 400 to Jane Street, to coincide with the construction of the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital
- Proposed widening of 16th Avenue with MTO's Highway 404 widening project
- Construction of intersection improvements on Major Mackenzie Drive outside Vaughan City Hall for the City of Vaughan with the resurfacing of Major Mackenzie Drive
- Construction of transit improvements at three intersections with the City of Vaughan's improvements to Clark Avenue.
- Installation of water, wastewater and telecom infrastructure and planting street trees as part of road construction projects

## 5. Financial

### **\$404 million will be invested in roads and transit programs in 2020**

Council approved a Regional investment of more than \$404 million in 2020 for transportation growth and asset management projects. The Growth Program is funded predominantly from development charges, while the Asset Management Program is funded from the asset management reserve.

Table 1 shows the 2019 actuals and 2020 capital budget for Roads and Transit.

**Table 1**  
**Roads and Transit 2019 Actuals and 2020 Capital Budget**

Program	2019 Actuals* (millions)	2020 Budget (millions)
Roads	\$209.8	\$285.7
Transit	46.6	118.3
Total	\$256.4	\$404.0

\*2019 Actuals are unaudited

As the Region makes increased capital investments in the Growth Program, there will be a corresponding need to increase operating budget to routinely maintain new infrastructure. Options to minimize impacts to operating budget are carefully considered during the design phase.

As the Region begins to electrify the transit fleet, capital budget will have to be adjusted to accommodate additional investments in fleet and infrastructure. A report outlining these will be provided to Council for consideration later this year.

### **An additional \$209.5 million is also being invested in rapid transit infrastructure in 2020**

In 2020, \$209.5 million is being invested in rapid transit infrastructure and \$404 million in other transportation infrastructure. Investment in rapid transit infrastructure is funded by the Region and Metrolinx.

The planning, design and construction of Regional roads and transit infrastructure is undertaken by Transportation Services while investment in the Region's rapid transit network and related infrastructure is led by York Region Rapid Transit Corporation.

Total investment in the Region's transportation infrastructure is shown in Table 2 (2019 actuals and 2020 budget).

**Table 2**  
**Transportation Infrastructure 2019 Actuals and 2020 Capital Budget**

Program	2019 Actuals* (millions)	2020 Budget (millions)
Transportation Services	\$256.4	\$404.0
York Region Rapid Transit Corporation**	222.6	209.5
Total	\$479.0	\$613.5

\*2019 Actuals are unaudited

\*\*YRRTC Actuals and Budget include York Region and Metrolinx funding

## **6. Local Impact**

Staff continues to work closely with local municipal staff to ensure concerns are addressed and local municipal infrastructure requirements such as watermains, sewers, streetlights, sidewalks, streetscaping and multi-use paths, are included in Regional projects where possible. In 2020, over \$7.5 million in local municipal infrastructure is included in Regional projects. This work is funded by the local municipalities and has been rolled into Regional projects to gain efficiencies and provide local municipalities with cost or time savings and reduce the overall impact to travellers.

Ongoing transit growth and rehabilitation programs support continued delivery of safe and reliable transit service and amenities to travellers in the Region. Transportation Services continually strives to maintain service levels and operate more efficiently.

Travellers in the Region's growing communities need safe, reliable and efficient services. This is a priority for the Region and construction is being managed to proactively minimize disruptions to travellers while building and maintaining a world-class transportation network. The Region has comprehensive communication plans to keep residents, businesses and other stakeholders informed.

## 7. Conclusion

The Region continues to make significant investments in the expansion and maintenance of Regional road and transit system improvements, with a number of large projects underway that will be advanced or fully delivered during 2020. As urbanization continues, traffic volumes rise and more transit options are added, Transportation Services will continue to look for ways to provide travellers with a range of travel options to maximize road network capacity, while ensuring the Region's assets are properly maintained in ways that are financially sustainable.

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For more information on this report, please contact Salim Alibhai, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75229. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Paul Jankowski**  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**  
Chief Administrative Officer

March 19, 2020  
Attachments (4)  
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