



Office of the Commissioner
Transportation Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: April 18, 2019

Re: York Region Transit York University Update

This memorandum provides Council with information on York Region Transit (YRT) services at York University, and an update on staff consultation with *Keep York Moving*, as directed by Committee of the Whole on March 7, 2019.

On September 2, 2018, nine months following the opening of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Line 1 Subway into York Region, YRT discontinued operating conventional and Viva service directly onto the York University Keele Campus. This change was a requirement under the Operating Agreement between YRT and TTC.

Since the TTC Line 1 Subway Extension opened in December 2017, staff has reported to Council on YRT system performance, ridership impacts and service changes to York University. Further, staff considered reinstatement of some YRT service back onto the campus as part of the 2019 to 2022 budget considerations:

- [May 3, 2018](#), Committee of the Whole Memorandum: Update on Transit Ridership in the Vicinity of the Spadina Subway “Line 1” Extension into York Region.
- [September 4, 2018](#), Committee of the Whole Memorandum: York University – Transit Service Changes
- [September 20, 2018](#), Council Memorandum and Resolution: Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Transportation Services – York Region Transit Cross-Boundary Travel and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Fare Integration
- [February 14, 2019](#), Committee of the Whole presentation: 2019 to 2022 Budget – Transportation Services

- [March 2, 2019](#), Committee of the Whole presentation: 2018 York Region Transit System Performance Update

Council has received two deputations from *Keep York Moving* regarding transit service to York University:

- [September 27, 2018](#) and [December 13, 2018](#), York Region Transit Cross-Boundary Travel and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Fare Integration
- March 7, 2019, [Fred Winegust](#) and [Peter Miasek](#), York Region Transit Annual System Performance Report

On March 7, 2019, Committee of the Whole adopted a recommendation that staff be directed to report back in May 2019 and present additional context regarding direct bus services to the York University Keele Campus, including potential future solutions, and continue to engage *Keep York Moving*.

On April 1, 2019, YRT staff met with *Keep York Moving*. At this meeting, staff shared an extensive amount of information regarding costs associated with service change options, ridership and traveller boardings, alightings and transfers and results of the October 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey, conducted by Forum Research, on routes affected by the opening of the subway. Staff also made available for review a copy of the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding that states: *“Upon commencement of revenue service operations of the Spadina Subway Extension, York Region agrees not to operate or permit the operation of public transit services directly onto the York University campus”*.

On April 2, 2019, a second meeting was held with *Keep York Moving*. Also in attendance were Regional Chair Emmerson, Chair Steve Pellegrini and Vice-Chair Frank Scarpitti of the Transportation Services Committee, and senior Regional staff. Upon conclusion of the meeting, all parties understood York Region’s need to uphold its agreement with the TTC, and that any attempt to renegotiate the agreement would result in York Region having to pay the TTC operating dollars.

It was also understood by all parties that staff will continue to follow Council’s previous direction to pursue fare integration, as part of the PRESTO equipment replacement scheduled for the end of 2020.

York Region continues to advocate for inter-regional transit fare integration

In December 2018, a letter from the Chairman’s office was sent to the Minister of Transportation Ontario and copied to York Region Members of Provincial Parliament and the Chair of the Metrolinx Board of Directors.

The letter sought a commitment from the Metrolinx Board of Directors to coordinate and finalize a Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area-wide fare integration solution by the end of 2019, to allow for full implementation as part of the 2020 PRESTO device refresh.

Staff continues to engage Metrolinx on fare integration. A working group is preparing for the refresh of all PRESTO equipment across the 905 area, and the Fare Policy Harmonization Team is working towards establishing common fare concessions to create consistency across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

Since the issuance of the Chair's letter to the Ontario Minister of Transportation and Metrolinx, Metrolinx has established a Fare Integration Forum consisting of designated staff from each of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Regions and/or heads of the transit agencies. This group will build on work already completed by the Fare Policy Harmonization Team. No date has been provided by the Province to implement fare integration.

Staff will provide further updates to Council on the status of fare integration as circumstances dictate.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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