

Consolidated Recommendations of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, adopted by Council at its meeting on September 23, 2004.

**York Region's Recommendations to the Province
On
Places to Grow Discussion Paper**

- 1. The Province incorporate the revised and updated population forecasts into the Greater Golden Horseshoe's growth plan.**
- 2. The Province fully support the Region's efforts and provide the necessary capital investment in infrastructure to implement the following strategies and initiatives:**
 - **York Region Centres and Corridors Strategy – *Making it Happen!***
 - **Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment 43 – Centres and Corridors.**
 - **Transportation Master Plan.**
 - **York Region's three phased rapid transit plan.**
 - **Draft Economic Strategy.**
 - **Review of financial tools to facilitate development in Centres and Corridors.**
- 3. Emerging Centres and Corridors in York Region receive funding and infrastructure investment at a level necessary to achieve the Province's vision for growth and intensification, as well as the Region's planned growth and infrastructure plans.**
- 4. The Province develop an overall investment strategy for areas outside the urban centres, to ensure that continuing growth in these areas reflects and supports the Province's growth plan.**
- 5. The Province, in consultation with its municipal partners, develop a comprehensive communications strategy to address residents' issues regarding the perceived impacts of intensification on communities with an emphasis on the overall "public interest" over localized neighbourhood issues.**
- 6. The Province to adopt a vision for employment areas that encourages diversity of employment types, and development that is more compact and**

provides for higher employment densities. Where possible, office type development should be directed to centres and corridors.

- 7. That the Provincial and Federal Governments fund Phase 2 of York Region's 10 year Business Plan of the Rapid Transit program to support emerging urban centres and corridors.**
- 8. The Province confirm that extensions of Highway 427 to the CP Intermodal Terminal (Highway 50 and Rutherford Road) and the extension of Highway 404 to Glenwoods Avenue, in the Town of Georgina will go forward as soon as possible to serve existing planned residential and employment lands.**
- 9. The Province immediately consider the routing of the provincial east-west link in the 400 series highway system across the GTA and specifically in York Region.**
- 10. The Province support region-wide and comprehensive TDM strategies in *Places to Grow* as a critical element to reduce congestion on the Greater Golden Horseshoe highway network.**
- 11. The Province support the Smart Commute Initiative as a complementary project to the Provincial strategies on moving people and participate in the Initiative by providing sustainable funding to enhance the Initiative.**
- 12. The Province begin a program to identify and construct commuter parking lots across the GTA and Hamilton area in support of the Provincial strategies on moving people.**
- 13. Both the Province and the Federal governments provide stable, long-term and sufficient funding to develop affordable housing in both the private and public sectors.**
- 14. Both the Province and the Federal government return to the more favourable tax environments that permit and encourage the construction of rental housing.**
- 15. *The Planning Act* be changed to support and encourage the development of affordable housing and permit second suites as-of-right.**
- 16. The Province incorporate the GTA Agricultural Action Plan into its long term growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.**
- 17. The Provincial Growth Plan and the Greenbelt Plan should proceed concurrently.**

- 18. Include clear and measurable criteria to justify urban boundary expansions; including the achievement of intensification targets and population to employment ratios set by the Provincial growth plan.**
- 19. The Province adopt an urban-focused policy approach within all ministries and prioritize investments in infrastructure, government institutions, facilities and services in the 26 urban centres identified in *Places to Grow*.**
- 20. In addition to requiring municipalities to measure themselves against the plan, the Province must also measure its own actions and implementation against the plan in order to ensure it achieves its vision.**
- 21. The Province enact legislation requiring Greater Golden Horseshoe municipalities to adopt the principles of *Places to Grow* in the form of official plan amendments that:**
 - Designates the “Priority” and/or “Emerging” urban centres within their boundaries.
 - Identifies Key Development Areas (as contemplated within ROPA 43) as places for intensification, in keeping with the Provincial policies for Centre-focused development and intensification.
 - Establishes long-term density targets for Priority and Emerging Urban Centres, Key Development Areas and connecting corridors.
 - Identifies and protect short, medium and long-term transit corridors.
 - Places infrastructure investment priority in existing urban areas, with emphasis on Centres and Key Development Areas.
 - Establishes urban design criteria to achieve an urban landscape that is attractive, creates a sense-of-place, supports transit, and provides safe and pleasant places for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 22. Consistent with the process followed for the *Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act*, the Province’s implementation plan should specify that:**
 - Greater Golden Horseshoe municipalities are required to adopt official plan amendments and appropriate zoning by-laws within a specific and reasonable timeline.
 - Key Development Areas within Priority and Emerging urban centres and connecting corridors be pre-designated and pre-zoned for compact, mixed-use, transit-supportive development. With this framework in place, future development in these sites would proceed through either site plan approval and/or development permitting.
 - The Minister is the Approval Authority; and that decisions are final, and are not subject to appeal.
- 23. The Province provide municipalities with the necessary financial tools to achieve the Province’s Growth Plan, including more detail on timing, deliverables, commitments to funding and financial tools, roles and responsibilities.**

- 24. The Province amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* and other necessary approvals to streamline their processes and applications (see prior York Region Council resolution in Attachment 3) in Priority and Emerging Growth areas, and consider eliminating it altogether for approved priority projects for higher order transit infrastructure in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.**
- 25. The Province develop a more sustainable waste management policy as part of its growth management plan.**
- 26. The Province recognize the importance of human services planning in its ultimate growth plan and that new models of funding based on population and principles of adequate, equitable, affordable, stable, flexible and accountable funding be introduced to encourage the location of major public services in centres and along corridors for both Emerging and Priority Urban Centres.**
- 27. The liveability index include measures relating to the need for human services (i.e. utilization of health care, hospitals, schools, child development measures, poverty ratios, employment rates, etc.)**
- 28. The Province recognize the role of urban design as an essential infrastructure component within its ultimate growth plan and give municipal partners the tools to permit the achievement of appropriate urban design standards.**
- 29. Future Provincial growth plans should address the historic aspects of our communities and treat them as important resources for future generations; on parity with significant forest and wetland areas.**
- 30. The Province review the Region's list of technical mapping errors and provide clarification, and further, that the Province be requested to consult with Regional staff regarding the mapping information before *Places to Grow* is finalized as a provincial growth Plan.**
- 31. The Minister of Public Infrastructure and Renewal be requested to prepare growth plans for other urban areas outside the Greater Golden Horseshoe which would also encourage appropriate growth in those areas.**
- 32. The Province be requested to provide more clarification as to the definition and feasibility of reaching the 40 per cent intensification target.**