driving progress in the GTA

more transit, stronger economy and cleaner environment
message from the Chairman of the Board

In an unprecedented show of support, the Yonge Subway Extension is the top transit infrastructure priority of Regional Council and many of the Region’s business organizations. To move forward we need a long term financial commitment from the Federal and Provincial government in the amount of $4.2 billion. Expanding our Regional transit-transportation network is critical to allow York Region to keep pace with the unprecedented growth it is experiencing. We live in Canada’s fastest-growing large municipality with nearly 1.2 million people, a highly diverse population that is now larger than five Canadian provinces.

York Region also has a rapidly growing business center with over 50,000 businesses employing more than a half a million people, including the largest Information and Communications Technology sector in Canada on a per capita basis. By extending the Yonge Subway north we will complete an integral piece of the region-wide transportation system, drive economic growth and job creation, create more affordable housing and improve the environment. A project of this size and scope requires the financial support of both the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario over a long period of time. We cannot plan, design and build a subway if funding is being committed piecemeal from budget to budget.

The continued success and competitiveness of our Region depends on the provision of convenient and reliable public transit. We can make the Yonge Subway Extension a reality if we continue to work together in partnership.

Frank Scarpitti
Chairman of the Board, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation
Mayor, City of Markham

“The continued success and competitiveness of our region’s economy depends on the provision of convenient and reliable public transit.”
driving jobs and significant economic benefits

The economic impact of the Yonge Subway Extension project is massive. During construction, the project will create 21,800 person-years of employment, 31,000 jobs at the Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Urban Growth Centre anchor hub and will be the catalyst for the development of 23,530 residential units. The Langstaff/ Richmond Hill Urban Growth Centre anchor hub at Highway 7 will be second only to Union Station in the GTA in terms of the number of riders, transit connections and scale of new development.

York Region is home to two of the GTA’s four employment ‘Megazones’—three of which contain more jobs than in Downtown Toronto. An investment of $4 billion over 15 years will boost Canada’s GDP by $560 million.

The Yonge Subway is the critical missing link in the dedicated regional rapid transit system and a vital gap in creating a seamless transit network in the GTHA—to service this section of Yonge Street presently requires approximately 2,500 bus trips per day travelling to an outdated terminal that was built in 1973.

Road and transit infrastructure like the Yonge Subway extension, are critical in conditions that connect people, skills and jobs, more efficiently leading to increased productivity. With the highest growth rate in the GTA over the past 10 years, the demand for subways in York Region is here.
“The Yonge Subway Extension will provide significant economic benefits to the businesses and residents of York Region. It will lead to the creation of more than 31,000 jobs and additional housing options for up to 48,000 residents.”

Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO, York Region

“This project will improve the environment by virtually eliminating the 2,500 daily bus trips now required to service this section of Yonge Street, significantly reducing traffic congestion and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions.”

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor, City of Markham

“The Yonge Subway Extension will link GO service, subway service, bus rapid transit and BRT/express service along Highway 407 ETR. This will provide commuters in both York Region and the City of Toronto with a variety of transit and transportation options.”

Maurizio Bevilacqua
Mayor, City of Vaughan
Yonge Subway Extension is the number one transit priority.

In an unprecedented show of support, the Yonge Subway Extension is the top transit infrastructure priority of Regional Council and many of the Region’s business organizations. In fact, York Region Council has dedicated the entire amount of its Phase 1 Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund money to this project, approximately $36 million. The Yonge Subway Extension is part of the Metrolinx Next Wave projects and has received $55 million from the Government of Ontario for preliminary engineering.

A project of this magnitude will lead to new businesses, job creation, intensification and more housing choices. Significant environmental benefits will be realized by getting more cars off our roads and replacing many of the 2,500 bus trips that currently service that stretch of Yonge Street each weekday.

To help keep up with the tremendous growth the Region is experiencing, York Region’s political leadership and business community is calling on the Government of Canada to make a long-term financial commitment of $4.2 billion [2017 dollars]. A project of this size and scope requires the financial support of both the federal and provincial governments over a long period of time. You cannot plan, design and build a subway if funding is being committed piecemeal from budget to budget.

89% of residents want the subway extension built

A compass survey cited that 89% of residents want the subway extension built. By offering more housing and job options, it matches provincial and federal priorities to stimulate the economy, support the middle class and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2,500 reasons to move forward.

The Yonge Subway Extension project will extend the existing Yonge Street subway line 7.4 kilometres north from Finch Station in Toronto to Highway 7, at the Richmond Hill/Langstaff Urban Growth Centre. It will include 5 stations, Cummer/Drewry, Steeles, Clark, Langstaff/Longbridge and Richmond Hill Centre, and 2 bus terminals at Steeles and Richmond Hill Centre.

This segment of Yonge Street requires 2,500 bus trips a day to accommodate the current ridership. If the subway is extended, many of these buses would no longer be needed, significantly reducing traffic congestion and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. Saves over 28 tonnes of greenhouse gas [GHG] per workday by replacing the 2,500 bus trips currently servicing this segment of Yonge Street.

There will also be 2,000 commuter parking spaces just south of the 407 ETR and underground storage yard for 14 subway trains and a bridge over the East Don River.

Ridership of the Yonge Subway Extension will be 165,000 people per day.
York Region is a rapidly growing business centre with over 50,000 businesses and over 600,000 jobs. York Region’s growing business community needs the Yonge Subway Extension. The Region is Canada’s fastest-growing large municipality, home to Canada’s high tech capital and two of the GTA’s four Employment ‘Megazones’ (i.e. Hwy. 404/Hwy. 407 and 400/Hwy. 7). Combined with Pearson Airport, the three 905 Employment ‘Megazones’ contain more jobs than Toronto’s downtown core.

2,000,000 combined labour force

York Region is one of Ontario’s largest business communities with over 50,000 businesses and almost 600,000 jobs, and an average of 13,000 new jobs being added annually. By 2041, the Region will welcome another 600,000 residents and 300,000 jobs.

With over 4,500 tech companies, the Region has a diverse and innovative economy across a wide range of industries including Life Science & Health Tech, Financial & Professional Services, Engineering & Construction, Clean Technology, Automotive, Consumer Brands and Canada’s largest Information Communications Technology cluster on a per capita basis. We believe these clusters are essential to promote business growth and attract the best and the brightest to York Region.

With over 50,000 businesses in York Region and 89,800 in Toronto, we are driving national and provincial prosperity with over 2,000,000 jobs, representing over 11% of Canada’s total labour force.
York Region employment growth surpasses national and provincial averages.

Between 2014 and 2015, York Region employment growth surpassed provincial and national labour force growth, citing a gain of 2.4%. Within this period, the Greater Toronto Area [GTA] labour force posted higher than average growth, increasing by 4.1%. Over the last five years, York Region’s workforce has grown at an average annual rate of 3.1%, surpassing growth rates in the national, provincial and GTA economies.

Innovative health care, education, research, and social service sector is on the rise.

Innovative health care and social services is York Region’s fastest growing sector, nearly doubling its employment base over the last 10 years. Since 2005, employment in this sector has grown at an average annual rate of 7%, bringing its total surveyed employment to approximately 37,680 jobs in 2015.

The new Mackenzie Vaughan hospital will become Canada’s first hospital to feature fully integrated “smart,” technology systems and medical devices that can speak directly to one another, maximizing information exchange.

**General Motors selects City of Markham for major software development centre**

Due to its wealth of talent and focus on innovation, General Motors recently selected the City of Markham to be a major software development centre. This facility will play a leading role in developing the next generation of connected, autonomous and alternative-fuel vehicles.

This project will allow York Region to keep up with the tremendous growth it is experiencing, making it easier for commuters to get to where they need to go. When fully operational, the Yonge subway will move two riders every second of the day.
more options for businesses, residents and commuters.

York Region’s philosophy about city-building is about taking an integrated approach that builds walkable communities near rapid transit, to help bring the Greater Toronto Area closer together.

The subway extension will help further the Centres and Corridors Strategy adopted by Regional Council in 1994. By taking this unique approach we are promoting the development of livable and complete communities to better manage growth and encourage intensification. These are transit oriented communities with a mix of uses including residential, retail and offices.

**74% of York Region residents believe more investment in public transit is needed**

A Forum Research poll recently cited that 74% of York Region residents believe more investment in public transit is needed, and more should be done to connect public transit services with neighbouring transit systems.

In 2011, Toronto residents made 189,700 daily trips to York Region whereas 337,200 daily trips were made by York Region residents to Toronto.
York Region is where talent and opportunity intersect.

York Region is home to 600,000 highly skilled, multilingual residents, the most educated workforce among Canada’s largest municipalities and half of the Toronto Area Top 100 Neighborhoods.

73% of York Region’s population between 25 and 64 has post-secondary education being the most educated workforce among Canada’s large municipalities and well above US, OECD, and EU averages.

York Region offers an exceptional quality of life that attracts and retains top global talent.

York Region has a wide range of industries including: the largest Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Canada on a per capita basis, financial and business services, life science and healthcare technology, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, building and construction, and agriculture and food processing.

The Markham Seneca Campus is the first post-secondary education facility in the City of Markham. The campus is home to full and part-time programs in the areas of business, marketing, tourism and aviation.

York University is also bringing a new, 21st century campus to the vibrant Markham Centre. In response to increasing demand for high-quality education in Ontario’s new economy, the campus will offer top academic programs and workplace-based learning opportunities to over 4,400 students.

But along with business excellence, we also offer our residents an excellent quality of life. Our lives are enriched by our surroundings; our diverse communities, emerging urban centres, competitive industries, our highly educated workforce, and an abundance of natural resources, including wetlands, kettle lakes, regional forests, farms and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

In York Region you can do almost anything, from hiking one of our many trails, to taking a winery tour, to attending the opera.
the Yonge Subway Extension is the missing link
a seamless, inter-regional perspective is key to ensure a resilient economy.

Now more than ever, municipalities are intrinsically interconnected. With billions of dollars in new infrastructure investment over the next decade, the need to make smart, interconnected, forward thinking infrastructure investments has never been greater.

Metrolinx is building a regional rapid transit network to operate seamlessly across the region. A transportation network must be designed for all users and more efficient movement means greater network capacity, resulting in faster trips for all GTHA businesses and residents.

The need for businesses and residents to have access to good public transit, jobs and greater housing options are fundamental to ensuring that the Greater Toronto Region economy remains resilient. The Yonge subway extension is a critical part of the regional transportation plan. By extending the subway to Richmond Hill, we will be creating an anchor hub that links GO service, subway service, bus rapid transit and BRT/express service along Highway 407 ETR. This would provide commuters in both York Region and the City of Toronto with a greater variety of transit and transportation options.
seize the moment for your business and Canada’s economy.

support the Yonge Subway Extension.