

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
May 5, 2022

Report of the Commissioner of Public Works

Access and Operating Agreement for York Region Transit Services at Metrolinx Facilities

1. Recommendations

1. Council authorize entering into an access and operating agreement with Metrolinx to permit access for York Region Transit buses to various Metrolinx facilities, for a term of ten years.
2. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare the necessary documents.
3. The Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to execute the agreement and any future extensions or amendments that may be required.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council authorization to enter a 10-year access and operating agreement with Metrolinx to ensure continuity of York Region Transit (YRT) services at Metrolinx facilities.

Key Points:

- YRT has been operating out of Metrolinx facilities since 2001
- The original 15-year access and operating agreement expired in 2020
- A one-year extension was completed in 2020 at the request of Metrolinx to accommodate the Region's purchase of Newmarket Bus Terminal, and a second one-year extension was carried out for 2021 at the request of Metrolinx while both parties developed the final access and operating agreement
- A new agreement is required to address business and operational requirements of York Region buses at Metrolinx facilities
- The agreement will ensure continuity of existing service connections, align the form of this agreement with other Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) transit agencies, and update financial terms and conditions
- The agreement includes access to operate at 11 Metrolinx facilities and includes provisions for facilities identified through the Yonge North Subway Extension

3. Background

Since 2001 York Region Transit has been providing direct connections to Metrolinx-owned facilities through an access and operating agreement

The YRT Service Plan identifies key objectives, including improving intra and inter-regional transit connections and overall service quality to attract new users to transit. This is primarily accomplished by providing connections to Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Metrolinx facilities throughout the Region and Toronto and service to and from major destinations.

YRT has been operating out of Metrolinx facilities since 2005 under an existing agreement that has been extended to the end of 2022. A new agreement is required to ensure the continuity of YRT services at Metrolinx facilities. The new agreement follows a standard form developed by Metrolinx in consultation with GTHA transit agencies, known as the Bus Services Agreement (BSA).

Metrolinx-owned facilities provide key connections for travellers to access GO train and Toronto Transit Commission services

YRT provides service connections to multiple Metrolinx properties including various GO train stations and bus terminals across York Region.

The Metrolinx-owned facilities offer a variety of transit options for YRT customers, including:

- Direct connections to GO bus and train services
- Direct connections to TTC bus and subway services
- Short and convenient connections that are timed to align with peak GO train trips
- Free YRT fare for travellers transferring between YRT and GO services
- Amenities for travellers and bus operators, including PRESTO fare media services such as pass sales, reloading and setting concessions and washrooms
- Expansion of GO train services to operate two-way all-day service on lines operating in York Region, providing residents with higher service frequencies and better connections with YRT services

Finch Bus Terminal is the most used Metrolinx property YRT services access, offering connections to GO bus, other YRT routes and TTC Line 1 Subway. In fall 2019, approximately 8,800 travellers boarded YRT buses on an average weekday at Finch Bus Terminal.

4. Analysis

Since 2020, York Region Transit has been working with Metrolinx and other local transit agencies to develop standard access and operating agreements

In 2020, Metrolinx approached GTHA transit agencies to discuss standardization of access and operating agreements for its properties. The new standard form agreement, the BSA, captures all properties serviced by each GTHA transit agency and ensures all agencies access and operate out of Metrolinx properties under the same terms and conditions. Staff participated in working groups with Metrolinx and other transit agencies to develop the standard agreement, which was also reviewed by the Region's Risk and Legal Services staff.

The agreement intends to provide all necessary administration, access and operating components required to provide bus service at the various terminals.

The BSA includes:

- Access and Use standards
- Metrolinx Rules and Regulations
- Municipal Service Provider Responsibilities
- Metrolinx Responsibilities
- Financial Terms
- Safety Oversight
- Indemnity, Liability, and Insurance
- Term and Termination
- Dispute Resolution

In March 2022, scope included in the BSA and the facility schedules were agreed to.

A new agreement will ensure continuity of York Region Transit services at Metrolinx facilities

The new access and operating agreement will ensure YRT services can continue to access and operate at Metrolinx facilities and provide direct connections to TTC and Metrolinx services, including subway, bus and GO train.

The term of the agreement will ensure YRT can continue to provide direct connections to the TTC Yonge subway from Terminal until the Yonge North Subway Extension is in service.

5. Financial

A cost analysis of the proposed new access and operating agreement has been completed

The previous access and operating agreement outlined financial terms for Newmarket, Finch and Highway 407 Bus Terminals. The Region purchased Newmarket Bus Terminal from Metrolinx in 2020 and will no longer require any cost contribution for this property.

Financial terms for the new access and operating agreement are based on platform allocations at each bus terminal, in line with the previous agreement. An annual reconciliation process ensures transparency and accuracy of costs associated with the BSA between the parties.

Metrolinx agreed no charges would be incurred for access and operating at Metrolinx GO train properties where YRT services connect travellers to GO train services.

Annual operating costs for the agreement are forecasted to be approximately \$920,000

Based on YRT platform allocations, the average annual contribution for the access and operating agreement is forecasted to be \$920,000, which is in line with current 2021 costs.

Forecasted annual operating expenses are in alignment with the approved 2022 operating budget amount.

The forecasted total contribution for the 10-year term is \$9,200,000.

6. Local Impact

The new Bus Services Agreement provides travellers with reliable connections to GO train and TTC bus and subway services located at Metrolinx properties throughout York Region and City of Toronto. The Agreement includes the required provisions to provide safe and accessible transit services at each property, including use of station amenities for travellers and bus operators.

7. Conclusion

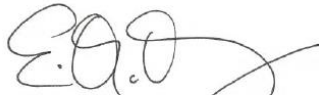
This report seeks Council approval to enter a 10-year access and operating agreement between York Region and Metrolinx to address business and operational requirements of York Region buses and ensure continuity of existing service connections at various Metrolinx facilities. Pending Council approval, the Regional Solicitor will prepare the necessary documents.

For more information on this report, please contact Kyle Catney, Acting Director, Transit Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75637. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:



Ann-Marie Carroll
General Manager, Interim Transition - Transportation



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

April 14, 2022
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