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VISION 2051 STATUS UPDATE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

1. Receipt of the presentation by Karen Antonio-Hadcock, Senior Planner, Long Range and Strategic Planning; and
2. Adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated August 24, 2011 from the Acting Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the Local Municipalities.

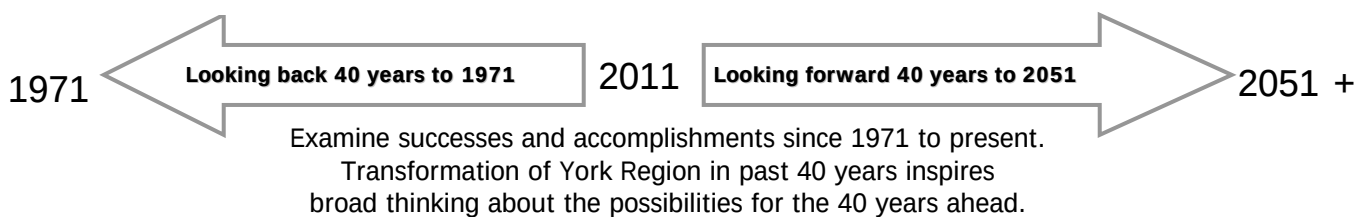
2. PURPOSE

This report provides an update on the progress of the development of *Vision 2051*, and summarizes the feedback to date.

3. BACKGROUND

Vision 2026 is being updated to *Vision 2051*, taking a 40 year outlook on York Region's future. The Regional Municipality of York was created by the Province of Ontario on January 1, 1971, making 2011 the 40th anniversary of York Region. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, *Vision 2051* will build on the 40 years of the past and look 40 years ahead. Like its predecessors, *Vision 2021* and *Vision 2026*, this too will be a living document, continually being monitored and updated to respond to emerging trends and shifting priorities.

Figure 1: 40 Year Plan



In June 2010, Regional Council endorsed a work plan and consultation program for the update to *Vision 2026*. In January 2011 (clause 8, report 1 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee), Regional Council endorsed the process being undertaken to update *Vision 2026* to *Vision 2051*, and on April 28, 2011, Regional Council members participated in a Council Education session dedicated to the *Vision 2051* strategy.

***Vision 2026* is York Region's primary strategic document**

In 2002, *Vision 2026: Creating Strong, Caring, Safe Communities* was prepared to update *Vision 2021*. *Vision 2026*, which was created in partnership with the community and Regional Council, has been the overall blueprint for York Region. It provides guidance to Regional Council in making decisions and moving ahead to achieve the kind of community our citizens told us they wanted York Region to be in the year 2026. It outlines key areas of focus for the Region and its partners in the future, sets the context and provides the framework for more detailed corporate and business plans that have been undertaken by the Region.

Vision 2026 informs all Council decisions, the corporate Strategic Plan, departmental plans and budgets and individual performance plans. *Vision 2026* is a key component of York Region's strategic planning and business planning processes. *Vision 2026* establishes the overall *Vision* and direction for Regional Council and the Region's employees. *Vision* provides the broad framework from which more detailed plans can be developed for the Region, and for individual departments.

Since the approval of *Vision 2026* in 2002, *Towards the Vision*, annual progress reports have been released cataloguing the successes achieved in implementing *Vision 2026* and where progress needs to be made in the continuing years. Continually monitoring the progress, successes and action areas maintains commitment to *Vision*, and ensures that there are measurable indicators of progress.

The Region's *Sustainability Strategy*, another key Regional document, was adopted in 2007 to provide a long-term framework for making smarter decisions about all municipal responsibilities that better integrate the economy, community and environment. This "triple bottom line" approach also emphasizes the values of engagement, continuous monitoring and improvement.

As Figure 2 illustrates *Vision 2026*, and the *Sustainability Strategy*, along with the Regional Official Plan, represents the Corporation's 'foundation documents' that inform all Council decisions. The Region's Strategic Plan, departmental plans and budgets, and individual performance plans operationalize these strategic documents on a more detailed and specific basis.

The update of *Vision 2026* will be influenced by the theme and action areas within the *Sustainability Strategy*.



Vision Update is linked to the 4-year Strategic Plan

The *Vision 2026* update process will be closely co-ordinated with the Strategic Plan process. The Strategic Plan will be closely co-ordinated with *Vision 2026* and the *Vision 2051* process and provide priorities for the next four years. The Strategic Plan will be updated every 4 years to coincide with the terms of Regional Council. An update report on the Strategic Plan was tabled in May at the Finance and Administration Committee. *Vision 2051* will define the desired future state for York Region, the Strategic Plan will define the critical path and measures to take York Region in the direction of *Vision* from 2011 to 2015, based on the 4 year Council term increments.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Consulting on Vision 2051

In developing *Vision 2051*, Regional staff is undertaking an internal and external consultation process. As approved in Clause 1 of Report 5 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee in June 2009, the external consultation on *Vision 2051* are primarily be web based, using social media. Figure 3 below describes the approach to external consultation for *Vision 2051*.

The *Vision* update process uses and builds on the feedback from the Infrastructure Master Plan Updates, Growth Management Strategy and Regional Official Plan process which included a number of public engagement and consultation sessions.

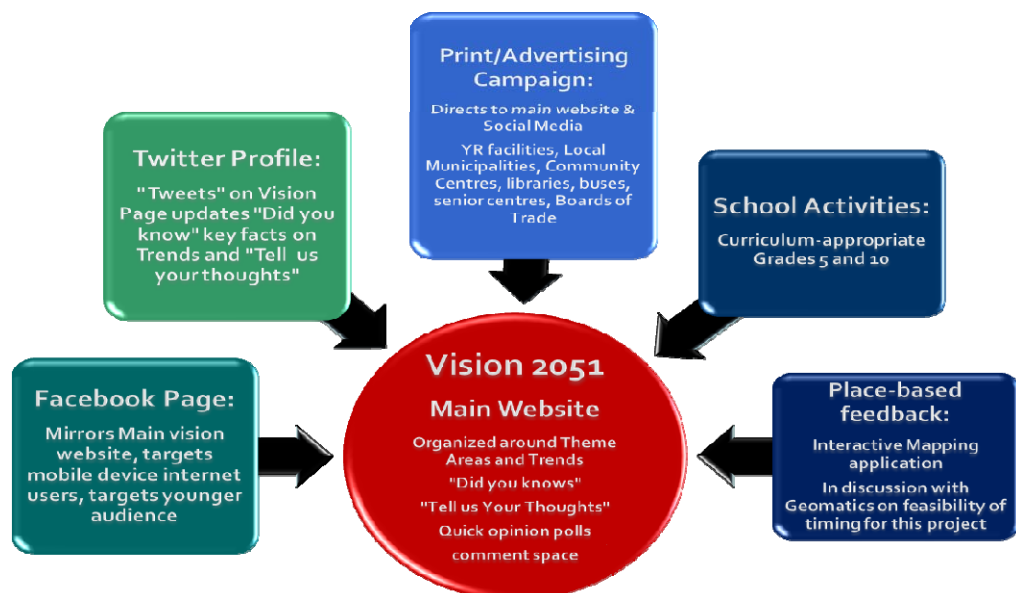
Three media releases have been issued for *Vision*, and *Vision 2051* was the front page story of the Winter 2011 edition of York Works, a newsletter that is distributed to every household in York Region.

The *Vision 2051* webpages on the Region's main website and social media pages were launched in the summer and will remain active throughout the development and implementation of *Vision* and updated continuously. A mailing list of over 6000 names has been generated for *Vision 2051* from the consolidated consultation lists from the Region's Growth Management Strategy, the Regional Official Plan, Infrastructure Master Plans, Community and Health Services initiatives, Environmental Services initiatives, Transportation Services initiatives, local municipal partners, York Link organizations, and all of the businesses in York Region listed in the Business Directory. The mailing lists were used to generate interest in the webpages and social media sites. There are also cross-postings on the Region's main social media sites to generate interest, followers, and input. The intent of the *Vision 2051* engagement process is to engage our residents and stakeholders in a new and interactive way. A print and advertising campaign supports the *Vision 2051* website and social media sites.

All of the feedback used from the various feedback avenues informs the development of *Vision 2051*.

The York Region Media Group has been engaged to partner on generating discussion on the key issues and trends impacting the Region over the next 40 years, and the *Vision 2051* process. Articles with respect to the *Vision 2051* program, and issues related to public safety, social services, affordable housing, economic vitality, growth, education, health care, public health, recreation and leisure, transportation and infrastructure are scheduled to be published throughout this fall.

Figure 3: Vision 2051 Consultation Approach



Getting to a 2051 Vision: Backcasting

A backcasting approach is being used to assist in the development of *Vision 2051*. Backcasting is a method in which the future desired conditions are envisioned and steps are then defined to get there.

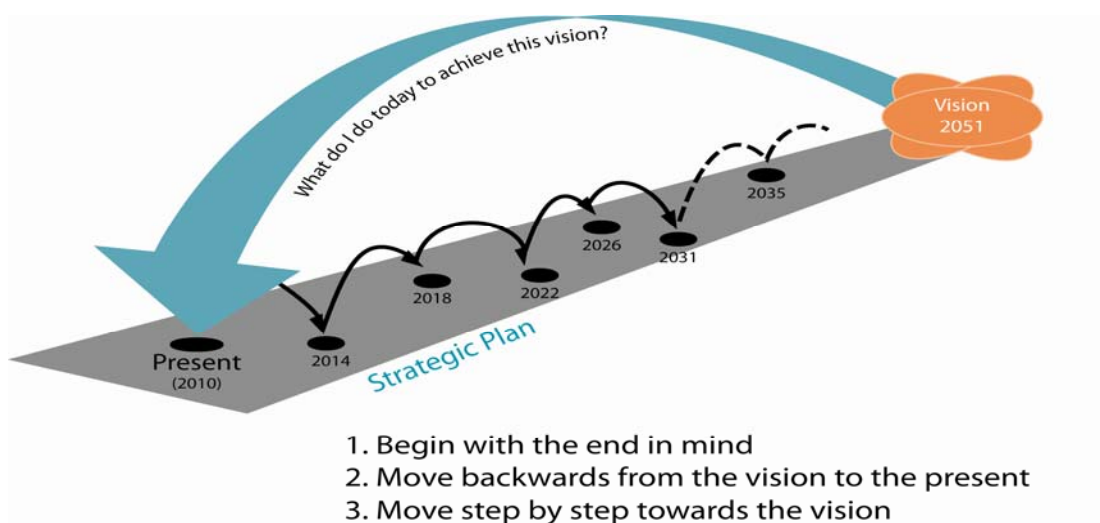
In the process of backcasting, the progress that has been made in the Region from 1971 to 2011 has been examined, as has the desired end state for York Region in 2051 and the key steps that are necessary in taking the Region there.

The backcasting approach includes the following elements, as illustrated in *Figure 4* below:

1. Begin with the end in mind.
2. Move backwards from the vision to the present.
3. Move step by step toward the vision.

In backcasting, key trends and issues that impact York Region the most have been examined; and the areas of current business including water, transportation, transit, human services, housing, human health, and emerging areas of interest such as renewable and local energy. These issues or areas are not only important in isolation, but when examined in their areas of overlap, or where they are connected, there is a more integrated or holistic vision of what York Region could be in 2051 or beyond.

Figure 4: Vision 2051 Backcasting Approach



Five Internal Backcasting Session Were Held

Five internal backcasting sessions have been held with Regional staff and Regional Council. The staff sessions including staff from senior management, management, and the Region's newest and youngest staff members; totalling 175 staff members. These half day sessions focussed on activities to envision a desired state for 2051 in York Region and to backcast on the actions and steps that the Region needs to take now to get us there.

The sessions focussed on backcasting on key trends and issues that the Region will face in the next 40 years and beyond. These trends and issues have been outlined in Clause 6 of Report 5 of the May 2011 Planning and Economic Development Committee, and include climate change, human health epidemics, the challenge of creating quality jobs, housing affordability, the rise in low income populations, managing water and waste, increasing congestion, and the aging and diversifying regional demographics.

These and related issues were used in the backcasting session to generate ideas about a desired end state for the Region in 2051; to determine a successful outcome or a successful response to these issues, and actions to take to the Region there.

Participants were taken through an exercise to examine a desired end condition for York Region within various realms including:

- Built Form & Infrastructure
- Vital Economy
- Healthy Communities
- Sustainable Natural Environment
- Engaged Citizens, Responsive Region

In addition to the five half day backcasting sessions, several smaller sessions were held with internal department groups. These sessions including opportunities for staff throughout the corporation to learn about the *Vision 2051* process and provide input on the issues and challenges from their perspectives, their ideas for 2051 in York Region, and some of the actions that the Region can take to achieve the desired visions. A Know York Session (Lunch and Learn) was also held with an open invitation to all staff, and had approximately 25 participants.

Discussions with Regional Partners

Several sessions have been held with Regional partners including:

- The Human Services Planning Board of York Region
- York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Accessibility Partners of York Region (comprised of 47 attendees representing accessibility issues from various sectors)
- Markham Economic Development
- York Region Local Municipal Economic Development Officers

- York Info Partnership (35 Local Municipal and TRCA staff)
- York Region's Agricultural Advisory Liaison Group (comprised of 15 members representing the Agricultural industry in York Region)
- Aging Workforce Conference (participants included 275 employers, human resource professionals and economic development stakeholders across the region) which included an Expert Café on *Vision 2051*.

Summary of Feedback to Date

The feedback that has been received from the various sessions described above, and future consultation will be used to develop the vision for York Region in 2051, and the goals and action areas for *Vision 2051*. Table 1 below is a brief summary of the feedback that has been received to date, and has been organized in 5 realms; Community, Environment, Growth and Infrastructure, Economy, and Engaged Citizens/Responsive Region. A more complete listing of the vision statements that have been generated from the sessions are including in *Attachment 1* to this report.

The feedback that comes out of the backcasting exercises are framed as expressions of a desired end state for 2051 in YR. These *Vision* statements paint a picture of what we want York Region to be like in 2051, and help us determine the steps that are necessary to achieve this *Vision*.



Table 1 – Summary of Vision 20151 Feedback

Community	Environment	Community Design, Built Form & Infrastructure	Economy	Engaged Citizens / Responsive Government
Housing should be: Intergenerational, flexible, accessible, affordable, safe, integrated, vertical, transit supportive, variety of tenures. York Region should be an open and welcoming community for new immigrants. Need diversity in housing – change the single family housing model as our demographics change. Reduce barriers for new immigrants so they can contribute economically and socially. York Region residents feel connected to their community and can access services. There is a focus on health promotion and communities are designed to enable healthy lifestyles. Residents are able to achieve optimal (physical, mental, emotional) health & live healthy lives. Support for aging, diverse, and population struggling to make ends meet. Investment at the community level, building community capacity and community support.	Sustainability needs to be the basis of everything we do. A natural environment that is more diverse, visible, green, and healthy. Local agriculture; support for industry and local food production. Create a low carbon energy system for York Region. Move toward zero carbon and zero waste. Communities and buildings are designed to be 'net zero', energy and water efficient, and include various green technologies. York Region has planned for climate change by mitigating impacts, adapting, and becoming resilient. The natural environment is protected, restored & enhanced, including links/connections between features. Lake Simcoe and its surrounding ecosystems are restored & contain clean, safe water for recreational activities, human and animal use.	York Region residents can live in the same community throughout their life span. York Region has complete, walkable, mixed use communities. Regional Centres are thriving city centres with a distinct form Technology infrastructure throughout the Region similar to other Regional infrastructure. Context sensitive design, complete streets, compact development. Move from building to maintaining infrastructure in state of good repair. Water system is capable of sustaining human health, environment and economy. A seamless transportation network that provides diverse & better transportation options to people in all communities. The built form in York Region is designed to be accessible to the entire population, including people with disabilities, seniors, children, etc.; "8 – 80 communities". Technology has changed the nature of how people travel, and whether they even need to travel to satisfy their daily needs.	York Region's economy needs to be able to attract businesses from around the world. YR should be a magnet for investment; a place where value added jobs are created . There is a quality job for every working-age resident in York Region, of every skill and level of education. Invest in innovation, education and training. The credentials and experience of new immigrants are recognized so they can contribute to our economy fully. Jobs in York Region come from a wide spectrum of industry sectors are located in each community. There is a better relationship between where people live and work with appropriate housing for all York Region workers Important employment lands are protected, but there are also vibrant mixed-use areas where people live and work in walking distance or within the same building. York Region has moved beyond a knowledge-based economy, towards a 'creative-based' economy; creativity & innovation will lead to future jobs.	Dispersed local services integrated into the community. York Region is a leader and is where others look for best practices. Balanced community; shared responsibility for services/resources – government, private sector, community, non-profit. Communities and partnerships are built to be integrated, healthy, collaborative, interactive and participatory. The principle of 'integration' is ingrained throughout all aspects of the Region's operations and policies. Strong values, integrity, accountability, and communication are emphasized. Shared responsibility for services & resources, between government, private sector, stakeholders and the public. Innovative financial models need to be in place to achieve the Region's <i>Vision</i> through creative tools. York Region's services are 24 hour accessible to meet all residents/businesses needs. Open Government. E-Government.

All of the feedback will be supplemented by the strategies and documents that have been prepared by the Region in the last number of years. These strategies were summarized in Clause 6 of Report 5 of the May 2011 Planning and Economic Development committee, and contain very broad directions and specific actions which will be used to inform *Vision 2051*.

The backcasting sessions also included an activity wherein the participants were asked to “tell the story” of 2051 in York Region by engaging with a variety of visualizations which depicted several areas from around the Region including: Regional Centres and Corridors, Community Areas, Employment Areas, and Rural/Agricultural and Natural Areas. The summary of the feedback from this exercise are included in *Attachment 2* to this report. This activity was very engaging and it enables the participants to operationalize the *Vision* statements that were developed in the backcasting session.

Key Principles are Emerging from Vision Feedback

There are key principles that are beginning to emerge out of the feedback that has been received to date on the development of *Vision 2051*. These principles have been repeated numerous times throughout the various sessions held and will serve to influence the approach taken in *Vision 2051*. The principles are as follows:

Leadership	motivating or driving action towards achieving strategic vision for the future
Innovation & creativity	the ability to transcend traditional ideas or solutions, and to create meaningful new ideas or more effective solutions, processes, and opportunities.
Collaboration	working together to achieve success in partnership with our community.
Integration	examining challenges and issues in a holistic manner; where they are connected or overlap (i.e, housing and transportation).
Inclusive	including all; regardless of age, ability, income, culture or faith.
Sustainability	achieving economic vitality, healthy communities & sustainable natural environment by meeting the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Adaptable/Flexible	solutions, processes, policies, or built form that are able to be changed, or repurposed in response to changing needs, or technologies.

Resiliency	strength or capacity of people, communities, ecosystems, economy, organizations to overcome, successfully adapt, or continue to thrive under any number of conditions.
Community Capacity	a community's collective resources and skills that are used address its own problems and opportunities together as individuals, groups, organizations and networks.
Open Government/ Transparency	openness of government decision making and operations.
Accountability & Integrity:	individual, business and government; being ethical and respectful and accepting responsibility for actions and decisions.
Prevention & Education	in relation to health – warding off disease through healthy lifestyle choices; diet, relationships, and exercise; and in relation to safety; strategies, tools and resources to decrease incidences of crime.
Efficiency/ Conservation	using less, achieving more or the same with fewer resources.
E-Governance	electronic government uses various technologies to facilitate the operation of government and the disbursement of government information and services.
Accessibility	programs and services that are available to all regardless of location or personal abilities

Engaging the Region's Youth to Develop Vision 2051

As *Vision 2051* is a 40 year vision for the Region, it is important that the youth of York Region are engaged in its development. To this end, a variety of techniques are being used to ensure that *Vision 2051* process engages youth in York Region and is informed by their feedback.

Regional staff are hosting 2 youth forums on September 15th and 20th; one will be located in the south end of the Region at the Region's South Services Centre, and one in the north at the Regional Administrative Centre. While these forums will be open to all interested youth, and information posted widely, there will be invitations sent to youth advisory groups, youth councils, and members of the healthy schools and eco schools programs.

A comprehensive program for *Vision 2051* has been developed for implementation within the schools in York Region. The programs have been specifically directed to Grades 5 and 10, as there is a direct alignment with the curriculum. Regional staff are working on getting these activities into classrooms throughout the Region this fall, and have been involved in discussions with school board staff. The activities will also be posted on the *Vision 2051* webpages so they can be downloaded and accessed by anyone who is interested.

Next Steps in the Vision 2051 Process

The *Vision 2051* update process will continue to occur throughout 2011. The following are the next key steps in the *Vision 2051* workplan:

- Internal and external consultation on *Vision 2051* throughout winter-spring 2011
- Draft *Vision 2051* document to Planning and Economic Development Committee in Fall 2011
- Engage Regional Council at Council education session in Fall 2011
- Consult on Draft Document through Fall 2011/ Winter 2011/2012
- Final *Vision 2051* document Winter 2012 for Regional Council consideration.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Vision 2051 is being completed within the existing Regional Staff complement, and within the approved 2010 and 2011 business plan and budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Throughout the *Vision 2026* process, it has been recognized that the local municipalities are key stakeholders in contributing to a collective *Vision* for York Region's future. Regional staff have examined the strategic plans of the local municipalities, those that are existing and emerging, to ensure alignment with the local strategic documents and *Vision 2051*.

The update to *Vision 2026* will build on the contributions of the past and ensure that local municipalities are fully consulted and engaged in the update process. A number of municipal staff have attended the various sessions hosted for the development of *Vision 2051*. Local municipal staff will continue to be engaged in the development of *Vision 2051*.

7. CONCLUSION

The *Vision 2051* process is well underway and several internal and external consultation sessions have occurred including five internal backcasting sessions with Regional Council, and senior Regional staff. A number of external partners have been directly engaged, and will continue to be engaged throughout the remainder of the *Vision 2051* process to assist in the development of the document. The *Vision 2051* webpages and social media sites are live and provides an additional forum for feedback.

The feedback to date has assisted in the development of a number of *Vision* statements which paint a picture of what the desired end state is for 2051 in York Region.

There are also a number of key principles that are emerging from the feedback received to date that make important statements about the direction that the Region should be taking for the future. These include leadership, innovation, creativity, collaboration, integration, inclusive, sustainability, adaptable/flexible, resiliency, community capacity, open communication, accessibility, e-government, accountability and integrity, transparency, prevention and education, efficiency/conservation.

The public, regional partners, and internal staff will be continued to be engaged throughout the *Vision 2051* process. A draft of the *Vision 2051* document will be presented to Region Council for consideration and circulation in fall 2011.

For more information on this report, please contact Karen Antonio-Hadcock, Senior Planner at Ext. 1532 or Barbara Jeffrey, Acting Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning at Ext. 1526.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The two attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

Realm 1: Growth, Community Design & Infrastructure

- York Region is a leader in innovative community design
- Complete, walkable, cyclable, accessible (AODA-able), healthy communities that are connected to one another through robust transportation networks
- Communities designed as '24-hour cities'
- Communities along the shore of Lake Simcoe that include many high rises, local food gardens & places for people to work
- Communities and buildings are designed to be 'net zero', energy and water efficient, and include various green technologies
- Affordable communities = sustainable communities
- The built form in York Region is designed to be accessible to the entire population, including people with disabilities, seniors, children, etc.; "8 – 80 communities"
- Well maintained & accessible infrastructure
- People are connected to affordable, accessible & progressive transportation systems and amenities
- Technology has changed the nature of how people travel, and whether they even need to travel to satisfy their needs
- A seamless transportation network that provides diverse & better transportation options to people in all communities
- Transit systems that operate in communities prior to people moving into them
- Integrated, accessible, convenient, robust and efficient transit system with better connectivity between the 9 local municipalities
- Multiple multi-modal transit 'hubs' throughout the Region
- Use of the third dimension in building new transit: elevated/below-ground tracks
- Achieve at least a 50% modal split; moving towards no trips by car in Regional Centres and Corridors
- Roads, sidewalks, off-road trails, etc. that make it safe to walk & cycle
- The ability to walk & cycle year-round, where snow/ice are not deterrents
- Sufficient pedestrian infrastructure encourages people to want to walk to places
- Distributed service delivery provides better accessibility of services & alternative transportation
- All elements of a community are within walking distance, i.e. health, entertainment, culture, etc.
- Live, work & play in all communities
- Focus on the public realm: attractive streets, 'people places', village greens, piazzas
- Wi-fi internet will be free & publically accessible throughout York Region
- York Region has telecommunications infrastructure, similar to other infrastructure (road & sewers). A strong fiber-optic network exists throughout the Region.
- There is diversity & choice of housing types, value, and tenure in York Region
- York Region is more dense; high density housing & vertical development, especially in Regional Centres and Corridors
- Intensification is attractive

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

- York Region is designed as a ‘garden city’ – lots of green space with highly dense development
- Natural and built environments are linked through design, i.e. permeable surfaces, greenery growing on roadways & roofs
- Buildings and infrastructure can withstand storm events, i.e. sewers do not overflow
- Demands for water are met through conservation, efficiency, maximizing grey water reuse and other alternative sources
- Water systems in buildings can facilitate the separate uses of potable and non-potable water
- On-site treatment of water & waste to facilitate reuse or energy production

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

Realm 2: Economy

- A quality job for every working-age resident in York Region, of every skill set and level of education; jobs that ‘fit’ each person
- York Region is a magnet for investment, where value-added jobs are created
- York Region has a recession-proof economy & resilient labour force
- Jobs in York Region come from a wide spectrum of industry sectors are located in each community
- York Region has a diverse economy & employment opportunities; not just a knowledge-based economy
- York Region has moved beyond a knowledge-based economy, towards a ‘creative-based’ economy; creativity & innovation will lead to future jobs
- Research & Development (R&D) innovation is promoted; creation of innovation ‘hubs’
- The eco-tourism and education sectors are promoted
- Local resilience is created through localized food and manufacturing sectors
- Clustered development facilitates synergies of industries
- People work in “technology centres” located in each community, instead of traditional office buildings in employment areas
- York Region is able to rely on its existing supply of office buildings, due to a shift towards virtual/“Cloud” offices
- Telecommuting/working from home is more prevalent; requiring access to better online tools, i.e. high speed internet, web cam, secure internet access, etc.
- Employees work in alternative working arrangements, including condensed work week and flex time, which changes ‘rush hour’ patterns and increases service delivery
- Employment areas have recreational facilities/outdoor green spaces built in
- Employees do not need to commute long distances to get to work
- York Region has better transportation systems & affordable housing for all employees
- York Region has programs to address the housing needs of workers, such as a ‘Critical Worker Housing Program’
- Socially & economically integrated communities with high quality of life standards & access to opportunities for all
- York Region’s economy attracts businesses from around the world
- York Region attracts skilled workers from around the world due to the high quality of life in its communities & a healthy supply of well-paying, prestigious employment opportunities.
- More jobs exist, especially full-time positions with high job satisfaction
- Employers focus on the abilities of workers, not the disabilities (especially when hiring)
- The skills of all residents is fully utilized
- The job marketplace adapts itself to people’s human resources
- York Region fosters a culture of continuous learning to ensure it continues to have an adaptable, skilled workforce

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

- The credentials and experience of immigrants are recognized
- The economy emphasizes the value of knowledge: connecting people to local skills training, facilitating second-career development & adaption to changing economies, and mentor programs to retain knowledge of retiring workers
- Educational opportunities (including post-secondary) are available locally to all residents at all income levels
- York Region has a national-scale university
- Scholarships & community education encourages the field of sustainability

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

Realm 3: Healthy Communities

- Strong, caring, safe communities that are well connected, accessible, sustainable, and environmentally friendly
- York Region has forward thinking, compact communities designed using the “third place” concept
- York Region is made up of friendly, ‘village-centred’ communities; each with its own strong community identity
- All members of society are equal, contributing members; living in socially, culturally, economically, politically inclusive communities
- Socially connected, empowered communities & engaged people
- Investment at the community level, building capacity and community support
- York Region is a safe, clean place to live with a low crime rate
- School schedules are better aligned with working hours & normal operating hours for services are aligned with the realities of resident lifestyles and schedules
- ‘Commute time’ has been replaced with ‘community time’
- York Region emphasizes city building – dense, mixed-use development, linked by a logical transportation system that offers multiple viable modes of transportation
- Resilient, ‘Self-sustaining’ (economically, socially, environmentally), complete communities that include amenities and services to enable people to meet all needs locally, at every stage of life
- Live, work and play in complete, affordable communities
- Multi-purpose and multi-use facilities that are in use 24-hours a day
- Public spaces are planned and designed for people to congregate on a daily basis, in the way the Region plans for other hard infrastructure
- York Region’s communities are designed as ‘complete communities’ that are appropriate for every stage of life, so people can ‘age in place’ in their community
- ‘Intergenerational homes’ instead of seniors homes
- Safe and affordable housing for all: zero homelessness/homelessness prevention
- Affordable housing is fully integrated into buildings and communities
- Residential development is more dense and has second suites
- Community design facilitates & promotes healthy lifestyles, so people can easily ‘live’ activity & do not require special programs/regiments to be active
- Residents are able to achieve optimal (physical, mental, emotional) health & live healthy lives
- Affordable, universal, comprehensive healthcare is accessible for all York Region residents
- York Region’s aging population & low income residents are supported to ensure these residents are able to meet their daily needs and improve their quality of life
- Society and education focuses on health promotion & personal accountability
- York Region contains systems that help local food thrive & be accessible to all communities
- York Region celebrates the diversity of its population (age, abilities, ethno-cultural, religious/spiritual, etc.)

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

- York Region is open and welcoming to new immigrants
- New Canadians are able to integrate socially & into communities/workplaces/the economy

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

Realm 4: Environment

- York Region focuses on sustainability, i.e. looking at the economic, community & environmental effects of our actions
- York Region has a diverse, visible, green, healthy natural environment
- York Region is 'greener', with green space in every community and the natural environment thoroughly integrated with the urban area
- Environmentally friendly, green infrastructure and development
- York Region has planned for climate change by mitigating impacts, adapting, and becoming resilient
- The natural environment is protected, restored & enhanced, including links/connections between features
- Lake Simcoe and its surrounding ecosystems are restored & contain clean, safe water for recreational activities, human and animal use
- The inputs/outputs of watersheds are balanced to maintain healthy water balance
- Water systems sustain human health, the environment and the economy
- Long term supply of clean & safe drinking water
- Energy and water are used & waste is processed in ways that do not impact our future
- York Region is 'Carbon negative' by 2051
- Zero carbon, zero waste
- Consumer & producer responsibility for waste
- York Region continues to explore new measures to reduce waste generation and opportunities to use waste as a resource
- No emissions & clean air
- Alternative & renewable energy sources (i.e. geothermal, solar, wind, energy from waste) and green technologies are available and affordable to all
- York Region's diverse energy systems are able to adapt to changing energy sources, costs and demands
- Buildings and communities have self-contained systems for water & energy production and use
- York Region residents expect all communities and development to use green technologies and meet high efficiency and conservation standards
- York Region continues to advance green technology, research, implementation & incentives/disincentives
- The value of the environment is understood through communication & education, so that people take ownership of the environment in the way that they take ownership of & protect material things
- Educational environmental buildings, i.e. Centre for Natural Recreation; Water innovation & education centre on Lake Simcoe
- Eco-tourism and environmental education is promoted
- Human activities & the natural environment are integrated
- Creation of a bike trail linking Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe
- York Region's countryside heritage is maintained

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

- York Region supports local agriculture, industry and food production

What We Heard:
Vision Statements for 2051 in York Region

Realm 5: Citizen Engagement & Responsive Government

- York Region is an innovative leader in best practices & keeps regulations/standards up-to-date with new technologies
- York Region is where others look for best practices
- York Region only uses sustainable/renewable energy forms & practices responsible consumption and conservation lifestyles
- Communities and partnerships are built to be integrated, healthy, collaborative, interactive and participatory
- The principle of ‘integration’ is ingrained throughout all aspects of the Region’s operations and policies
- Strong values, integrity, accountability, and communication are emphasized
- Shared responsibility for services & resources, between government, private sector, stakeholders and the public
- Vision 2051 principles are integrated into all aspects of the school curriculum
- Community capacity is built through education; residents are engaged & contribute to solutions
- Grassroots community leadership; community champions are promoted
- Communities feel more empowered and take ownership for issues/solutions
 - o “Less NIMBY and more IMBY”
- The public is engaged through a variety of modes, i.e. electronically, through human interaction, etc.
- York Region is responsive to the changing needs of residents/businesses
- Collaborative processes and programs are used, involving government, professionals, stakeholders, public, etc.
- Planning and initiatives between the Region and its local municipalities are better communicated and co-ordinated
- Dispersed local services are integrated into communities
- York Region services are delivered to meet the needs of residents/businesses, with flexible service delivery: extended/alternative office hours and technologically automated processes enable 24-hour access and deliver services across boundaries
- York Region has a strong online presence; E-Government
- Condensed work week schedules, flexible hours, and telecommuting to work or meetings are promoted to reduce traffic and pollution
- Creative tax & financial models, such as property tax calculations based on how far you commute to work, are adopted
- York Region’s finances are aligned to meet the goals of Vision 2051
- York Region may exist in very different format than what it looks like today, i.e. there may not be a ‘Regional Government’; there may not be a Provincial Government, and York Region will be one of many “City Regions”

Natural renewable crops, organic sustainable agriculture

Protecting farmland to ensure food security in York Region is key

Local food & 100 mile diet; communities feed communities

More farmers markets and community farms within walking / biking distance

Trails close to home = healthy lifestyle, less obesity, social isolation, etc.

Residents of rural areas can easily access urban areas more conveniently through transit

Enhanced, not just protected natural areas with a view to improve climate change and resiliency

Conserve and increase green space

Re-use brownfields instead of greenfield development

Wetlands treat stormwater and wastewater

Access to areas for a variety of physical activities; skate parks, swimming, ice skating, concert centres, libraries, water parks

Urban boundary doesn't encroach into agricultural lands

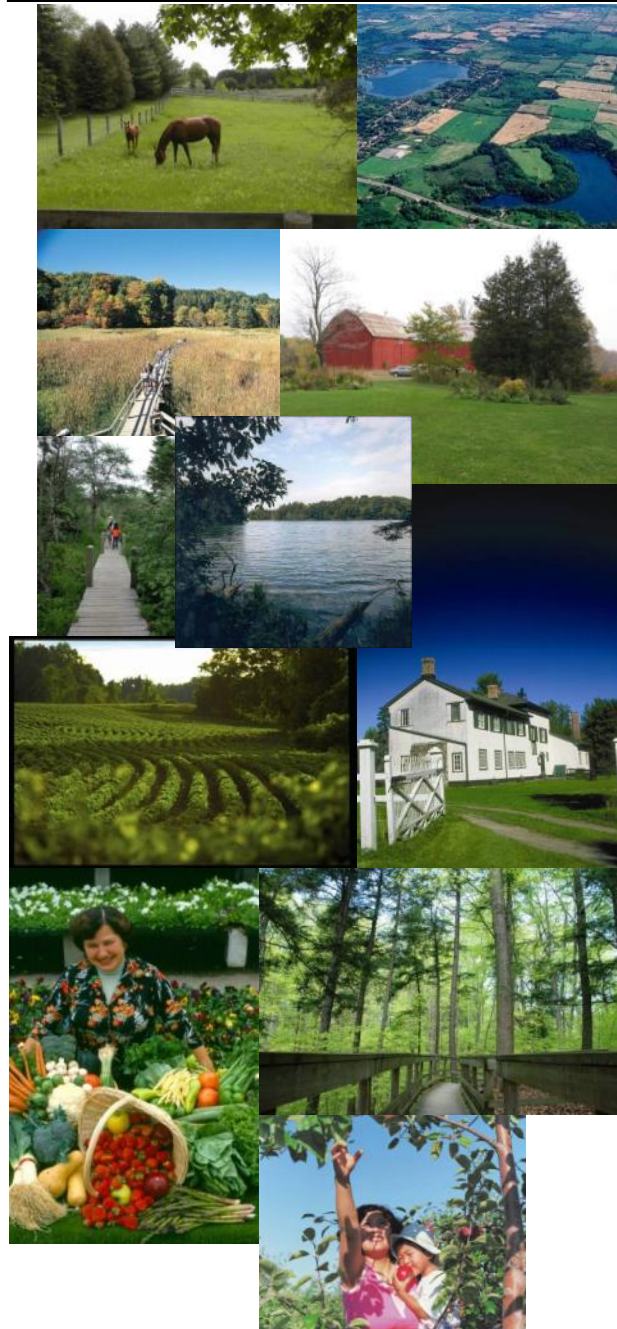
Children's programs to educate where food comes from

Maintain heritage sites, encourage community education about the Region, have pride living here

More opportunities for outdoor education centres

Integrate fun and are into open space to create pride

Rural/Agricultural/Natural Areas



Recreational areas like golf courses are required to meet stringent sustainability standards.

People are connected with nature and water

Advance sustainable & near urban agriculture

Sustainable, viable agricultural areas where farmers can thrive instead of waiting for development

Organic farming will be a lucrative profession in York Region

Natural heritage trails integrated with commuter live/work cycling/pedestrian systems

Completion of lake-to-lake trail as recreation and alternative transportation corridor and to encourage increased health and tourism

Continue land securement partnerships

Increase biodiversity; invasive species management planning

Year-round outdoor forestry education program

Using nature as a means for education (signs explaining natural systems)

Exploration of our natural worlds

Publically accessible waterfront -- Lake Simcoe

Live it! Grow it! Eat it!

New communities integrated with employment

More community living spaces that are not shopping areas to reduce social isolation, increase mental health and well being, lower obesity

Lots of parks and greenspace to interact with nature and neighbours

Urban/community agriculture - community gardens

Integration of nature and built form/housing

Mixes of low, medium, and high density in the same community

Affordable and accessible housing; affordable green houses

New building design to maximize safety and environmental sustainability

More sustainable building practices in new communities and retrofitting old ones; permeable paving, natural drainage for stormwater

Toilets and washing machines use treated greywater - Bigger rainwater systems-- beyond the rainbarrel

Trees planted to maximize energy efficiency

Self sustaining renewable energy production and consumption

Homes are heated by energy that is locally generated; solar homes, well insulated, solar power and hot water, geothermal

Strict waste and water consumption regulations- Region owned landfill to control waste operations

Water you drink comes from a source that is less than 1km away and in the same watershed

Build houses around parks- create community centrepieces add community art and entertainment venues

New/Existing Communities



Walkable communities; connected walking and biking paths

Communities designed for neighbourhood interaction

Designed so people feel comfortable letting their children play, and walk to school on their own

All ages and cultures included and welcomed with necessary facilities nearby-- full integration and welcoming community

Integrate housing for seniors with community and have schools, daycares, human services, social and faith, transit and shopping near by -- Age friendly areas

Winter transportation and recreational opportunities

Multi-generational activities integrated into communities

Streetscapes like in centres- with sidewalk cafes and venues for entertainment - Integrated village concept

Pedestrian and cycling links to greenspace

Design communities so that they are off grid and maximize the use of greywater

Use recycled materials to build sidewalks, roads, etc

Increase canopy cover to maximize the benefits and functions and services of green infrastructure

High speed broadband, fibre optic or wifi across the Region

Schools in every neighbourhoods which are open and accessible as community resource

Pathways in residential neighbourhoods encourage sustainable modes of transportation walking, biking, connections to schools, recreation

District and renewable energy -- sustainable energy is produced in Regional Centres and Corridors

Green roofs are standard and are accessible urban parks

Urban forests - centres include greenery on streets - Urban gardens and community gardens to grow food -- trees and plants are prominent (not a concrete jungle)

Affordable housing choices for all stages

Increased amount of rental properties

Equal job-resident mix

Centres have fun, interesting, and attractive things to do -- pulls people to them

High quality urban design; attractive, walkable places, pedestrian and cycling friendly streets that are active- have lots of people on them - outdoor events, restaurant patios, entertainment venues

Buildings are developed as vertical neighbourhoods

Public squares for art and cultural activities, farmers markets, concerts, etc.

Incorporate winter city designs for year round pedestrian comfort

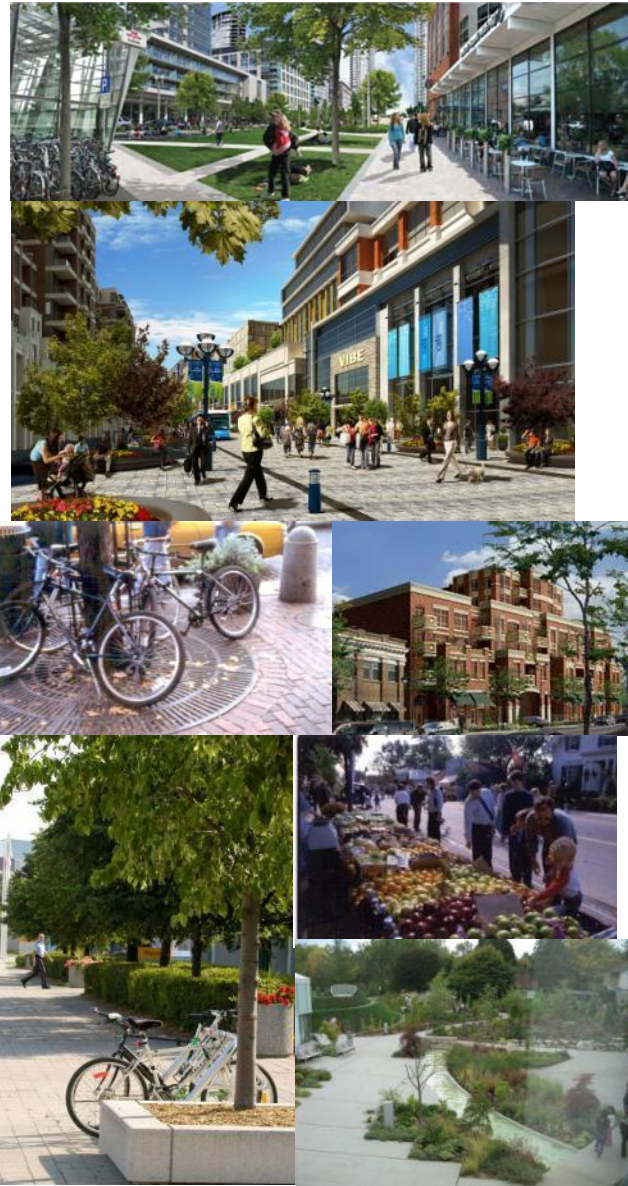
Create pedestrian-only zones

Transit should accommodate 24 hour use encourage people not to drive and to get to local entertainment

People care about each other and have a sense of community- centres are vibrant, people-orientated places

Lots of people of all ages, cultures and abilities all interact and live together

Regional Centres & Corridors



Strong social support and network

Roads are built for people first - roads are public spaces

Ability to shop where you live and buy-shop local produce, goods, and food and entertainment

Outdoor markets, local produce, street festivals, community activities

Fibre-optic network and wifi throughout centres and corridors

Community and police work together to create safe places to live, work and play

Higher intensification facilitates decentralized district energy system for combined heat and power and biofuels

Safe and accessible places to play

Life, career, fun and food all close by

Centres designed for kids and families too

Walkability indoors and outdoors (path system)

Safer communities. More people and density doesn't mean more crime

Building is high quality urban design- attractive and street art/ public art is incorporated -- creating distinct identity and sense of place

Spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable

Telecommuting opportunities; virtual offices and employment area. People are able to work and learn remotely with virtual support

90% + of the people work within 20 minutes from home

Employment practices support the community

Employers are closely linked with and identify with the community

Multi-use facilities reduce the number of buildings

Walkable employment areas

Decentralize York Region jobs - take them to where the people are

Affordable lease/buildings for start ups and small manufacturers

Live-work opportunities/buildings for small business owners

York Region is globally known as an innovation hub of research and development

Need rapid transit to employment areas - transit stops close to businesses

Flexible work times to accommodate family needs

Development employment supports into employment areas; child and elder care centres, schools (retraining opportunities), recreation, support for work and wellness programs, mental health and addiction

Hotel office space -- work in the community where you live

Provide opportunities for continuous learning in the workplace

York Region the hub for "green" and "blue" economy

Employment Areas



Employers should pay the true cost of parking and provide transit passes to employers instead

Employment areas are mobile and accessible through all different technologies, online, integrated into community areas, transit routes

Incorporate natural areas into employment areas - connection between employment and environment

Buildings should be sustainable, using green technologies: permeable paving, low impact design, LEED certified, producing zero waste, green roofs, living walls, park space

People of all abilities have a place to contribute and be valued

Employment areas designed for winter

Employment areas are designed to be used off-work hours for amenity space, multi-purpose, shared facilities as community resources

Employment areas designed to encourage physical activity and outdoor seating, parks, picnic facilities, etc.

Renewable energy used in employment areas

Employment uses are complementary and connected; outputs from one used as inputs for another.

Big business is attracted to York Region

Everyone has a skill that is valued and needed to sustain our community

Co-operative opportunities and affordable training and education to minimize divide between rich and poor

Diversification of employers, jobs, and skills



YORK REGION
**VISION
2051
UPDATE**

Presentation to Planning and
Economic Development Committee

Karen Antonio-Hadcock
September 7, 2011

Outline

1. Process Update
2. Consultations
3. Web & Social Media Consultation
4. York Region Media Group
5. What We've Heard
6. Emerging Principles
7. Next Steps



Vision Process



Internal Consultations

- Council Updates
- Backcasting Sessions:
 - Leaders (March 30th)
 - Mid Management (May 10th)
 - Newest/Youngest staff (July 6th)
- Committees:
 - Accessibility Advisory Committee - April 27th
 - Human Services Planning Board - May 13th
- Internal Department Management Teams:
 - Transportation Services & Environmental Services - April 4th
 - Planning & Development Services - April 5th
 - Finance - May 6th
 - Community & Health Services – May 12th
- Branch Sessions:
 - ITS May 20th
 - Health Protection June 30th
 - Child and Family Health Nov 23rd

Sessions with Regional Partners

- Aging Workforce Conference- February 22nd
- Economic Development Partners (local EDOs)- April 8th
- Markham Economic Development- May 2nd
- Agricultural Liaison Committee – June 1st
- Accessibility Advisory Committee Forum – June 2nd
- York Info Partnership – June 3rd



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Slide 5

Website & Social Media

- Launch in August
- Invited 6000 participants
 - Growth Management Strategy & the Regional Official Plan,
 - Infrastructure Master Plans,
 - Community and Health Services initiatives,
 - Environmental Services initiatives,
 - Transportation Services initiatives,
 - Local municipal partners,
 - York Link organizations
 - York Region Business Directory



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Slide 6

York Region Media Group

- Partnering on generating discussion on the key issues and trends
- Articles on public safety, social services, affordable housing, economic vitality, growth, education, health care, public health, recreation and leisure, transportation and infrastructure are scheduled to be published throughout this fall.



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Upcoming

- Youth Forums Sept. 15th & 20th
- Police “Leadership in Action” Group
- Council Workshop October 27th
- Local Municipalities consultation on draft December 1st

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Slide 8

What We Heard: Vision Statements

- ❑ **Housing** should be: Intergenerational, flexible, accessible, affordable, safe, integrated, vertical, transit supportive, variety of tenures.
- ❑ York Region should be an open and welcoming community for **new immigrants**.
- ❑ There is a focus on **health promotion** and communities are designed to enable **healthy lifestyles**.
- ❑ **Sustainability** needs to be the basis of everything we do.
- ❑ **Local agriculture**; support for industry and local food production.
- ❑ The principle of '**integration**' is ingrained throughout all aspects of the Region's operations and policies.
- ❑ YR should be a **magnet for investment**; a place where value added jobs are created.
- ❑ There is a **quality job for every working-age resident** in York Region, of every skill and level of education.
- ❑ Invest in **innovation**, education and training.
- ❑ York Region residents can live in the same community throughout their life span.
- ❑ York Region has **complete**, walkable, mixed use communities.
- ❑ Regional Centres are thriving **city centres** with a distinct form
- ❑ **Technology infrastructure** throughout the Region similar to other Regional infrastructure.
- ❑ Context sensitive design, **complete streets**, compact development.
- ❑ Move from building to **maintaining infrastructure in state of good repair**.
- ❑ There is a better relationship between where people live and work with **appropriate housing for all York Region workers**.
- ❑ Communities and partnerships are built to be integrated, healthy, collaborative, interactive and participatory.
- ❑ Careful monitoring and management of Regional **fiscal resources**.



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What We Heard: Visualizations

- ❑ Enhanced, not just protected natural areas with a view to improve climate change and resiliency
- ❑ Maintain heritage sites, encourage community education about the Region, have pride living here
- ❑ Advance sustainable & near urban and urban - community gardens
- ❑ Affordable and accessible housing; affordable sustainable houses
- ❑ Homes are heated by energy that is locally generated; solar homes, well insulated, solar power and hot water, geothermal
- ❑ Walkable communities; connected walking and biking paths
- ❑ Age friendly areas
- ❑ Telecommuting opportunities; virtual offices and employment area. People are able to work and learn remotely with virtual support
- ❑ York Region is globally known as an innovation hub of research and development



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Slide 10

What we Heard: Visualizations



- ❑ Increase tree canopy cover to maximize the benefits and functions and services of green infrastructure
- ❑ Encourage sustainable modes of transportation walking, biking, connections to schools, recreation
- ❑ District and renewable energy -- sustainable energy is produced in Regional Centres and Corridors
- ❑ Public squares for art and cultural activities, farmers markets, concerts, etc.
- ❑ People care about each other and have a sense of community- centres are vibrant, people-orientated places
- ❑ Roads are built for people first - roads are public spaces
- ❑ Fibre-optic network and wifi throughout centres and corridors
- ❑ Building is high quality urban design- attractive and street art/ public art is incorporated -- creating distinct identity and sense of place

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Emerging Principles

- Accessibility
- Accountability & Integrity
- Adaptable/Flexible
- Collaboration
- Community Capacity
- Efficiency/ Conservation
- E-Governance
- Inclusive
- Innovation & Creativity
- Integration
- Leadership
- Open Government/ Transparency
- Prevention & Education
- Resiliency
- Sustainability

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Next Steps

- ❑ Youth Forums & Police Leadership in Action Session-September
- ❑ Council Updates
- ❑ Draft Vision 2051 document to Planning & Economic Development Committee November 2, 2011
- ❑ Consult on Draft Document through Fall 2011-Winter 2011
- ❑ Consultation with Local Municipalities December 2011
- ❑ Final Vision 2051 document Winter 2012

