



Planning for Employment

Presentation to Planning and
Economic Development
Committee

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In 2006, the Province released its Growth Plan for the GGH



- ❑ Forecast of 800,000 jobs in 2031
 - ❑ Increase of 340,000 jobs (2006 – 2031)

- ❑ Growth Plan Policy 5.3.4
 - ❑ Assessment of employment areas within the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Region has completed considerable work on its employment areas



- ❑ Vacant Employment Land Inventory



- ❑ Region-Wide Business and Employment Survey



- ❑ Annual Employment and Industry Report



- ❑ 2031 Employment Forecast



- ❑ Employment Land Area Analysis

Survey is a partnership with local municipalities to help monitor employment trends



- ❑ The York Region Employment Survey is a partnership between the Region and its 9 local municipalities
- ❑ Provides a snapshot of industry and employment trends in York Region
- ❑ More accurate, detailed and comprehensive than the Census

Employment trends are positive



- ❑ 485,000 jobs in 29,000 firms - 3.5% annual increase over the past 9 years.
- ❑ Strong employment growth was evident in a number of sectors
- ❑ Employment is predominately comprised of full time workers (76% in 2007).
- ❑ Since 1998, the number of large and very large firms increased 31% and 71% to 644 and 58 firms

Several trends are emerging



- ❑ Service-oriented jobs account for 73% of total employment



- ❑ Manufacturing remains the primary employer growing 15% since 1998



- ❑ Between 2006 and 2007, manufacturing employment in York Region declined 4% or 3,600 jobs.



Staff agree with Discussion Paper with a few key suggestions

- ❑ GGH-Wide Employment Survey
 - ❑ Better information on employment trends and needs
 - ❑ York Region Employment Survey as possible model
- ❑ Institutional Uses
 - ❑ Focus and anchor for Regional Centres



Staff agree with Discussion Paper with a few key suggestions

❑ Major Office

- ❑ Maximize transit use and improve live/work relationship in C&C
- ❑ Additional fiscal, land use and other tools required

❑ Planning for Major Retail

- ❑ Better planning for shopping centres and “big box” retail
- ❑ Include in land budget calculations



Staff agree with Discussion Paper with a few key suggestions

❑ Infrastructure Planning

- ❑ 40-50 year Master Plans for ultimate urban form of the Region

❑ Transportation Networks

- ❑ Provincial investment in transit and 400 series highways required
- ❑ Identify and protect major new highway routes



Staff agree with Discussion Paper with a few key suggestions

❑ Need for Strategic Planning

❑ 3 unique large scale employment areas:

- ❑ Markham/Richmond Hill
- ❑ Central and West Vaughan
- ❑ Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, and Keswick

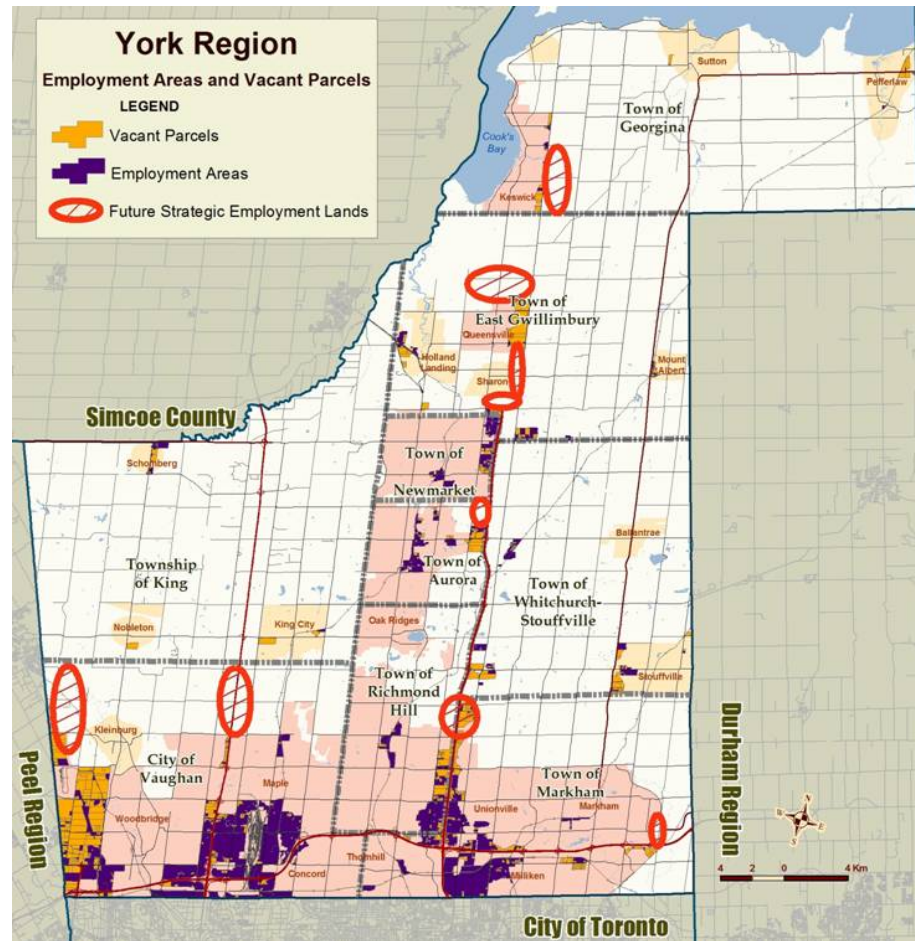
❑ Possible need for additional employment land adjacent to Highway 404 in what is now the Greenbelt

❑ Long Range Strategy for Employment

- ❑ Develop process for identification and protection of lands beyond 20-year horizon



Future Strategic Employment Lands



Emerging employment policy directions for York Region



- ❑ Plan for the long term
- ❑ Role of different economic areas
- ❑ Adequate vacant land supply
- ❑ Early planning and construction of 400 series highways
- ❑ Plan for major retail
- ❑ Major office uses in Region Centres
- ❑ High quality design

Report Recommendations



- ❑ Forward report to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal as the Region's comments on the Provincial Discussion Paper
- ❑ Circulate report to local municipalities
- ❑ Regional Council endorse the Employment Policy Directions as a basis for public consultation and policy foundation