

## **2020 Provincial Budget Consultation Submission By The Regional Municipality of York**

### **YONGE NORTH SUBWAY EXTENSION**

**1. Provide the Region with new revenue tools to help fund its share of the capital costs for the Yonge North Subway Extension in a fiscally sustainable way**

- Regional Council, in a June 2020 report entitled, [Fiscal Sustainability: 2020 Update](#), requested changes to the *Development Charges Act* to treat the subway as a discrete service, with no specified time limit to the planning horizon and to exempt it from the rate freezing provisions in the Act. Council also asked for new revenue tools to help fund its share of the non-growth costs of the subway, such as a municipal land transfer tax and a vehicle registration tax

### **COVID-19 PRESSURES**

**2. Help address future municipal operating pressures, due to COVID-19, by continuing the *Safe Restart Agreement Public Health* funding in 2021 and reconsidering the Phase 2 municipal operating funding formula**

- During 2020, Regional Council managed its COVID-19 cost pressures by reallocating resources and implementing mitigation strategies. However, these strategies will not be sustainable for 2021, as the economy and government services are expected to open
- Additional Public Health support funding would help the Region address significant cost pressures and continue to deliver vital front-line services while still ensuring provincially mandated health and safety guideline are met

**3. Maintain the provincial gas tax funding**

- COVID-19 has resulted in ridership volatility and lower gasoline consumption. Maintaining provincial gas tax allocation at historic levels would help maintain service levels as the economy reopens

**4. Subsidize Housing Providers for increased operating costs and rent arrears as a result of COVID-19, and for the newly introduced rent freezes**

- Delivering subsidies to Housing Providers would ensure that those members of society who are most vulnerable and in need of shelter continue to be accommodated, despite the pressures the pandemic has caused

### **OTHERS**

**5. Reconsider funding reductions to Public Health and Children's Services announced through the 2019 Provincial budget**

- By cancelling or deferring these reductions it would allow municipalities to deliver these critical programs without exerting excessive tax levy pressures on its residents and businesses while dealing with the pandemic

**6. Remove funding caps over the next three years, or have the Province assume responsibility for mandated programs currently delivered by the Region**

- This would allow the Region to maintain service levels and meet provincial standards for areas including Public Health, Paramedic Services, Ontario Works and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, without requiring a significant Regional top-up which puts tax-levy pressure on its residents and businesses who are already struggling to manage during the pandemic

**7. Allocate funds from the Non-Resident Speculation Tax, that were collected in York Region, to support the development of affordable housing**

- Reinvesting these monies into affordable housing can help the Region address the challenges in providing this product and would help those residents of the municipality who are the most vulnerable