

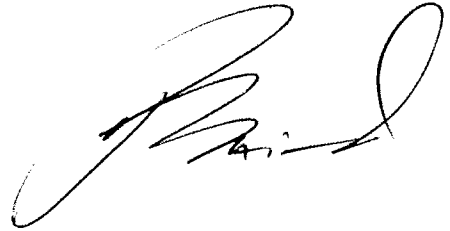
## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services

Date: September 25, 2007

RE: Looping of VIVA buses at Bur Oak Avenue and Highway No. 7  
Background Information



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A VIVA bus loop has been proposed by the Region of York in the vicinity of Bur Oak Avenue and Highway 7 to facilitate the extension of VIVA services to east Markham. At the Council Meeting held on September 11, 2007, staff was directed by Council to prepare a background memorandum with regard to this bus loop.

The Region of York has been investigating the feasibility of a bus loop / bus lay-by area within the Cornell community for some time now. Previous proposals for VIVA bus lay-by areas on the north or south sides of Church Street, in the vicinity of the Markham Stouffville Hospital, met with significant resistance from nearby residents and were abandoned.

The Region is currently proposing both a transit terminal as well as a bus loop in the Cornell area as follows: The Transit terminal is proposed on the south side of Highway 7, southeast of the Old Markham By-Pass / Highway 7 intersection. This terminal is in the early stages with the Region still discussing acquisition of the necessary lands with the landowner. The construction of the terminal is anticipated to begin in 2008. The bus loop, made feasible by the opening of Bur Oak Avenue to Highway 7, involves VIVA buses travelling east on Highway 7, going north along 9<sup>th</sup> Line, then travelling east again along Church Street, and then south bound along Bur Oak Avenue and completing the loop by heading west on Highway 7 (see attached drawing).

South bound Bur Oak Avenue in its ultimate configuration will have a left turn lane, through lane and a right turn lane. Prior to making the right turn from Bur Oak Avenue to Highway 7 the buses would utilize the taper at the north end of the right-turn lane as a lay-by area. The right turn lane has been designed with an extra long taper to accommodate the buses during the lay-by period and it is our understanding that two buses can be accommodated at any one time within this lay-by area.

Regional staff has advised that even after the proposed terminal on the south side of Highway 7 is built the bus loop and the lay-by area discussed above will continue to be utilized with VIVA buses alternating between the terminal and the bus loop. The bus loop and the lay-by area will also serve the local YRT buses and any conflict between the YRT and the VIVA buses, with regard to the lay-by area, will be worked out over time.

Regional staff has also advised that they expect to initiate VIVA service to east Markham by utilizing the bus loop in January 2008. The re-construction of 9<sup>th</sup> Line to the north of Highway 7 is scheduled to be completed to a stage capable of accommodating bus service by the end of this year.

# HIGHWAY 7 /BUR OAK VIVA BUS LOOP

