



DRAFT
York Region Official Plan

September 22, 2009
Town of Richmond Hill
Public Information Session

Feedback



Feedback

- ❑ How much water was reduced after efficient showerheads (Water for Tomorrow program) were implemented?
 - ❑ About 23 million litres per day per enough for a Town the size of Aurora
- ❑ Last year were the restrictions on water usage the result of insufficient capacity to service the new developments?
 - ❑ Combination of a dry summer and new development
 - ❑ Need to reserve water for emergency service i.e. Fire
- ❑ Is water restriction policy/law permanent?
 - ❑ Yes all municipalities have bylaws that require odd/even day watering and in the north if supplies are low there can be watering bans





Feedback

- ❑ Box planters require water every day which goes against water conservation
 - ❑ Region promotes rain barrels and other solutions
- ❑ There are time of day rates for electricity for Newmarket, is there anything being talked about regarding the average amount of water used. For example, if this amount is surpassed, another rate would be applied?
 - ❑ Region meters water by volume, water system is different from electricity – if there is high demand, will run out of water from reservoirs etc...
 - ❑ Will take this back to Regional staff



Feedback

- ❑ What has been done to reduce bottled water, or companies that bottle water? Need to promote water conservation.
 - ❑ ROP has policies for surface and underground systems ie monitoring wells, quality of watershed, watershed plans
- ❑ Reference to ROP policies on careful management of stormwater management through innovative solutions
- ❑ We have had severe flooding due to weather events
- ❑ Lake Simcoe is being affected by phosphorous loading. However, there seems to be emphasis on investing largely on issues that will result in a small impact. i.e. tertiary treatment for sewage





Feedback

- ❑ There should be more effort made on stormwater management for older and existing areas of the Region.
- ❑ With the movement of people and traffic coming into York Region, there are competing interests with regards to density. Paris has high density but it is supported by a web of transit that is non-existent in York Region.
- ❑ If we want people to walk and cycle, the Region must address safety issues and winter conditions.
- ❑ 6 months out of the year in Toronto is adverse to walking and cycling.



Feedback

- ❑ Singapore has covered walkways, is this feasible to build in York Region? If we want people to walk in this 6 months of winter, we must make it easy.
- ❑ Density is a problem. Affordable housing will be built outside the inverted T and transit accessibility could be a problem, hence competing interests.
 - ❑ YR cannot build enough roads to accommodate all cars generated.
 - ❑ Need a multi-strategy approach including large investment in transit, walkable and cyclable communities and arrange communities in a way to reduce trip to work, locate development near to transit lines.





Feedback

- ❑ Ottawa closes some roads for bicycles certain times of the week/month.
- ❑ Metrolinx plan is good plan, but there's no "web" of transit. As a result, we need huge parking lots and shuttle buses to move people to and from transit systems.
- ❑ Need to connect east-west commuters to the Yonge/Hwy 7 transit lines.
- ❑ Incorporate ideas from other cities in the world to Toronto.
- ❑ Employ someone to research these ideas.
 - ❑ YR has done research on best practices on new communities.



Feedback

- ❑ Do you think the ROP is a good plan? On a scale from 1-10?
- ❑ Can always make the plan better.
- ❑ In Sweden - in the morning when it's snowing, they clean the bike pathways first, then roadways. Set the priority.
- ❑ Don't widen roads (Yonge, Bayview, Leslie, 16th and Major Mackenzie). Focus on alternative transportation such as bikes, walkways, transit etc... need to do it safer.
- ❑ In the examination of cities for best practices, what cities in Norway, Sweden has York Region looked at. Their climates are more similar.





Feedback

- YR has looked at winter cities in Canada.
- Is transit going to be affordable for users? Right now, it's \$3.00 one-way ride for VIVA.
- Employer incentives are suggested to increase transit.
- It is expensive to go downtown from York Region (ie \$10 one-way per person). Cheaper to go in car with family.
- People go downtown because that is where the main activities are located. If subway ends at High Tech Rd, hope housing and services will follow so trip downtown won't be necessary as much.



Feedback

- Density at Yonge/Bloor will be coming to York Region. Transit will tie this development together.
- Return on Investment for shuttle buses is very low because people have errands and other trips to run after work. How to get people out of the car with such busy schedules?
- With winter, planting trees can provide some canopy cover on sidewalks.
- Leaving bike lanes with car lanes may be safer.
- Building roads to accommodate all car traffic is fiscally impossible.



- ❑ Has York Region researched Portland? Rapid transit became everything in suburbs and cities. There are no barriers and there are drop offs in the main cores.
- ❑ So much in the Regional Official Plan is focused on pedestrian and bicycling. Where are you going to find these people? Half of them don't even own a bicycle.
- ❑ But, how would you define main cores in York Region?
- ❑ Someone from the Region should go to Portland and research transit system.

- ❑ Did you mention riding bicycle on the sidewalk is in breach of Highway traffic Act?
- ❑ In the Town of Richmond Hill meeting on the move of municipal offices, I was the only one to use a bicycle.
- ❑ I don't see anyone walking or cycling or taking transit near York Central hospital. Everyone drives.
- ❑ When students are out of school, buses (route #83) are empty.
- ❑ Using municipal bus in lieu of school bus is good idea.



Feedback

- ❑ After last year's meeting, expect meetings annually
- ❑ The notice of meeting in local papers should indicate the agenda and include a glossary of terms used in draft ROP.
- ❑ Staff should consolidate policies in each local municipality.
- ❑ Recommend regular progress reports on homelessness, affordable housing, poverty, food bank services, pedestrian and bicycling studies.
- ❑ The presentation (tonight) is equivalent to the speech from the throne. Unless more detail is given, cannot endorse what is being proposed.



Feedback

- ❑ Population forecasts requires change and re-education of entire generation of the population.
- ❑ York Region residents are comfortable with certain lifestyle, may not want to live in intensified communities.
- ❑ What is the buy-in from schools?
 - ❑ YR does meet with the schools boards
- ❑ Education is not as necessary as the physical set-up of transit. Must be easy to walk to, cope with delays etc.



- ❑ In downtown (Toronto), houses are close to transit. If there are delays, you can walk to work. Cannot do this in York Region.
- ❑ Need to be more attuned to health issues and being physically fit.
- ❑ Don't widen streets: 6 lanes (street) is an obstacle for bicyclists and pedestrians.

- ❑ In Toronto, kids take transit on their own. In York Region, they are driven everywhere.
- ❑ Should be able to walk from Highway 7 and get a bus. Cannot do this, must walk to terminal.
- ❑ This is a planning meeting. Discuss how to plan community because we want to live in a liveable city.
- ❑ York Region is huge and commutes are long.
- ❑ Students need mobility, other residents don't need it as they don't need to leave their building.



Feedback

- ❑ Toronto has two subway systems, Gardiner, DVP and still has congestion/gridlock.
- ❑ Travelling north is still difficult with traffic.
- ❑ York Region has increase of jobs so gridlock will increase. Must plan effective transit
 - ❑ Must provide choice for live and work– basis of the draft ROP
- ❑ Draft ROP and other materials should be available in libraries.
- ❑ York Region should have a master recreational plan and libraries should be Regional responsibility.



Feedback

- ❑ Look at immigration, libraries are gathering place for them.
- ❑ Look at potential for mid-block stores. Right now retail is located on outer edge of block and need to rely on automobile.
- ❑ How many meetings were done in the past? How many people would attend?
- ❑ There are no young people that come out to meetings.
- ❑ Is 100 person attendance a valid sample of viewpoint of the Region?





Feedback

- ❑ Demographics: when the Region was looking at residents that are coming in, did we look at housing type, age etc... is it anticipated that majority will be families/dual households/multigenerational etc...
- ❑ Touch on Healthy and Active Lifestyles?
- ❑ Air quality ties into reducing number of cars.
- ❑ How many persons are from Richmond Hill?
- ❑ How many attended the meeting the Town of Richmond Hill regarding moving municipal offices? Well over a 100 were in attendance.



Feedback

- ❑ September has no bearing on the low turnout of draft ROP meetings.
- ❑ Most in meetings have “grey hair” and younger people must bear the burden of cost. Need to get younger people out to meetings.
- ❑ Mainstreet Richmond Hill has moved south to 16th Ave near Hillcrest Mall. It is safer and more accessible.
- ❑ Region should check report on Alzheimer’s.





Feedback

- ❑ Glad to see the idea of basement apartments. They exist in communities and it is a way for people to afford to live in communities and reduce impact on environment.
- ❑ Modelling for climate change has to be re-evaluated.
- ❑ Look at having federal, provincial and inter-regional incentives for homeowners retrofit existing home for sustainability. These homes need the most work and can be most impactful.



Feedback

- ❑ Have incentives for LEED for industrial buildings
- ❑ Human scale in built areas. Richmond Hill does “squash and spread” to oppose shadow effect of high rise (ie North York).
- ❑ Infiltration of water into older system/ pipes, are repairs ongoing?
- ❑ Growing (expanding) the Greenbelt, is it being done at Regional level?
- ❑ Not making it convenient to take transit.





Feedback

- ❑ More frequency of transit service is needed
- ❑ Table 1: is population forecast more conservative or liberal? May be too low (in Vaughan) when factoring in high rise development. With immigration, will not have support services.
- ❑ If we are receiving intensification in Langstaff, Yonge/Steeles and other place, we should not go into white belt.
- ❑ Must be balance between how many people we can have and our energy and food supply. Need to be self-sufficient.
- ❑ Do not go over white belt and Greenbelt, once it is developed it is lost.



Feedback

- ❑ Need to have heritage and the greenlands in draft ROP.
- ❑ OMB goes against plans.
- ❑ Region should strategize for OMB. OMB should be eliminated. Give power back to the municipalities.
- ❑ Should create senior friendly cities.
- ❑ No road widenings
- ❑ Encourage large office buildings and heavy users of water to recycle?
- ❑ Protect aquifers and recharge of aquifers.
- ❑ Have green roofs for air quality and lowering energy need





Feedback

- ❑ Network of covered walkways and bike lanes to offset effects of winters
- ❑ Maintenance of roads (ie potholes) particularly in winter.
- ❑ Intensification results in negative public reaction and goes to OMB.
- ❑ Buy-in for smaller units is needed
- ❑ Federal government is not represented in draft ROP. Not enough on airports, VIA trains, long distance carriers (ie Greyhound). Harbour on Georgina Island, can it be used for transportation?



Feedback

- ❑ Need Regional policy on corporate recycling.
- ❑ Regional should get involved in the planning of the Dunlop Observatory as a heritage site on Map 4 because it is wetland. Whole site is a green natural feature.
- ❑ Consider putting feedback on social network websites (ie twitter, facebook etc...)
- ❑ Will progress reports on homelessness, poverty, food banks be released?

