

Infrastructure Master Plan Updates



Newsletter 1 - Fall 2006

HOW ARE WE *PLANNING FOR TOMORROW*?

The Transportation Master Plan and Water & Wastewater Master Plan updates are two pieces of a much larger puzzle to address York Region's population and employment growth between now and 2036.

In the past several years, the context of growth and planning has been changing in South Central Ontario. The changes are the result of a number of recent provincial initiatives, including the release of the Province's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, approval of the Greenbelt Plan and establishment of new growth forecasts. The Province's population and employment growth targets have been updated and are more than our Regional estimates.

The Government of Ontario forecast that over the next 25 years, York Region will add 600,000 residents, expanding our population to 1.5 million people. Simultaneously, the Region is projected to add 340,000 jobs, increasing our employment base to 780,000.

To sufficiently plan for this growth with a sustainable approach, York Region, in partnership with our local municipalities and the Province, must address several key issues:

- How can we maintain and improve the health and safety of our residents?
- How can we protect and enhance our natural environment?
- How can we properly plan our communities?
- How can we preserve our vibrant economy?
- How can we best serve the transportation needs of our residents?
- How can we ensure our water and wastewater demands will be efficiently met?

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A MESSAGE FROM

YORK REGIONAL CHAIR & CEO, BILL FISCH

York Region is updating our Transportation and Water & Wastewater Master Plans and I look forward to your active involvement in this process. These Master Plans will serve as the "blueprints" for all major transportation and water & wastewater initiatives in the Region through to the year 2036. These updates are important undertakings – for the safety of our roads, efficiency of our transit system, quality of our water system and the economic well-being of our communities. Most importantly, the Master Plans must build on previous plans by addressing the growth challenges and strategies that will support sustainable development in York Region. This will complement other initiatives that we have championed to support the Regional goals of Sustainable Natural Environment, Economic Vitality and Healthy Communities.



I encourage you to get involved. Help plan York Region's future!



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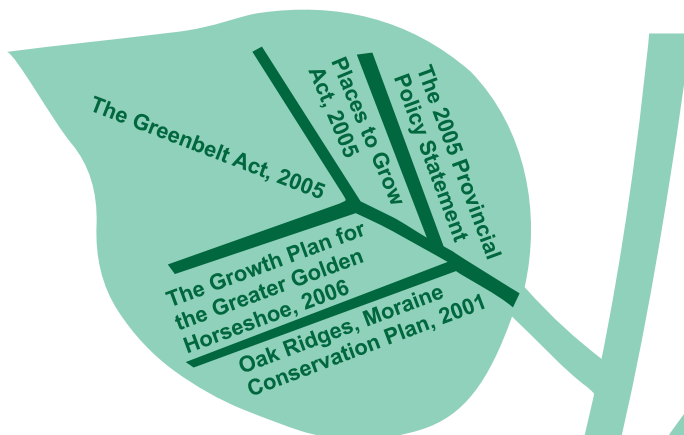
York Region's Growth Management Initiative called *Planning for Tomorrow* will serve as the Region's sustainability "blueprint", guiding our infrastructure needs for roads, transit, water and wastewater to position us to address future needs and challenges. Sustainable development is vital for the Region to manage our growth, ensuring that all of our initiatives aim to simultaneously create environmental, social and economic benefits and value. This is referred to as York Region's "Triple Bottom Line" approach.

In co-ordination with the Growth Management Initiative and to address the Province's growth forecasts, York Region is updating its infrastructure master plans. This newsletter is the first in a series designed to inform you about York Region's Transportation Master Plan and Water & Wastewater Master Plan updates, provide you with ideas and options as the studies progress and advise you on how to get involved.



"TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE" APPROACH

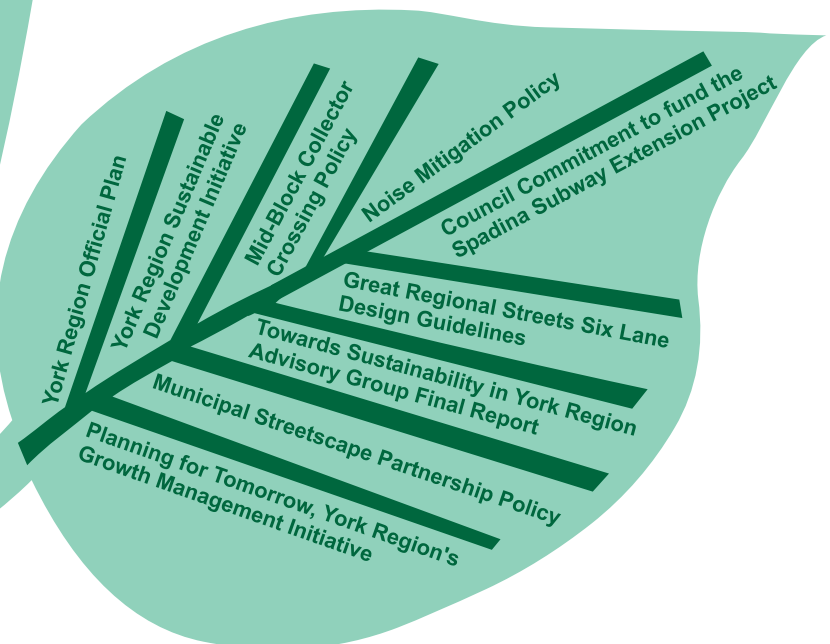
YORK REGION'S SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT



The Transportation Master Plan update will complement several ongoing Regional and Provincial development initiatives.

Sustainable Development:
"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own."

- Brundtland Commission, 1987



Transportation Master Plan Update



A TRANSPORTATION “BLUEPRINT” FOR THE REGION

York Region is updating the 2002 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) to enhance our ability to provide long-term support to our growing communities through to the year 2036. The TMP update is needed to address new Provincial growth projections and ensure that existing transportation decisions and policies are consistent with recent development trends and legislative changes. It is also being undertaken to further address the transportation opportunities and challenges first identified in the 2002 TMP. Conducting ongoing reviews and updates will ensure that the TMP continues to work towards the goals of a sustainable natural environment, economic vitality and healthy communities while providing affordable and efficient transportation systems. With a sustainability focus, the TMP update will prioritize the Region’s short, medium, and long-term transportation goals through to 2036.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

York Region’s 2002 Transportation Master Plan was awarded the Transportation Association of Canada’s Sustainable Urban Transportation Award in recognition of its integration of land use and transportation growth management policies. The Region is proud of this accomplishment and looks forward to building on our success during this new undertaking.

In 2002, there was a general acknowledgement that the existing Regional road network would start to degrade without appropriate policies and plans to significantly improve transit services and sustainable land uses.

In response to this, York Region carried out several sustainable transportation initiatives, including:

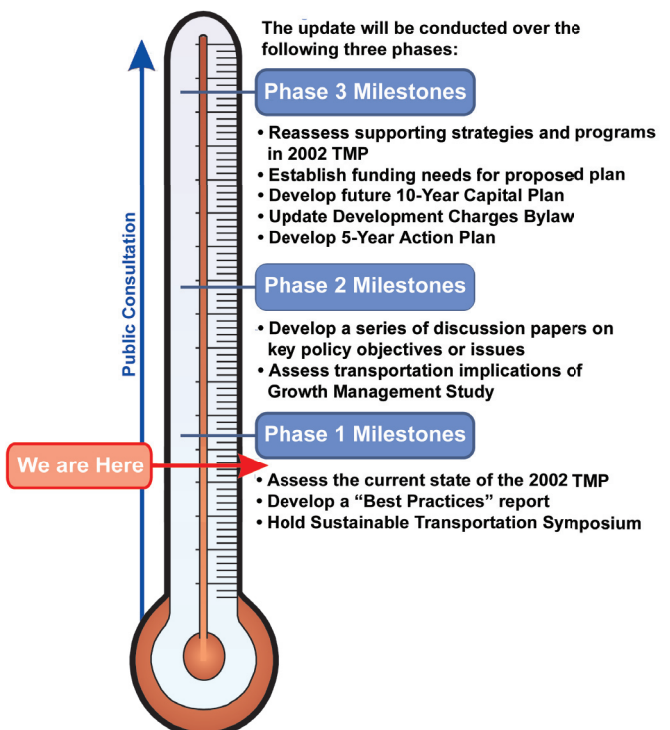
- York Region Transit (YRT) service expansion
- Viva - the first phase of a Bus Rapid Transit system
- Environmental Assessment for a subway extension and rapid transit service
- Five-Year YRT Service Plan
- 250 lane-kilometres of new arterial roads
- 109 new signalized intersections
- Support for a Regional Official Plan Amendment
- Transit oriented development guidelines
- Cycling & Pedestrian Master Plan
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives

STUDY PROCESS

The TMP update will adhere to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Master Planning process. The study will be conducted in two parallel streams:

- Technical Analyses
- Public Consultation

These will be coordinated and integrated with the Growth Management Initiative, and follow the three phases outlined below:



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY?

Both public and stakeholder involvement will be critical to the success of our Master Plan updates. Our Public Outreach Program will actively involve residents, key stakeholders and the local municipalities of the Region. The elements of the consultation program include:

- A regularly updated project Web page
- A Technical Advisory Committee comprised of key agency, municipal and regional staff
- A series of focus groups
- Project newsletters updating the study's progress at key milestones
- Public Consultation Centres designed to engage the public in every York Region municipality

FIND US ON THE INTERNET

To keep you informed, we've set up a study Web site at www.york.ca under Services → Regional Planning → Infrastructure.



Throughout the duration of the study, the Web site will be used to distribute key study material and information.

Please bookmark our site and visit it often. Our goal is to use the Internet to provide information to the public and also to receive invaluable public input through interactive applications. Should you have comments or suggestions on how the Web site can be improved, please let us know.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you would like to be added to our study mailing list for future newsletters and other project materials, please contact one of the project managers below:

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WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

The Transportation, Water & Wastewater Master Plan Updates will follow the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process prescribed by the Ministry of Environment. Master Plans are long range plans that integrate infrastructure requirements for existing and future land use with environmental assessment principles. These plans examine the entire infrastructure system as a group of related projects, or an overall system, in order to strategically plan out the future needs of the Region.

This overall planning approach recognizes that there are real benefits to the process when long-range comprehensive studies are undertaken for projects that have some common elements. Master planning provides the Region with a complete framework where the need and justification for specific projects can be established and the environmental assessment process initiated.



UPDATE Water and Wastewater Master Plan



Toward a Sustainable Region | York Region's Water and Wastewater Master Plan | November '06

Toward a Sustainable Region

Clean and safe water is essential for public health, community safety, and environmental sustainability.

Being updated as part of the York Region's Growth Management Initiative *Planning for Tomorrow* several infrastructure Master Plans are scheduled for updating in 2006. The 1st round of Public Consultation Meetings was held on November 21, 22, and 23 2006 in the municipalities of Aurora, Georgina, and Vaughan. The study team anticipates the 2nd round of public meetings will be scheduled for Spring 2007 in the municipalities of East Gwillimbury, King, and Markham. To complete the Master Plan Update Study, a 3rd round of Public Consultation Meetings will be held in Fall 2007 in the municipalities of Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Richmond Hill. The time and locations of these meetings will be announced at least one month prior to the events. As well, the Water Efficiency Master Plan will be wrapping up with public consultations in November 2006.

Water and Wastewater Master Plan - Just the Facts!

- The plans are updated about every five years.
- The plans are conducted as 'studies' and look at various servicing options to meet growth demands.
- Master Plans will guide infrastructure needs for the next 40 to 50 years.
- Master Plan studies follow the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process developed by Municipal Engineering Association and approved by the Ministry of Environment.
- Estimated completion date for York Region's Master Plans is 2008

Factors Influencing York Region's Plan

New provincial legislation relating to the natural environment and the changing urban structure of York Region will play a lead role in this Master Plan update. Legislation impacting York Region's Plan include: The Places To Grow Act, 2006. The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2002. The Greenbelt Protection Act, 2004. Clean Water Act.

York's Growth Management initiative will influence the water and wastewater plans by challenging engineers to design a water system that is sustainable from an ecological health point-of-view and can operate efficiently from a cost-recovery perspective.





Realizing Sustainable Infrastructure

The Master Plan will use a sustainability approach within the study that critically examines a “Triple Bottom Line” as indicators of success. Like an accountant’s balance sheet, a triple bottom line looks at three types of goals for the Region: social well being, economic strength and environmental health. Social, economic, and environmental indicators will combine to score the success of proposed recommendations for servicing.

The Master Plans will also work toward building the sustainability of existing Regional successes, such as the *Water for Tomorrow* Water Efficiency Program, the Greening Strategy, Oak Ridges Moraine initiatives and the Regional Official Plan that embodies the Smart Growth Principles.

Members of the Public are WELCOME to get involved in the Plan!

A successful Master Plan is only as good as those who are making it happen! That’s why it is critical to hear your views about how we should design and operate York Region’s water and wastewater systems. We want your input:

- How do we provide infrastructure and servicing in a way that protects ecological corridors?
- Which Master Plan options will best protect York Region’s valuable aquifers?
- What should the Region do to address the potential impacts of global warming?
- What principles and criteria will make the plan more sustainable?

York Region’s Public Consultation Plan Will:

- Provide information to assist the public to make informed decisions
- Listen to and evaluate public input
- Document public comments
- Let participants know how their views will be addressed



www.york.waterwastewatermasterplan.ca/

