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GROWTH PLAN FOR THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE 2012 CONSOLIDATION SIMCOE COUNTY – ADDENDUM REPORT

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated March 30, 2012, from the Executive Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Chair write to the Minister of Infrastructure with respect to the issues raised by York Region in January 2011 and not addressed in the 2012 Consolidation of the Growth Plan.
2. The Regional Clerk send a copy of this report to the Clerks of local municipalities in York Region, the adjacent Regions of Peel, Halton, Durham and the City of Toronto.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides specific inclusions and exclusions in Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (“Growth Plan”) based on the Region’s previous comments. The report also recommends steps the Region should take to ensure the Province is aware of these exclusions and means to have the issues included in the Growth Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Simcoe County has been the subject of Provincial study for some years, culminating in the release of the 2012 Office Consolidation of the Growth Plan in January, 2012

On January 19, 2012, the Province of Ontario released the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, January 2012 Consolidation. The consolidation includes a new Chapter 6 dealing with the Simcoe Sub-area.

Planning and Economic Development Committee requested more details on how the Regional Council comments on Growth Plan Amendment 1 had been accommodated

On March 22, 2012, Council endorsed Clause 4 of Report 3 of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee and directed staff to report back to the April 4, 2012 Planning and Economic Development Committee “regarding York Region’s areas of concern that are missing and steps to have them included within the Growth Plan.”

The report back was to review in more detail the amended Growth Plan exclusions and recommendations for advising the Province of the outstanding issues.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Simcoe County Population and Employment Growth within the Top 10 of Greater Golden Horseshoe Municipalities

The Growth Plan provides for 2031 population and employment forecasts of 667,000 people and 254,000 jobs in Simcoe County. This results in growth of 275,000 persons and 100,000 jobs between 2001 and 2031, ranking Simcoe County (including Barrie and Orillia) at the 7th and 8th highest for 2031 population and employment among the top 10 growth municipalities in Greater Golden Horseshoe. York Region by contrast, with growth of 740,000 persons and 390,000 jobs, ranks third among the top 10 for both population and employment in 2031. These statistics are summarized in *Attachment 1* to this report.

Simcoe County in 2031 will have a population that is larger than Hamilton, Niagara and Wellington County.

Regional Council provided comments to the Province on Proposed Growth Plan Amendment 1 in January 2011

The key points raised in the Regional review of Proposed Growth Plan Amendment 1 in 2011 were:

- The need for the Province to implement the *Growth Plan* equitably across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- The Province assess the impact on the GTA Regions including York Region, resulting from the two employment area designations in Bradford and Innisfil.
- The Province commit to the transportation capacity improvements to accommodate the forecasted growth in the Simcoe area to address issues of increasing traffic congestion including the Highway 404 and 427 expansions and the Bradford Bypass expansions.

- The Province clarify how the Proposed *Growth Plan* Amendment for the Simcoe Sub-area will conform to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, as well as how servicing this growth will impact the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed in York Region.
- The Province require that the construction and/or operation of all existing water and proposed water and wastewater treatment facilities in the Lake Simcoe watershed be held to the same high standard of environmental responsibility and performance as those in York Region.

Only two key issues raised by York Region in 2011 have been acted on – Compliance with the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009* and initiation of the Simcoe County Transportation Plan

Of the five key issues identified by York Region in 2011, only two have been acted upon as part of the Growth Plan Amendment. Chapter 6 now requires that official plans and official plan amendments be in accordance with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009. In addition, the Transportation Plan for Simcoe County is underway and while this alone does not commit the Province to the early construction of the Bradford Bypass, it may be considered as a necessary first step to identify future transportation improvements in the south Simcoe area and northern York Region area. The issues raised by Regional Council, the analysis of Growth Plan provisions and recommendations for advising the Province of outstanding concerns is contained in Table 1 following.

Table 1
Status of York Region comments on Growth Plan Amendment 1
as addressed in the 2012 Consolidation of the Growth Plan

York Region Comment January 2011	Acted Upon? Yes /No	Growth Plan 2012 Consolidation	Proposed Action
The need for the Province to implement the <i>Growth Plan</i> equitably across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.	No	Simcoe County has flexibility for forecasts and urban area designations that is not currently afforded York Region or other Region's in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.	• That a letter be prepared and sent to the Minister of Infrastructure raising Regional Council's issues. • That this issue be raised as part of the review of the Growth Plan in 2015
The Province assess the impact on the GTA Regions including York Region, resulting from the two employment	No	The Province has not undertaken the comprehensive review of longer term employment lands in the GGH which is required by the	• That a letter be prepared and sent to the Minister of Infrastructure expressing concern over this issue.

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York Region Comment January 2011	Acted Upon? Yes /No	Growth Plan 2012 Consolidation	Proposed Action
area designations in Bradford and Innisfil.		Growth Plan.	That the need for longer term protection of employment lands be raised as part of the review of the Growth Plan in 2015
The Province commit to the transportation capacity improvements to accommodate the forecasted growth in the Simcoe area to address issues of increasing traffic congestion including the Highway 404 and 427 expansions and construction of the Bradford Bypass expansions.	Yes	The Simcoe County Transportation Plan, is to be completed in two phases: - Phase 1: Origin/Destination survey of existing traffic patterns in Simcoe County is completed - Phase 2: Development of a Multi-Modal Transportation System Review (assignment initiated January 2012).	- Regional staff to continue to monitor this study and report back to Council as necessary. - That a letter be prepared and sent to the Minister of Infrastructure expressing York Region's concerns over transportation infrastructure, specifically the need to advance the Bradford Bypass.
The Province clarify how the Proposed <i>Growth Plan</i> Amendment for the Simcoe Sub-area will conform to the <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Plan</i> , as well as how servicing this growth will impact the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed in York Region.	Yes	Policy added to require that OP's and OPA's be in accordance with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009.	No additional action required at this time
The Province require that the construction and/or operation of all existing water and proposed water and wastewater treatment facilities in the Lake Simcoe watershed be	No	There is no reference in the Simcoe Subarea Growth Plan Amendment this issue	That a letter be prepared and sent to the Minister of Infrastructure expressing York Region's concerns over water and wastewater treatment facilities in the Lake

York Region Comment January 2011	Acted Upon? Yes /No	Growth Plan 2012 Consolidation	Proposed Action
held to the same high standard of environmental responsibility and performance as those in York Region.			Simcoe watershed. Environmental Services Department staff to monitor the development of new plants to ensure that equitable standards are applied.

Based on a review of outstanding issues it is recommended that the Regional Chair write to the Minister of Infrastructure expressing concerns regarding the following:

- Equitable implementation of the Growth Plan across the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- The impact on the GTA Regions including York Region, resulting from the two employment area designations in Bradford and Innisfil
- The need to provide equitable standards for wastewater treatment around the Lake
- Emphasize the need for the 404 and 427 highway expansions and the construction of the Bradford Bypass

Identification of natural heritage systems, features and areas for protection in strategic employment areas is not required

Additional information was also requested by Committee in regard to the Simcoe County Growth Plan provision that provides for, but does not require a municipality to identify natural heritage systems, features and areas for protection in *strategic employment areas*.

Regional staff has discussed this matter with Simcoe County Planning Department staff who have advised that the provision was added by the Province but at a staff level there is an intention to have area municipalities identify the systems within these areas. Further discussions between the Ministry, the County and area municipalities is required before the policies can be implemented.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

The Region's report on the Simcoe County Growth Plan amendment supports a number of Vision 2026 goal areas, including Managed and Balanced Growth, and Infrastructure for a Growing Region, Enhanced Environment, and Responding to the Needs of our Residents.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Region associated with the review and analysis of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, January 2012 Consolidation.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are direct impacts on the northern municipalities from the land use and transportation issues associated with the Simcoe sub-area Growth Plan Amendment. Copies of this report will be circulated to the Clerks of the local municipalities, neighbouring Regions and the City of Toronto as recommended in this report.

7. CONCLUSION

The approved Growth Plan Amendment 1 was released by the Province as part of the 2012 Growth Plan Consolidation in January 2012. At its meeting of March 22, 2012, Council requested further information on which previous Regional comments the Province had not dealt with and the means available to bring these issues to the Province's attention.

It is recommended that the Regional Chairman and Chief Executive Officer write to the Minister of Infrastructure raising the issues identified in this report and that Regional staff continue to monitor other issues and report back to Council as necessary

For more information on this report, please contact John B. Waller, Director Long Range Planning Branch at Ext 1525.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)

Places to Grow - Schedule 3 Distribution of Population and Employment (Top Ten)¹

	Population				change 2001 to 2031	Rank
	2001	2011	2021	2031		
York Region	760	1,060	1,300	1,500	740	1
Peel Region	1,030	1,320	1,490	1,640	610	2
City of Toronto	2,590	2,760	2,930	3,080	490	3
Durham Region	530	660	810	960	430	4
Halton Region	390	520	650	780	390	5
Simcoe County (including Barrie and Orillia)	392	484	583	667	275	6
Waterloo Region	456	526	623	729	273	7
City of Hamilton	510	540	590	660	150	8
Wellington County (including Guelph)	195	223	269	321	126	9
Niagara Region	427	442	474	511	84	10
Total - Growth Plan (Top 10)	7,280	8,535	9,719	10,848	3,568	72%
balance of Growth Plan	510	555	611	652	142	3%
balance of Ontario ²	4,107	4,280	4,737	5,371	1,264	25%

	Employment				change 2001 to 2031	Rank
	2001	2011	2021	2031		
York Region	390	590	700	780	390	1
Peel Region	530	730	820	870	340	2
City of Toronto	1440	1540	1600	1640	200	3
Halton Region	190	280	340	390	200	4
Durham Region	190	260	310	350	160	5
Waterloo Region	236	282	324	366	130	6
Simcoe County (including Barrie and Orillia)	154	196	230	254	100	7
City of Hamilton	210	230	270	300	90	8
Wellington County (including Guelph)	99	117	137	158	59	9
Niagara Region	186	201	209	218	32	10

¹Source: Places to Grow, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, Office Consolidation January 2012²Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance, Population Projection Updates, Spring 2011.