

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
April 7, 2022

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 a summary of 2021 accomplishments and projects that will be delivered in 2022 under the Transportation Services Capital Program to service the Region's growing communities.

Key Points:

- Council is investing \$3.5 billion through the Transportation Services Capital Growth and Asset Management Programs over the next 10 years
- The Region's Transportation Master Plan guides the Region's Capital Growth and Asset Management Programs, with the goal of ensuring the transportation network and services remain useful and affordable
- In 2021, work was advanced on many roads and transit infrastructure projects to improve the Regional Transportation network with a Council investment of over \$283 million
- In 2022, \$420 million will be invested in roads and transit infrastructure programs for growth and asset management

3. Background

To better serve the Region's growing communities, Council is investing \$3.5 billion over the next 10 years through the Transportation Services Capital Growth and Asset Management Programs

Transportation Services is responsible for delivering 36% of the Region's 10-Year Capital Plan. The 2022 10-Year Roads and Transit Capital Program (Program), with a budget of \$3.5 billion, is comprised of a Growth Program, to increase the capacity of the Regional road and

transit network and an Asset Management Program, to maximize the Region's investment and keep the Region's assets in a state of good repair.

This investment aligns with the Transportation Master Plan and reflects 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 daily commuters, including those who use York Region's transit services.

The 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 intersections to improve traffic operations
- Installing active transportation facilities, such as sidewalks and cycling paths
- Building or expanding transit terminals and operations and maintenance facilities
- Expanding the transit bus fleet to meet ridership demands

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

- Streetscaping on key corridors, including items such as decorative sidewalk pavers and street furniture
- Installing green infrastructure, such as street tree and landscape plantings, irrigation systems and other supporting technologies
- Providing transit traveller amenities including shelters, electronic signs to provide real-time information, waste/recycling receptacles and bike racks
- Improving technology on buses to enhance traveller and pedestrian safety

The Asset Management Program focuses on the rehabilitation and replacement of the Region's existing transportation assets

Transportation Services manages more than \$6.2 billion in roads and transit infrastructure, including Regional roads, cycling lanes, bridges, traffic signal-controlled intersections, transit terminals, fleet vehicles and maintenance facilities.

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

- Pavement preservation, repair 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 repair and rehabilitation
- Transit fleet midlife overhaul and fleet replacement

The Region's investment in the Asset Management Program is increasing significantly, with a planned investment of \$1.57 billion over the next 10 years. This reflects the Region's priority to keep assets in a state of good repair and maximize its investment by extending the life of Regionally-managed assets and reducing life-cycle costs.

4. Analysis

In 2021, work was advanced on many infrastructure projects to improve the Regional Transportation network

In 2021, various roads and transit projects provided improved access to work, home, schools and other destinations across the Region, including road widenings, intersection improvements, active transportation facilities, which includes cycling lanes and transit services, through an investment of \$283 million, based on preliminary actuals (unaudited). Roads related projects accounted for \$240 million, and transit related projects accounted for \$43 million. A list of 2021 accomplishments is included as Attachment 1.

In 2022, construction is planned at over 90 locations across the Region

In 2022, Transportation Services will continue to build and maintain infrastructure to ensure the Regional transportation network is safe, reliable and responsive to traveller needs. While there has been a noticeable shift in traffic patterns with volumes becoming more uniform throughout the day, traffic volumes have generally returned to pre-pandemic levels, reinforcing the ongoing need to connect travellers to the larger transportation network of freeways and transit systems.

Construction on seven major capital infrastructure projects continues and work will begin on nine new projects, including:

- Road widenings, such as the widening of Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane and Rutherford Road from Jane Street through to Bathurst Street
- Major intersection improvements to add lanes or eliminate jogs, such as the improvements planned for Teston Road from Pine Valley Drive to Weston Road
- Rail bridge replacements on Highway 27 at the Canadian Pacific rail tracks and Keele Street at the CN rail tracks

- Transit facilities, including a new bus terminal opposite the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, and expansion of bus operations, maintenance and the storage facility at 55 Orlando Avenue

Construction is planned at more than 75 locations throughout the Region to keep road and transit assets in a state of good repair including:

- Rehabilitation or preservation of 243 lane kilometres of roads, such as Major Mackenzie Drive from Warden Avenue to McCowan Road in the City of Markham, and Bathurst Street from Henderson Drive to Mulock Drive in the Town of Aurora, Town of Newmarket and Township of King
- Rehabilitation or replacement of eight large structures, such as the Lloydtown-Aurora Road culvert replacement, east of Jane Street, in the Township of King and the Woodbine Avenue culvert rehabilitation, south of Denison Street, in the City of Markham
- Improvements at 44 intersections, such as new traffic signals at Vivian Road and Kennedy Road in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and rebuild aging traffic signals at three locations on Major Mackenzie Drive East in the City of Richmond Hill
- The purchase of 87 buses, including two electric buses under the Fleet Retirement and Replacement Program

Under the Asset Management Program, \$191 million will be invested in roads and transit infrastructure and fleet. The locations of current road projects are shown on a map in Attachment 2. Projects to be undertaken in 2022 are listed in Attachment 3.

Due to decreased ridership and the uncertainties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, procurement of 51 buses planned for 2021 was deferred, re-assessed and included in the 2022 approved capital budget.

The purchase of two electric buses is in line with the Region's transit and corporate fleet electrification plans approved by Council in December 2020, to move toward full electrification of the transit fleet by 2051. This plan includes a phased approach to electrification with a mix of electric and diesel buses being purchased between 2021 and 2029 and transitioning to exclusive purchase of electric buses by 2030. The Region is currently pursuing funding opportunities in support of accelerating fleet electrification, including through the federal government's Zero Emission Bus Fund.

Pre-construction activities are underway to prepare projects for future years

On average, it takes eight to ten years to deliver a major capital infrastructure project. Before construction can commence, environmental assessment studies are undertaken, the project designed, permits and approvals/agreements from regulatory authorities obtained, property acquired, and utilities relocated. Staff are working on pre-construction activities for numerous projects in preparation for construction in future years. The pre-construction work being undertaken in 2022 on 22 growth projects is also listed in Attachment 3 and locations are shown on a map in Attachment 4.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted project delivery and Transit services

In 2021, several projects under construction were subject to resource constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including external labour shortages, material shortages and shipping delays. These challenges have continued in early 2022. While there are ongoing delays to some projects, staff continue to work closely with contractors and external partners to minimize impacts.

Recognizing travel patterns and behaviour have changed in response to public health measures implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff are actively monitoring and assessing these trends to understand the impacts of the pandemic on delivering transportation services. The findings will be incorporated into the planning of the future transportation network and the Region's Transportation Master Plan.

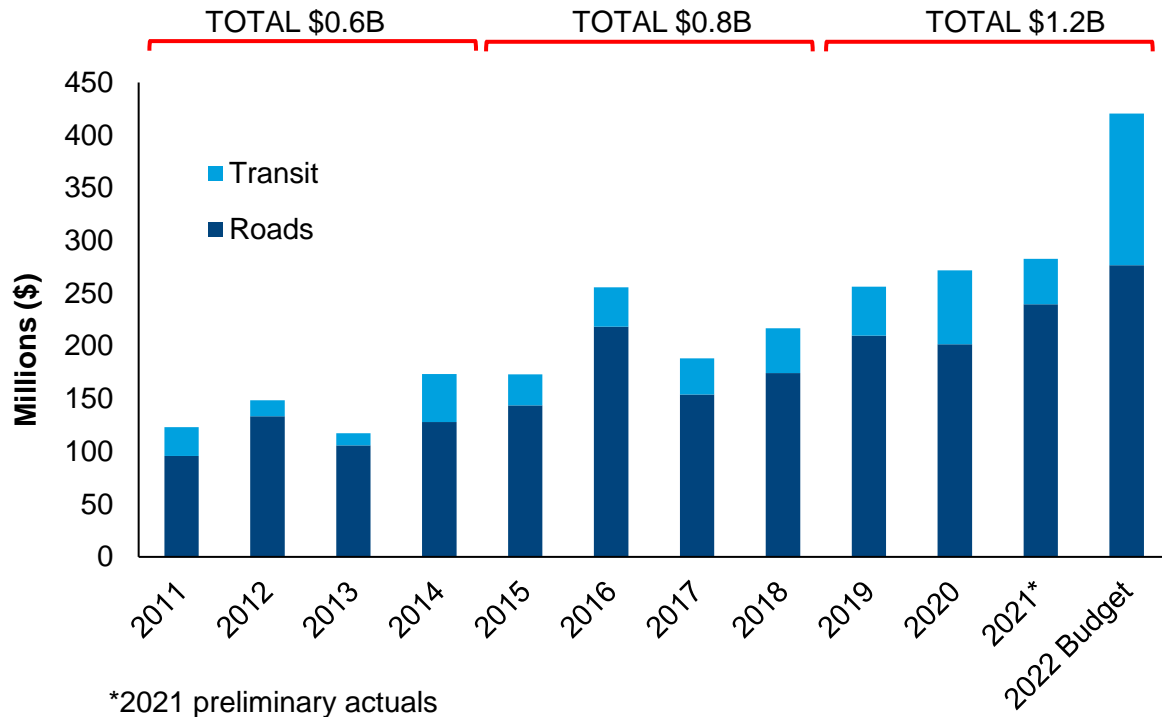
While the COVID-19 pandemic brought about major changes, some of which may have long-lasting impacts, transit remains a cornerstone of sustainable growth. Rehabilitation programs support continued delivery of safe and reliable transit service and amenities to travellers in the Region. Service levels will continue to be adjusted to meet demand and operate efficiently, including the ongoing assessment of transit fleet procurements included in the capital program.

5. Financial

Over the current term of Council, \$1.2 billion has been invested in transportation infrastructure and assets

Council has been focused on increasing investments in transportation infrastructure and assets to ensure the Regional road and transit networks are meeting the needs of the Region's growing communities. The investment made in the current Council term is approximately 50% higher than the 2015 to 2018 term, and approximately 100% higher than the 2011 to 2014 term. The capital investment in Roads and Transit over these terms is illustrated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1
Roads and Transit Annual Capital Investment**



In 2022, \$420 million will be invested in roads and transit programs

Council has approved a Regional investment of more than \$420 million in 2022 for transportation growth and asset management projects. Roads-related projects account for \$276.6 million of this investment, with the remaining \$143.9 million allocated to transit-related projects. The Growth Program is primarily funded from development charges, while the Asset Management Program primarily through the tax levy-funded, asset management reserve.

As the Region makes increased capital investments in the Growth Program, there will be a corresponding need to increase the operating budget to include regular routine maintenance for this infrastructure.

6. Local Impact

Staff continue 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 active transportation facilities are included in Regional projects where possible. This work is funded by the local municipalities and incorporated into Regional projects to coordinate infrastructure delivery, increase efficiency, provide local municipalities with cost and time savings and reduce overall impact to travellers.

Travellers in the Region’s growing communities need safe, reliable and efficient services. This continues to be a priority for the Region and construction is being managed to

proactively minimize disruptions to travellers while building and maintaining the transportation network. The Region has comprehensive communication plans to keep residents, businesses, local municipalities and other stakeholders informed.

7. Conclusion

The Region continues to make significant investments in the expansion and maintenance of the Regional road and transit system, with several large projects underway that will be advanced or delivered during 2022.

The shift in travel patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic is being monitored. Potential longer-term trends will be a key consideration as Transportation Services continues to enhance travel options and maximize road network capacity, while ensuring the Region's assets are properly maintained and financially sustainable.

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:

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Approved for Submission:

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Chief Administrative Officer

March 18, 2022
Attachments (4)
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