

Date September 19, 2019
To Members of York Region Rapid Transit Board of Directors
Copy Bruce Macgregor, Christopher Raynor, Lina Bigioni
From Mary-Frances Turner, President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation
Subject **Bus Rapid Transit Certification from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)**
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York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) is pleased to inform the Board of Directors that York Region's Bus Rapid Transit System has been awarded a Bronze certification for the Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit Corridor, from the **Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)**.

ITDP developed the BRT Standard to create world-class passenger experiences

ITDP is a global organization that is leading innovation, using technical expertise, directing advocacy, and guiding policy to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve air quality, and support prosperous, sustainable, and equitable cities. Based in New York, ITDP works around the world to design and implement high quality transport systems and policy solutions that make cities more livable, equitable, and sustainable. ITDP developed the 'BRT Standard', an evaluation tool for world-class bus rapid transit, based on international best practices as well as establishing a uniform, world-class passenger experience.

The BRT Standard evaluates BRT corridors around the world based on a wide range of metrics and was updated in 2014. The goal of the Standard is to establish a common definition of BRT through the BRT Basics (dedicated right-of-way, busway alignment, off-board fare collection, intersection treatments and platform level boarding), and recognizes particularly high-quality corridors with Bronze, Silver, or Gold rankings. The scoring assesses design, accessibility, availability, safety, level of service, etc., to provide a world class passenger experience.

YRRTC worked with York Region Transit to achieve the BRT Standard

ITDP has a specified process that includes on-site touring of the system, staff evaluation and scoring and finally, a review by a Panel. In August 2018, YRRTC staff initiated this process by completing the preliminary baseline assessments and shared this with ITDP. In October 2018, YRRTC hosted Aimee Gauthier, Chief Knowledge Officer of ITDP, for a two-day presentation and tour of the BRT system, facilities and transit operations centre with York Region Transit staff. The tour focused on the inter-connectivity of the network with conventional and subway services and the impact rapid transit have had on development within the Centres and Corridors. York Region

Transit and YRRTC worked together to provide supplementary information to inform the evaluation.

The BRT Standard puts York Region on the global stage for attractive and efficient rapid transit service that provides a world-class experience

Receiving global recognition is a testament to the investment that has been made in the Region's BRT system. The BRT system, as built and in operation today, has been ranked Bronze along the Highway 7 Corridor.

Ottawa Ontario is the only other BRT system that has achieved this level of BRT Standard in Canada. Other North American cities with BRT systems that have received a BRT standard are:

- Silver:
 - Cleveland, OH – Healthline (6.9km)
 - Hartford, CT – CTfastrack – Hartford-New Britain Line (15.0km)
- Bronze:
 - Eugene, OR – Emerald Express (EmX) – Green Line (12.5km)
 - Los Angeles, CA – Orange Line (22.9km)
 - Pittsburgh, PA – South Busway - Martin Luther King Line (15.0km)
 - Richmond, VA – Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), Pulse (4.2km)
 - San Bernardino, CA – sbX, E Street (8.3km)

A continuous, seamless and convenient regional bus rapid transit network is vital to the performance of the system and overall customer experience

Completing the regional bus rapid transit network is critical to improving accessibility, efficiency and capacity of the rapid transit service that would ultimately improve passenger experience and support growth and development along York Region's main corridors. This would warrant a higher BRT Standard from ITDP in the future.

For more information on this memo, please contact Danielle Hutson, Manager (A), Strategy & Innovation, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, at 905-886-6767, ext. 71372.

Mary-Frances Turner, President