

Planning For Tomorrow Public Engagement and Consultation
Meeting Summary and Evaluations

Regional Staff hosted 6 Town Hall meetings and an additional 22 consultation sessions with Regional stakeholders and partners, and interested groups throughout May, June and early July. There will be an additional meeting held with Environmental Groups in early September.

The following table summarizes all of the Town Hall and Stakeholder meetings held.

Table 1
Growth Management Consultation Presentations

DATE	PRESENTATION TO	LOCATION
18-Apr-07	Human Services Planning Coalition	Admin Centre Seminar Room
20-Apr-07	OCETA Workshop, Pollution Prevention Workshop	York Region Administrative Centre
24-Apr-07	City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole Working Session	Vaughan Civic Centre - Councillors Boardroom
27-Apr-07	Second Annual Capital Delivery Workshop	Maples of Ballantrae
1-May-07	Vaughan Town Hall Meeting	Vaughan Council Chambers
3-May-07	Markham Town Hall Meeting	Markham Civic Centre- Canada Room
4-May-07	York Region Planning Commissioners	Whitchurch-Stouffville
4-May-07	York Region Staff Lunch and Learn Session	Committee Room B
7-May-07	Georgina Committee of the Whole	Georgina Council Chambers
8-May-07	Newmarket Council	Town of Newmarket Offices
8-May-07	UDI/GTHBA	Planning Boardroom
8-May-07	Richmond Hill Public Engagement	Richmond Hill OMB Room
9-May-07	Aurora Public Town Hall Meeting	Aurora Council Chambers
10-May-07	East Gwillimbury Town Hall Meeting	East Gwillimbury Council Chambers
15-May-07	Whitchurch-Stouffville Council	Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Chambers
15-May-07	Newmarket Public Town Hall Meeting	Newmarket Council Chambers
17-May-07	York Region School Board Geography Heads	Admin Centre Committee Room
22-May-07	UDI/GTHBA	Planning Boardroom
23-May-07	Water Waste Water Technical Advisory Team Meeting #2	Admin Centre Committee Room
29-May-07	King Township Mayor's Networking & Presentation Breakfast	Carrying Place

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28-Jun-07	Green Procurement: Building a Sustainable Future	York Catholic District School Board 320 Bloomington Road
5-Jun-07	Ontario Municipal Social Services Association Symposium	Hilton, Markham
07-Jun-07	Agricultural Liaison Committee	Admin Centre Committee Room
07-Jun-07	Community Services & Housing Staff Professional Development Day	Le Jardin Banquet Hall, Woodbridge
08-Jun-07	Area CAO's Meeting	
12-Jun-07	Markham Development Services Committee	Markham Civic Centre
14-Jun-07	Water Waste Water Staff Meeting	Carrying Place, King Township
19-Jul-07	School Boards	Planning Boardroom
Sept 2007	Environmental Groups	York Region Admin Building

Evaluations

Evaluation forms were distributed to all registered attendees at each of the 6 Town Hall meetings. The evaluation forms were used as a measure of the information provided at the open house, the presentation, discussion, location of the open house, helpfulness of Regional Staff, and whether the open house assisted in providing an understanding of the growth management decisions that the Region faces.

Below is a sample of the evaluation form.

	OPEN HOUSE																															
Location: _____																																
EVALUATION FORM																																
Thank you for attending York Region's "Planning for Tomorrow" Open House. Your feedback will provide direction and guidance for the important sustainability and growth management decisions that face the Region over the next few years.																																
1. How would you rate the following aspects of the Open House? <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%;">Excellent</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Good</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Fair</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Poor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Information Provided</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>York Region Presentation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discussion Session</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Location</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Helpfulness of Regional Staff</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Information Provided	1	2	3	4	York Region Presentation	1	2	3	4	Discussion Session	1	2	3	4	Location	1	2	3	4	Helpfulness of Regional Staff	1	2	3	4
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2. If you had any questions, how did we respond? <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">Excellent</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Good</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Fair</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Poor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Promptly</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Courteously</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Knowledgeably</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Promptly	1	2	3	4	Courteously	1	2	3	4	Knowledgeably	1	2	3	4										
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3. Did this Open House help you to understand the major growth management decisions that face the Region and how they relate to you and your community? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure																																
<i>Continued on Reverse Side</i>																																

3a. If not, what could be improved?

4. Where have you seen York Region growth management information?

☐ Newspaper

☐ York Region website

☐ Mail

☐ Public Discussion

☐ Other

Please specify: _____

5. Do you have any suggestions for how these public Open Houses could be improved?

Thank you for your participation.

Please be sure to return the completed form to the registration area.

If you have additional questions or comments, please email us:
futureyork@york.ca

<i>Open House Location</i>	<i>Registered Attendees</i>	<i>Completed Evaluation Forms</i>
Vaughan	32	10
Markham	48	20
Richmond Hill	50	12
Aurora	85	23
East Gwillimbury	33	13
Newmarket	46	15
Total	294	93

The majority of participants, as identified through the evaluations, were pleased with the information provided at the Town Hall meetings, through the presentations and displays, and with the helpfulness of Regional Staff.

The following are some key comments received on the evaluation forms.

<i>Open House Location</i>	<i>Evaluation Form Key Comments</i>
Vaughan	- Current OPA vs. Places to Grow and OMB What wins? - The approach was too biased towards a plan that seems to be a <i>fait accompli</i>; it seems to still be business as usual and a recipe for sprawl and more cars; - Would be beneficial to present a smaller community (i.e., King) as this intensification affect all...how much of an affect will it have on smaller communities (traffic, grid lock) 427 going through King etc. - Continue with open discussions to include the public and ask for input - If open house in Vaughan City is the Vaughan town planning people should be here to explain to us the procedures and timing of the water and waste sewer etc. that's affecting the building permits.
Markham	- more focussed on certain issues instead of every issue?; not sure, but there's no time for in-depth discussion, just quick mention and response - Need more concrete info available; exactly what is being planned?; perhaps this can't be part of the discussions yet because the meetings are designed to get our input - What if the plan cut into piece meals when it comes down to municipal staff - Later start to allow more people who commute from work to attend - should have a session at YR southern headquarters - The idea of "intensification" needs to be more defined!; smart growth seemed to be the watchword a few years ago and this is the new one; What does intensification mean to pedestrians? Cyclists? Does it mean I can get <u>anywhere</u> on these nodes? Or only some places? Intensification is too abstract; Some of my

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	thoughts...walking distance to transit, mixed use, retail at street level, no big box, supermarkets closer to residential areas, less surface parking, places at the sidewalk, infill!, make crosswalks safer (stripes!), greenbelt, half flush toilets, taller buildings on arterials, more public art, a boardwalk, more inter-municipal awards, greenways, think city not suburb, affordable housing especially more rental, balance out the growth, move away from Yonge Street and think Bayview or Leslie, keep our downtowns “intense”, mixed-uses - More needs to be said about why we are doing this; have more open houses!
Richmond Hill	- more information needs to be made towards the public to get them out here to care, students, youth, young adults are going to be the recipients of these actions - We need a continuous process to review the process year after year; need more politician to respond to policy issue - Not enough steps taken or show process - Regional cost required to make infrastructure changes, do we have enough funds to do so without increasing our taxes; people don't want to pay higher cost to live in Richmond Hill, cost needs to be address - Consider a “themed” focus group format where attendees can focus on specific areas of interest, or community concerns
Aurora	- break out groups with facilitators (VIVA did this in Thornhill in May 2007); hold at major shopping/community centres where people gather - it was mentioned that decisions are already made, so its not planning and asking for feedback is pointless if decisions made years before these meetings; overall information about planning changes should be in layman's terms so people understand plans and processes so they can provide feedback <u>BEFORE</u> the decisions are made and truly understood by the average resident - Chance for people to ask questions; notation taking was not accurate, should be a recording system and not a persons interpretation - Pick a location on Yonge Street near a VIVA bus stop; have developers in attendance as well as OMB representatives - Should have a public Open House in each municipality; the first session held in Georgina Civic Centre was overflowing in attendance, it was disappointing that a session was not organized this time - what could be clear is exactly what our options are, what you want from us out of these meetings, what opportunity do we have to actually affect planning, the public feel as if it is already decided and this is lip service that we really can't have

	an affect. What can we <u>DO</u>?; I agree with statement that agriculture and our food system-with a local component-needs to be included...it is a component of environment and food security to not be dependent on South America/Mexico/California; also with regards to intensification there has to be ample “breathing” space for people to deal with crime prevention and crowded people need to be able to quickly get to breathing space; York Region Forests, Oak Ridges Trail, Moraine, Greenbelt...all are vital and key and need to be maintained but there needs to be similar/adequate “park” space in the “intense” areas - Should provide detail on the options that are available
East Gwillimbury	- Continue the positive dialogue - More detail at micro level - we need more apartments, baby boomers are older and we need buildings no stairs; agreed affordable housing is a must we have to keep farms and keep them working; no one building apartment buildings; why are we <u>not</u> having big stores with apartments down below?
Newmarket	- Seeking “LOCAL” input from each respective area, rather than others who have obviously made their point at other meetings!; - Speak in plain language (everyday words), show results from meetings, try to not dismiss questions too easily, use visual examples; further media involvement, education (involvement of schools), televise presentation (e.g., Rogers cable etc.) this will allow people who cannot attend view sessions at a later date, hold one session early in day and allow people who work at night or have families and attend session, focus groups, set up a growth committee (mix or residents and politicians and staff) - It could be nice if we could move towards more round table discussions within the public realm - I think the sustainability strategy and any other action items should be more important part of presentations, I get that there’s growth and where I want to know more specifically how you are going to handle the challenges; perhaps more mediation for discussion period to help make question period more efficient; need more people out to meetings by offering in your publication of them-specific references to issues that will be discussed-please do this especially with the infrastructure meetings in the fall - Practical examples of events/stats which explain objectives (i.e., Markham growth distributed in Region of York to fulfill future objectives)