



Office of the Commissioner  
Transportation Services

## Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: May 3, 2018

Re: **Update on Transit Ridership in the Vicinity of the Spadina  
Subway “Line 1” Extension into York Region**

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This memorandum provides a ridership update for York Region Transit (YRT) routes restructured as a result of the opening of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Spadina Subway “Line” 1 Extension into York Region and questions raised at the March 1, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting and April 12, 2018 Rapid Transit Board meeting.

In December 2017, the TTC Spadina Subway “Line 1” Extension into York Region opened

The subway extension into York Region successfully opened on December 17, 2017. At the same time, the 2014 Council-approved YRT Spadina Subway Transit Strategy was implemented. This included the realignment of select YRT routes to operate to Pioneer Village and Highway 407 bus terminals, and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre subway and vivastation. The plan included rerouting Viva orange directly across Highway 7 from Martin Grove Road to the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal and no longer diverting to York University and TTC Sheppard West Subway Station.

Traveller education, communication and wayfinding were provided through a partnership between YRT, TTC and the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation. Since opening, additional signs have been identified for installation to help improve the traveller experience.

In addition, YRT began using 60-foot articulated buses on Route 20 – Jane Street. This route carries the highest number of travellers between TTC Line 1, Vaughan Mills shopping centre and Canada’s Wonderland.

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Since the opening, weekly ridership on YRT routes servicing the subway increased by 8.7 per cent, and by 16 per cent on restructured routes

Following the opening of the subway, staff began to track and monitor traveller patterns. When comparing weekly ridership of all bus routes in the vicinity of the subway from November 2017 to February 2018, overall ridership increased by 8.7 per cent.

The average ridership increase on the restructured routes averaged 16 per cent with significant gains on Route 20 Jane, 26 Maple Local, 96 Keele-Yonge, 760 Vaughan Mills/Wonderland and Viva orange.

Staff reviewed the weekly bus stop use around each subway station in York Region. Comparing February 2017 to February 2018, the average weekly traveller on/off information around all three stations combined, increased by 317 per cent and is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Average weekly YRT traveller on/off counts around**  
**TTC Line 1 Subway Stations in York Region**

<b>Subway Station</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>February 2018</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Vaughan Metropolitan Centre	6,430	29,076	352%
Highway 407	71	1,441	1,929%
Pioneer Village	4,881	16,967	247%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,382</b>	<b>47,484</b>	<b>317%</b>

The TTC will release subway ridership information in the second quarter of 2018

The TTC has not yet completed ridership counts for the subway extension. Once the data is received, YRT will use the data to track seasonal ridership patterns to better understand the service needs of travellers to and from the subway.

TTC staff is planning to perform a traveller survey to identify customer use and modes of travel to and from the subway stations. This data will provide an opportunity to improve the overall traveller experience.

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YRT ridership is anticipated to grow with the completion of the SmartCentres Place Bus Terminal and the introduction of paid parking

Since the opening of the subway extension, construction has continued of the Pioneer Village terminals and the Viva rapidway west of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre subway station. Many traveller amenities are not yet available and SmartCentres Place Bus Terminal is still under construction.

TTC has continued to provide free parking at the TTC-owned parking lots at Pioneer Village and Highway 407 stations. TTC has not indicated when they plan to implement paid parking. Once construction is complete and full access to the subway is available at each station, staff anticipates that the traveller experience will significantly improve.

Staff will continue monitoring ridership levels in 2018

In collaboration with TTC, monthly ridership will continue to be monitored to establish seasonal ridership patterns in the vicinity of the subway. The data will be reviewed and analyzed to help plan transit services for the upcoming year.

Staff will provide a further update to Council in September 2018 in conjunction with the 2019 Transit Initiative report and presentation.

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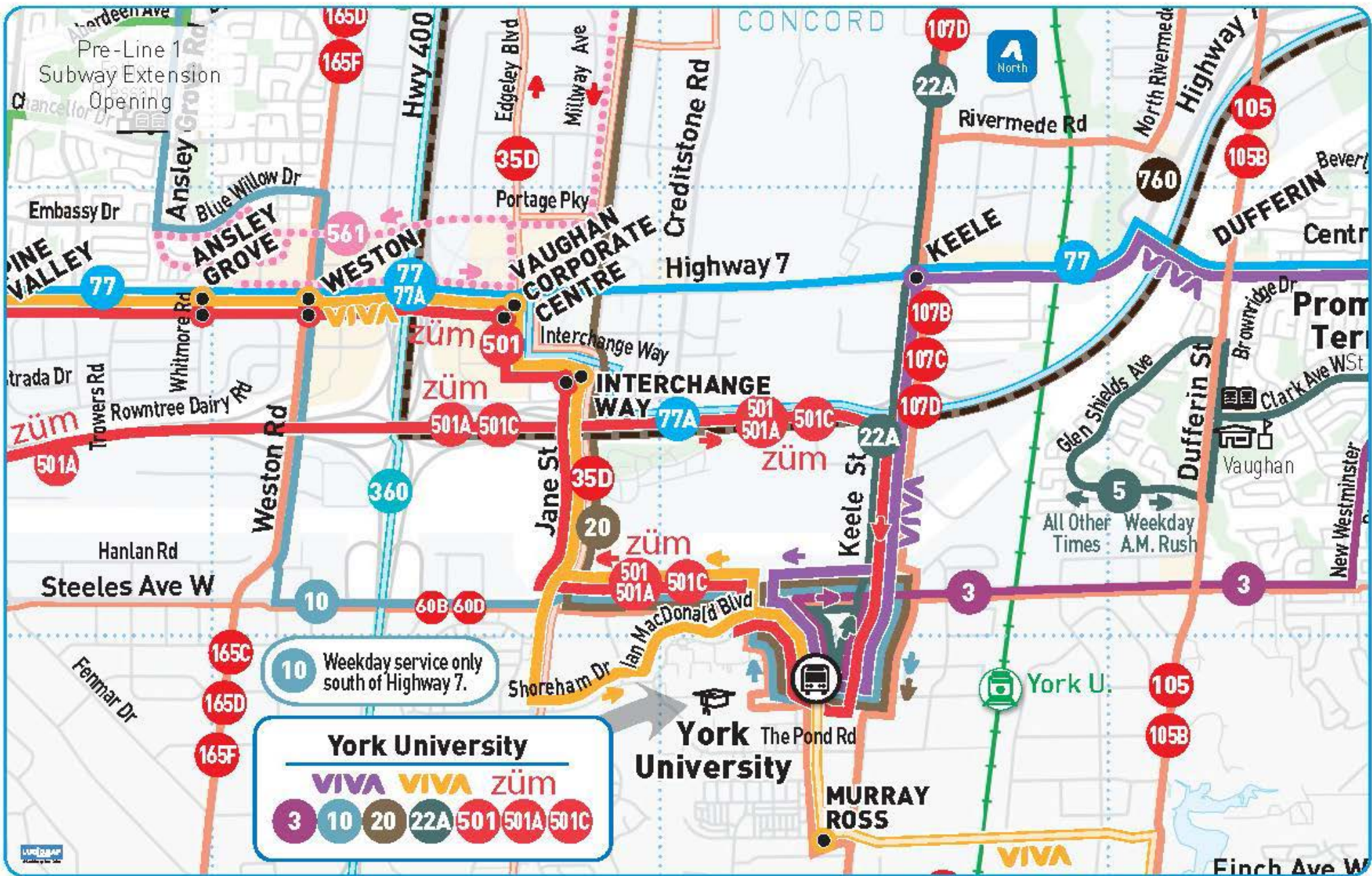
Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Attachments (2)

PJ/AMC

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YRT ROUTE MAP BEFORE THE OPENING OF SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION



YRT ROUTE MAP AFTER THE OPENING OF SPADINA SUBWAY EXTENSION

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