

Comparison of Region's Comments to Greenbelt Task Force and Greenbelt Task Force Recommendations to Minister

Issue Area	Regional Recommendations from June Report	Task Force Recommendations to Minister	Comment
Vision and Goals	It is recommended that the Region support the overall intent of the Greenbelt Task Force as expressed in the Vision and Goals, subject to acknowledgment of the overall growth management challenges in the GTA including infrastructure requirements.	Virtually unchanged from those expressed in the discussion paper – additional of references to clean air, water and soil and sustaining cultural heritage resources	Does not specifically recognize the overall growth management challenges in the GTA including infrastructure, but does recognize in the “defining the Greenbelt section that the Province's growth management initiative and the greenbelt initiative must work <i>hand in glove, as each will affect the other.</i> Region is recommending in its review of the provincial growth management discussion paper <i>Places to Grow</i> that completion of the Greenbelt Plan should follow the creation and adoption of a Provincial Growth Plan.
Defining the Greenbelt		New section in the recommendations Greenbelt Task Force did not identify specific lands to be included in the greenbelt. Focused on principles for inclusion: • Lands already permanently protected through easement	No comment

		• or ownership; • Niagara Escarpment, ORM tender fruit lands and Holland Marsh in total; • Province should consider provincially owned lands for their suitability for inclusion.	
Environmental Protection	The Region advise the Task Force that the Greenbelt components are well defined and secured in York Region with the Official Plan policies, Oak Ridges Moraine Official Plan changes, Regional/local Greenlands systems & north-south river valleys and should be maintained;		Task Force report appears to allude to the designations in regional and local planning documents at least in so far as Agricultural lands are concerned and recognizes that the greenbelt will build on the NEC plan and ORMCP and other public owned lands
	The areas of natural heritage that could be considered for improved policy protection and securement tools are: • wetlands (other than Provincially significant wetlands) • tableland woodlands and • those middle reaches of streams off the ORM In those areas, Provincial policy is not of sufficient strength (either in the existing PPS or the draft PPS currently under review) to secure or	Task Force recommendations re-iterate reliance on the systems approach, but leave the designation of specific Greenbelt components to provincial Ministries during Plan drafting.	Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting. Need to review details of the Proposed Plan to determine whether issues have been address

	otherwise protect them from development and site alteration or from expansion of Agricultural uses		
Agricultural Protection	The Task Force direction for Agricultural land protection and farm viability be supported;	Task Force proposes identification based on science, socio-economic factors and regional and local official plan designations. Recommendations also for very limited availability to further fragment key agricultural lands and specialty crop areas.	No comment
	The Provincial Government make a firm commitment to take leadership in the implementation of the Agricultural Action Plan as soon as possible.	Task Force recommendations refer to appointment of the Agricultural Advisory Team (AAT) in June 2004.	AAT input required regarding the Agricultural Actions Plan Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting
Transportation and Infrastructure	Need for transportation and infrastructure services within and crossing the Greenbelt Plan area be recognized.	Infrastructure Services should not be located in the greenbelt unless criteria met	Similar approach to that used in the ORMCP, but previous comments remain valid. Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting

	Services for priority growth areas be expedited.	Not included	Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting
	The Province should review the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> to ensure that it assists public authorities in providing cost effective, appropriate servicing in a timely and efficient fashion and that opportunity for streamlining the environmental assessment process be investigated.	Recommends streamlining of EA process where new services co-locate with existing services	Task Force does acknowledge that where services co-locate with existing services the EA process should be streamlined as requested in part by the Region
	Within the Greenbelt Plan area that provisions similar to those used in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan wording be considered for Transportation and Infrastructure uses with need and justification determined through the Environmental Assessment process	Recommended approach appears similar to ORMCP	Appears to be the case, but draft plan required before final comments can be made.
Culture and Tourism	It is recommended that current Culture Recreation and Tourism projects and programs continue and be appropriately supported and funded.	Task Force has made numerous recommendations regarding marketing and branding the greenbelt, respecting the vision and goals of the greenbelt in any tourism opportunities, capitalizing on its strengths and developing a greenbelt parks and trails strategy to identify potential future public parks.	Does not address issues raised by the Region Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting

Administration and Implementation	The Region generally support administration of Plan by area municipalities this approach as it utilizes existing administration platforms, but that significantly more consultation with affected stakeholders occurs before a final decision is made;	Task Force proposes Plan be administered by municipalities and included in their municipal planning documents and that the Province allocate sufficient resources to assist municipalities in implementing the Plan	Implementation recommendations consistent with Regional recommendations and Task Force to be commended for recognizing the impact of implementation on municipal budgets
	Key issues such as leadership, responsibility, accountability and financial arrangements for administration of the Greenbelt Plan have not been included and must be considered before final arrangements are made.	Task Force recommendations silent on this	Not addressed except in passing. Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting
	The Task Force review regional and municipal Official Plans and initiatives in their search for existing and emerging means of establishing final recommendations on the Greenbelt Plan to the Province.	Task Force recommendations silent on this	Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting
	The Task Force review and consider acquisition and securement programs that already exist to serve as a model for supportive Provincial programs.	Task Force recommendations silent on this	Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting

	The financial package to support the Greenbelt Plan be prepared at the same time as the Greenbelt Plan and other Provincial initiatives on growth management and transportation in south-central Ontario	Task Force recommendations recognize need to allocate resources to municipalities to assist in implementation	Recognized generally. Send previous comments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and His staff for consideration during Plan drafting
--	--	---	---

Recommendations from Clause 10 of Report No. 6 of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee - Adopted by Regional Council at its meeting of June 24, 2004