



Planning for Tomorrow
York Region Growth Management

Towards a Sustainable Region

York Region Open House – Feedback
May 8, 2007
Richmond Hill

Discussion



The following comments, questions and suggestions are a summary of public input at the consultation session in the Town of Richmond Hill. Regional Staff attempted to answer questions and provide additional input. Please contact the Region if this summary does not adequately reflect your input or ideas or if you have additional thoughts.



Discussion



- Should plan to encourage quality jobs to ensure that employees can afford to live in York Region.
- Strong existing base of higher paying jobs to build on
- Need to plan to protect employment lands
- How will intensification be accommodated within the existing suburban form? Is there a plan to accommodate intensification?



Discussion



- Planning for types of employment is necessary to accommodate the residents of York Region. Large amount of big box retail in York Region.
- GO Transit service improvements are necessary
- Energy supply, infrastructure discussion is necessary



Discussion



- Affordable Housing strategy to ensure a supply of affordable housing
- Need to address housing needs of aging residents in intensified neighbourhoods
- Need to ensure that new housing addresses energy efficiency, etc.



Discussion



- What is the role of government in influencing the supply of affordable housing
- Need to ensure that housing choices match the jobs in the Region to ensure a supply of housing for all residents and employees
- Needs to be a link between affordable housing, transportation and jobs
- We need walkable communities



Discussion



- Parking provisions are necessary for transit corridors (example of shared parking provision provided by Feds, Province, Municipal - PEI)
- Intensification versus greenfield (whitebelt development). Can the local municipalities determine the amount of intensification or greenfield development
- More cost effective to build in existing urban area or brownfields (intensify)



Discussion



- Coordination of transit services (GO, Viva) is necessary in addition to pedestrian linkages to transit facilities
- Protection of cultural heritage is important, there are a number of important cultural heritage resources that need to be protected
- Greater preservation of cultural heritage
- Concern that high population areas (greater than 10 million) can create higher taxes, loss of businesses,
- Concern that rate of growth may be too fast, could have negative impact on quality of life



Discussion



- Concerned with Fiscal impact of growth
- Richmond Hill tax increase, concern that taxes will continue to increase to pay for growth
- System of reporting back to participants?
What are the results of the inputs from last round of consultation
- Comments from all sessions are posted on the Region's website, and will report back to Regional Council in fall 2007 on what was heard at public engagement sessions.



Discussion



- Demographic centre of York Region at Yonge and 7
- “blind peer review” concern with regard to transparency of process
- Linkages of transit facilities at Langstaff is necessary



Discussion



- Improvements to transit facilities are coming
- GTTA: established to prioritize transit investment
- Need to maintain a state of good repair in our infrastructure
- Cultural heritage planning is necessary
- Need to address water, energy, and recreational facilities
- Parking facilities along transit lines are necessary



Discussion



- Concern with regard to road widenings and impact: heat island effect, air quality and climate change, salt loading
- Local food availability and production will create a better place to live; improving our economy, be more sustainable
- Regional road widening policy; if roads are widened to more than 6 lanes, one lane is provided for HOV
- Need to increase transit usage



Discussion



- Housing affordability is a key issue for York Region; connected to liveability and healthy communities. This needs to be addressed creatively. How do we get local municipalities to address second suites?



Discussion



- Yonge Street is currently at 4 lanes, 2 lanes will be added exclusively for transit; at intersections, there may be up to 8 lanes to accommodate turning lanes



Discussion



- Concern with the conflicts between wanting to accommodate pedestrian facilities, increasing road ROW widths, while protecting greenspace
- York Region's live-work ratio should be improved
- Want to ensure that we have housing to accommodate the jobs in York Region



Discussion



- Live-work target needs to be addressed, to increase the current ratio.
- Transportation is a key issue.
- Safe, comfortable transit facilities are necessary to increase ridership
- Tree planting needs to be complemented by maintenance to ensure that trees survive
- Consolidation of recreational facilities is necessary
- Provincial and Federal governments needs to be partners



Discussion



- GTTA reviewing transportation from a larger perspective
- Design of new communities is key to connect housing with employment;
- Need to examine types of trees being planted;
- Examine ways in which the Region can influence the local municipalities to provide secondary suites (summit?)



Discussion



- Greater coordination between local and regional infrastructure planning
- There needs to be a better connection between planning and implementation of tree planting along arterial roads
- Concern with road widening and tree planting



Discussion



- Map in brochure; show connected transportation facilities
- Need transit connections to airport
- Concern that we are losing prime farm land
- Need an innovative approach to protecting prime farm land, and water resources
- Connections between affordable housing and transit facilities are necessary

