



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2021

Report Number: SRCM.21.03

Department: Office of the City Manager

Division: Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre

Subject: **SRCM 21.03 Federal Funding for Yonge North
Subway Extension**

Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to recommend that Council approve a resolution requesting federal funding for the Yonge North Subway Extension.

Recommendation(s):

That Council approve the following resolution requesting federal funding for the Yonge North Subway Extension:

Whereas, The Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) is a Council Strategic Priority 2020-2022 for the City of Richmond Hill, and

Whereas, The YNSE is a leading transportation priority for the City of Richmond Hill and York Region, and

Whereas, The YNSE has been identified as a critical infrastructure investment with the current York Region and City of Richmond Hill Transportation Master Plans, and

Whereas, The YNSE will support a growing population, generate economic opportunity, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Richmond Hill and surrounding communities; and

Whereas, Developing a comprehensive transit network is a crucial infrastructure issue in the City of Richmond Hill and throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA); and

Whereas, The YNSE is an integral part of the rapid transit priority projects that would strengthen connection within the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area, and

Whereas, The business cases completed to-date for the YNSE are compelling – affirmed in successive Regional Transportation Plans completed for the GTA in 2008, and again in 2018, and

Page 2

Whereas, The project will create skilled jobs and lasting social infrastructure critical to the recovery from the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, The YNSE is included among the five major transit priorities the Province of Ontario has identified, which require federal funding to move forward: and

Whereas, A project of this size and scope requires investment from all levels of government; and

Whereas, the City of Richmond Hill welcomes the federal government's recent commitment to invest in public transit, which includes permanent funding of \$3 billion per year for Canadian communities beginning in 2026-27.

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City of Richmond Hill reaffirms its long-standing commitment to advancing the successful completion of the Yonge North Subway Extension; and
2. **THAT** the City of Richmond Hill calls on the Federal Government to commit to broad and substantial municipal funding for the Yonge North Subway Extension to provide immediate stimulus to the local, provincial and the federal economies to emerge stronger from the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. **THAT** the Federal Government's financial commitment be made as soon as possible; and
4. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada; the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Federal Minister of Transportation; the Federal Minister of Finance, the Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of the Finance; the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; the Provincial Minister of Transportation; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); the Local Members of Parliament (MPs); the Local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) as well as York Region and its member municipalities.

Contact Person:

Daniel Olding, Senior Manager Richmond Hill Centre Subway Project

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Anthony Ierullo, Director Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

Page 3

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

Richmond Hill has historically advocated for the extension of the Yonge Subway north to Richmond Hill Centre as a critical missing link in the public transit system. Preliminary design and engineering for the subway was announced in 2018 based on \$91.23 million from the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

In April 2019, the Province announced \$28.5B in funding to expand Ontario's transit network including \$5.6B to extend the Yonge Subway line from Finch Station to Richmond Hill. York Region has also confirmed a commitment to their portion of the funding leaving only the federal portion of the project budget currently unconfirmed.

On February 10, 2021, the federal government announced \$14.9 billion for public transit projects over the next eight years. This includes permanent funding of \$3 billion per year for Canadian communities beginning in 2026-27. The recent federal funding announcement is an opportunity for Richmond Hill to emphasize the importance and benefits of the Yonge North Subway Extension and to secure the federal funding needed to complete the project by its 2029-2030 scheduled completion date.

SRCM.21.03 recommends that Council endorse a resolution requesting that federal funding be approved for the Yonge North Subway Extension.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial, staffing or other implications associated with staff report SRCM.21.03.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The Yonge North Subway Extension to Richmond Hill is one of Council's Strategic Priorities 2020 to 2022 under the priority of Getting Around the City.

Conclusion:

The Yonge North Subway Extension to Richmond Hill is one of Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022. The recent federal funding announcement is an opportunity for Richmond Hill to emphasize the importance and benefits of the Yonge North Subway Extension and to secure the federal funding needed to complete the project. Staff report SRCM.21.03 recommends that Council endorse a resolution requesting federal funding be approved for the Yonge North Subway Extension.

Page 4

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

Page 5

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.21.03 Federal Funding for Yonge North Subway Extension.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 22, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Anthony Ierullo - Feb 22, 2021 - 9:03 AM

David Dexter - Feb 22, 2021 - 9:12 AM

MaryAnne Dempster - Feb 22, 2021 - 9:15 AM