

Summary Notes of Chambers of Commerce comments made at the Growth Management Information Session – June 30, 2006

Attachment 2
Council Attachment



Planning for Tomorrow

York Region Growth Management

Towards A Sustainable Region

Creating Strong, Caring, Safe Communities

Feedback

- Although there is approximately a 1:1 ratio of labour force and jobs, many people commute into and out of the Region daily for employment.
 - This trend is more pronounced in some industries than in others.
 - One cause is a lack of affordable housing in the Region (i.e. inappropriate housing mix).
- There is a mismatch between the skill sets of York Region residents and the needs of York Region industries. This mismatch is notable in the lower-paying end of the job spectrum as well as in highly technical white-collar industries.

Feedback

- Highly educated and skilled young workers want to live in the vibrancy of downtown Toronto, and are not attracted by the amenities offered in York Region.
- There continues to be an inability to fully utilize the skill sets of new Canadians due to accreditation issues.
- Reliable energy sources are required to attract industry.
- There is a NIMBY factor with locating new energy sources.
- There is a need for the Region to take a leadership role in the production and conservation of energy.
- Is the Region involved with the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) new Request for Proposals?

Feedback

- There is an opportunity for us (the Chambers of Commerce) to actively support good new proposals for energy sources in order to offset the NIMBY point of view with our broader perspective.
- There is a need for more stringent design guidelines for Business Parks.
- The traffic light co-ordination in York Region is dated. The software needs to be updated.
- When dealing with traffic issues, there are too many levels of government involved and the bureaucracy creates a barrier to effective planning.
- One of the major issues when dealing with other levels of governments with traffic concerns is the lack of Provincial long-term plans for investment.



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Feedback

- There are questions surrounding the legitimacy of the delay in building the Highway 427 Extension.
- There are transit barriers created by the various Regional transit systems. Is there an opportunity to amalgamate the systems, or to focus on better co-ordination?
- Is the subway extension a good decision?
- Have there been any serious cost-benefit analyses done for bike studies, which consider the fact that many cyclists use their cars during the winter months?
- In addition to reducing traffic congestion, bike lanes also increase the durability of the roadways by providing a wider swath and promote a better quality of life for residents.

Feedback

- What can the Chambers of Commerce do to support the Region?
- There is a need for the Chambers of Commerce to view themselves as educators when approaching these growth management issues.
- Strong cultural centres are required to attract good employees.