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For Immediate Release

Visualizing the look of urbanization in York Region

York Regional Council endorses plan to illustrate what 40 per cent intensification means

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York will prepare a catalogue of photos depicting what the major centres in York Region could begin to look like over the next two decades. In addition, staff will summarize intensification best practices to identify the next generation of sustainable compact development opportunities.

“If a picture is worth a thousand words, we’re going to communicate volumes about what our major centres could look and feel like in two decades,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “We are fortunate to have imaging resources at our disposal to make our urbanization planning more accurate and effective.”

The visual products will illustrate what it will mean to build more than 40 per cent of all new residential development within our existing built area as specified in Ontario’s *Places to Grow Plan*.

“Seeing good examples of urban design and architectural features helps us to envision how we can properly incorporate higher densities into our existing communities,” said Town of Markham Regional Councillor Tony Wong, Chair of the Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee. “These resources will help the public better understand where intensification will occur and what it would look like.”



Markham Centre: Visualizing the look of new urban centres



Four-stage evolution of a Regional centre

The initiative will focus on intensification in the Regional centres and corridors served by rapid transit in the Town of Markham, the City of Vaughan, the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Newmarket.

The catalogue of photos and illustrations and a discussion paper on intensification best practices will be practical tools for staff in York Region and our local municipalities to use as we collaborate further in completing their local intensification strategies.

York Region has forecast that 85,000 new units would be required to meet the 40 per cent intensification target. Area municipal planning departments have already identified approximately 49,000 units in areas such as Markham Centre and Vaughan Corporate Centre and further planning will identify more units in Markham Langstaff, Vaughan Highway 7 and specific clusters on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill.

Existing Regional and municipal illustrations of intensification include:

- the four-stage graphics that depict the evolution of Regional centres
- the Town of Markham illustrations of Markham Centre development
- Regional examples of site-specific intensification
- three-dimensional modelling of the Vaughan Corporate Centre

As well, efforts will be made to illustrate what intensification might look like in smaller towns and villages across the Region.

York Region's website – www.york.ca – provides more information on the Region's Planning for Tomorrow initiative. To submit online feedback, click on "Contact Us" or email your comments or questions to futureyork@york.ca

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York and our services, please visit www.york.ca

- 30 -

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Note: High resolution copies of the illustrations in these media release are available