
**York Region Transportation Sustainability –
Principles, Objectives and
Example Performance Indicators**



1. Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning

Principles

- *York Region is committed to integrating transportation planning into an urban form that is compact, mixed-use and creates a sense of community.*
- *York Region is committed to transportation planning as one component of a growth management system that also includes human services, the environment, the economy and fiscal capacity.*

Objectives

- Transportation planning will be integrated with land use planning and urban design, to create transit-supportive land use form and design (e.g., compact, mixed-use, pedestrian friendly communities) and to minimize single occupant vehicle trips.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Ensure consistent policies between Regional Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan
- Increase in the number of employers within walking distance of bus stops (200 / 400 metres)
- Increase in the number of residents within walking distance of bus stops (200 / 400 metres)
- Increase in the number of residents within walking distance of trail facilities
- Increase in the number of major Regional activity centres connected by trails, cycling facilities and sidewalks

2. Protect and Enhance Our Environment and Cultural Heritage

Principles

- *York Region will (through integrated growth, system planning, and advanced construction and operations practices) protect, restore and enhance the natural environment.*
- *York Region respects and protects its First Nation heritage.*
- *York Region respects and protects its cultural heritage.*

Objectives

- Use environmental criteria, such as emissions of greenhouse gases and the use of non-renewable resources, in the strategic evaluation of alternative land use and transportation scenarios.
- Transportation systems will be planned in an integrated manner in conjunction with York Region's Growth Management Strategy and other servicing strategies to ensure that the Region's natural and cultural heritage will be protected and their impacts mitigated.
- Transportation systems will be planned through the appropriate Ontario Environmental Assessment process ensuring complete regard for the natural and cultural heritage of York Region.
- Transportation systems will be constructed and operated in a manner that maintains and enhances the environment and, provides a net benefit to York Region's natural heritage.
- The planning and implementation of transportation systems will identify and protect areas of cultural significance and Natural Heritage cores and linkages by people.
- The planning and implementation of Transportation systems will identify and protect areas of First Nations traditional use.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Meet conformity requirements (noise, air quality, water quality, etc.)
- Acreage of agricultural or rural-zoned land
- Impacts on Key National Heritage Features (no. of H/M/L risks)
- Annual measure of greenhouse gas emissions
- Acreage of land used for transportation facilities (e.g., R.O.W., yards, etc.)

3. Support Our Economic Well-Being

Principle

- *York Region is committed to ensuring that its transportation systems support economic development*

Objectives

- Identify and implement strategies for effective and efficient goods movement within York Region.
- Identify and implement strategies to support development or redevelopment priority areas in centres and corridors.
- Identify and implement strategies to maximize the flexibility of the transportation system to respond to both predicted and unforeseen changes in energy supply or price.
- Provide transportation options for work trips within the Region and to locations outside of the Region.
- Recognize that goods movement is integral to a vital economy, that it should be safe, efficient, and flexible, and that environmental impacts and the use of non-renewable resources should be minimized.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Congestion area maps including traffic volumes, auto speed differential, hours of congestion
- % of lane-kms (or straight kms) of congested roads in employment areas and on highways
- % of freight traffic on Regional arterials, freeways

4. Provide Access and Mobility for Everyone

Principle

- *York Region is committed to ensuring all residents, especially disabled, low income persons, recent immigrants, youth and the elderly, have barrier-free, reliable, and affordable access to all aspects of the transportation system*

Objectives

- York Region will identify and implement strategies to maximize access to the transportation system, including improvements to transit and options for reducing travel.
- Create and promote alternative transportation options for area residents and employees that are reliable and accessible to all users.

Example of Performance Indicators

- % of kms of congested roads/corridors
- Transit service coverage (% of population with access to less than “x” jobs by transit, kms of route, revenue service hours) – peak hours and all day for conventional and special transit services
- Transit efficiency = passenger-km/vehicle-km
- % change in auto volume / % change in population
- % change in transit riders / % change in population
- Ratio of surplus major road network capacity to transit capacity in Regional Centres during peak hours
- Per capita traffic congestion delay
- Average per capita and peak hour cost of traffic congestion delay
- Use the consumer surplus theory technique to compare alternatives by using mean travel times for each alternative
- Change in transit ridership
- Change in transit route kms
- Change in number of transit vehicle kms of service
- Change in hours of transit operation
- Increase in the kms of pedestrian/bicycle facilities
- Area coverage of rapid transit services

5. Adopt Energy Efficient Transportation Systems

Principle

- *York Region will design a transportation system that is energy efficient and mitigates and adapts to the impacts of climate change.*

Objectives

- Transportation System design will be energy efficient, use alternative sources of energy and mitigate the impact of future climate change within the design life of the facilities.
- The impacts of climate change on transit oriented community design and transportation systems will be considered during the planning and design of communities and transportation systems.
- Transportation systems and transit and Regional corporate fleets will be designed and operated to optimize (greatest return per unit energy expended) energy use and where possible recover useable energy.
- Greenhouse gas emissions will be minimized to the extent possible in the operation of Regional transportation systems.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Change in the amount of carbon dioxide produced per litre of gasoline (Regionally and locally within individual municipalities)
- Change in the Regional and local amount of methane emitted, based on Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT)
- Change in the Regional and local amount of nitrous oxide emitted (based on VKT)
- Change in the Regional and local amount of hydrofluorocarbons emitted (based on VKT)
- Change in the number of Regional transit vehicles and other fleet vehicles that use alternative fuels

6. Put Pedestrians and Transit First

Principle

- *York Region recognizes that each transportation trip begins and ends with a pedestrian trip, and is committed to designing a transportation system that promotes an active lifestyle and community well-being.*

Objectives

- The Region will foster community designs that support pedestrians and sustainable transportation modes as priorities over single occupancy vehicle travel.
- The Region and its municipalities will plan for reliable, frequent and seamless public transit; create a functional and attractive street network that encourages walking, cycling, teleworking, ridesharing, and community interaction; and support these goals through land use planning and urban design.
- The Region will identify strategies to improve public health and safety by encouraging a system based on an active lifestyle such as Active and Safe Routes to Schools. Encouragement of active lifestyles should be fostered in early childhood.
- The Region will identify strategies to achieve transportation goals through parking management, employee incentives, and community partnerships.
- The Region will explore opportunities to improve the natural environment as well as road safety through initiatives such as naturalized boulevard drainage on residential roads.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Capital and operating costs and percentages of:
- Road improvements by HOV, RBL and other
- Transit improvements
- Completion of Urban Cycling Transportation Network
- Sidewalk coverage on arterial and collector roads
- Pedestrian crossing accessibility (% with depressed curbs)
- Bicycles per 100 motorized vehicles
- Modal split
- Priority allocation of ROW to sustainable modes

7. Implement and Support Transportation Demand Management Initiatives

Principle

- *York Region is committed to reducing single-occupant vehicle trips and promoting a preference for sustainable transportation choices by providing more reliable and convenient alternative modes of travel.*

Objectives

- The Region will pro-actively manage demands to minimize the use of single occupant vehicles while supporting alternative transportation modes.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Total transit ridership
- Modal split
- Mean trip length for auto, transit
- Mean trip travel time for auto, transit
- Lane-km of HOV/RBL lanes
- % Transit Priority Network completed
- Carpool lots proposed/implemented
- Park-and-ride lots proposed/implemented
- Peak hour/peak period ratios
- Budget allocated for TDM programs and initiatives
- Number of partners for TDM programs
- Amount of leveraged spending

8. Implement and Support Transportation Supply Management Initiatives

Principles

- *York Region is committed to managing its transportation system in an efficient and cost-effective, socially and environmentally responsible manner.*

Objectives

- The Region will manage the supply and operation of its transportation system so as to minimize the need for roadway expansion, and support uses that can readily access alternative modes of transportation.
- The Region will implement strategies to maximize the multimodal capacity of current infrastructure.
- York Region is committed to a timely and integrated service delivery.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Capital and operating cost of transit improvements, other programs and services vs. road improvements
- Lane-km of arterials and highways
- Vehicular capacity of arterials and highways
- Transit service coverage
- Increasing absolute value and percentage of capital roads budget being applied to intersection improvements
- Greater cost effectiveness (in terms of person carrying capacity/\$)
- Completion of transit priority network (%)

9. Ensure Fiscal Sustainability and Equitable Funding

Principles

- *York Region is committed to providing full cost accounting for all transportation infrastructure projects and services.*
- *York Region is committed to value-for-money in delivering transportation services.*

Objectives

- The full cost of transportation services will be assessed and equitably allocated.
- Value-for-money will be achieved through careful planning, sound project management, streamlined project delivery, benchmarking and commercially astute business practices.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Capital and operating costs of:
 - Road improvements
 - Transit improvements
 - Other programs & services
 - Total Master Plan

10. Further Encourage Communications, Consultation and Public Engagement

Principles

- *York Region will plan for and implement transportation infrastructure and services in an open, transparent and accountable manner based on broad consultation, citizen engagement and strong communications.*

Objectives

- Develop innovative consultation programs to more meaningfully engage the public and stakeholder groups in the transportation planning process
- Ensure that citizens understand the role they can play in supporting sustainable transportation solutions.
- Make all relevant information about the Transportation Master Plan available to the public in an open, transparent and accountable manner.
- Make all relevant information about the Transportation Master Plan available to different ethnic groups in their native languages.
- Work with partner agencies to respond to issues and develop policies related to the TMP.

Example of Performance Indicators

- Number of public workshop/meeting attendees
- Number of hits on the York Region Transportation Master Plan Web site
- Results of public opinion survey probing whether residents are: one, adopting sustainability practices; and two, receiving and understanding the sustainable message in York Region

11. Conduct On-going Performance Measurement and Monitoring

Principles

- *York Region will monitor and report on sustainable transportation initiatives through a series of defined performance measures.*

Objectives

- The Region will enhance the performance measures and a reporting framework to fairly evaluate the progress of the Transportation Master Plan and other Regional initiatives.
- The Region will identify an on-going reporting strategy to effectively communicate performance measurement results.

Example of Performance Indicators

- The results of an evaluation based on the aforementioned performance measures will be provided in an “annual report card