

PLANNING

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A. Background

A.1 Preparing the Service Strategy Business Plan

The Service Strategy Business Plan (SSBP) was created by a Project Team comprised of the Commissioner, the Director of Development Planning Services, the Director of Planning Policy and Research, the Director of Transportation Planning, all the Managers and the Office Administrator.

A.2 Key Contacts

Nick Tunnacliffe, Commissioner of Planning
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A.3 Additional Information

This is the third Service Strategy Business Plan developed by the Planning Department.

B. Description of Current Services

B.1 Program Location Map

Planning Department staff are located at 10 Peel Centre Drive.

B.2 Profile of Current Services

The Planning Department provides a range of services which respond to the growth and change being experienced by Peel.

Data Creation, Collection And Analysis

Maintain a number of spatial and non-spatial data sets. These are made available through the Peel Data Centre.

Planning Policy Development

The main vehicle for Planning Policy is the Regional Official Plan, which was originally adopted in 1996. Currently concluding a Regional Official Plan Strategic Update which is reviewing those sections of the Plan related to environmental mapping, regional structure, human services and transportation planning. Contribute to planning policy development that affects the whole of the Greater Toronto Area.

Planning Policy Implementation

The Department implements Planning Policy by contributing to and reviewing Area Municipal Planning initiatives, defending the Regional Official Plan at the Ontario Municipal Board and coordinating comments on development applications and environmental assessments.

Professional Planning Services

Provide consulting services to other departments, specifically in the area of demographic and socio-economic projections, and on seeking planning approvals for facilities that the departments wish to construct. Undertake transportation forecasting, particularly for Area Municipalities and their consultants.

Development And Maintenance Of Planning Models

Maintain transportation forecasting models and a “What If” simulation and growth forecasting model. Provides support to the York/Peel/Durham and Toronto groundwater model.

Planning Research

Undertakes comprehensive program of planning research which includes population and employment forecasting, monitoring of development applications and building permits, monitoring of policy implementation, and State Of The Environment land reporting system.

Liaison, Coordination and Influence

The Region and Area Municipal Planning Directors meet regularly throughout the year. Staff are involved in several liaison and coordination groups e.g. Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario and its sub-committees, and federal and province ministries.

Planning Studies

Undertakes a variety of Planning Studies, which may be at different scales; inter-regional, regional and local in nature.

Mapping/Geographical Information System

Prepare and make available Standard and customized map products.

Education and Outreach

Participates or organizes events, which aim to educate the public on planning e.g. Peel Children's Water Festival, Geographic Information Systems Day, and Smart Growth Workshop.

B.3 Description of Clients/Customers

Municipalities

The Area Municipalities within Peel: Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Numerous government departments including Transport Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Regional Sub-Regional agencies include the Niagara Escarpment Commission, Conservation Authorities and School Boards. Transportation agencies include GO Transit and the Greater Toronto Airport Authority. Community agencies include the Halton-Peel District Health Council, the Peel Social Planning Council and the Community Care Access Centre of Peel.

Developers and Professional Consultants

Developers operating in Peel Region and their professional planning and engineering consultants.

Other Regional Departments

Excluding the Planning Department, there are eight Regional Departments; Corporate Services, Finance, Health and Property; People Information and Technology; Public Works and Social Services rely on the Department for information and data and mapping. The Department also acts as consultant to those departments that require planning advice when they wish to build facilities.

Public

The citizens who live and work in Peel including community and interest groups, and businesses

B.4 Description of Suppliers, Partners and Stakeholders

Suppliers

- Lawyers
- Statistics Canada
- Data Management Group
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
- Consultants
- Sun Micro Systems
- Software Suppliers
- Local businesses
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Partners

- Agencies, Boards and Commissions
- Area Municipalities
- Federal and Provincial governments
- Greater Toronto Area, Hamilton Municipalities
- Regional Departments
- Public

Stakeholders

- Area Municipalities
- Provincial Ministries
- Transport Canada
- Regional Council

B.5 Significant Accomplishments

- Initiated incisive and timely Peel Data Centre Bulletins (15)
- Assessed implications of transportation trends on Peel Region (Transportation Tomorrow Survey, Cordon Count)
- Regional Official Plan Strategic Update
 - Successful open house and workshops held (Meet & Greet, Smart Growth, and Multi-cultural Inter Agency)
 - Peer Review of Population and Employment Forecasts endorsed
 - Oak Ridges Moraine policies (OPA 7) adopted within tight provincial deadline
 - Airport Operating Area policies adopted (OPA 5)
 - Regional Transportation priorities and work plan adopted by Council
 - Initiated Human Services Planning
 - Five major transportation planning studies initiated:
 - Transportation Plan consolidation
 - Transportation for the Disabled (completed)
 - Goods Movement Study (draft report)
 - Transportation Demand Management (draft report)
 - Caledon Transportation Needs Study (draft report)
- Great strides made in completing process mapping for Development Planning Services and incorporating process improvements
- Provided leadership in initiating a GTA wide Smart Commute Initiative, which received Federal funding
- Created, developed, launched Councillors Orientation Handbook
- Goods Movement Partnership established with Peel businesses, transportation companies and Senior levels of governments
- Through skillful negotiations, the complex Caledon aggregate policies dispute was settled avoiding a lengthy hearing, thereby saving tax dollars
- Successfully building relationships with Area Municipal staff i.e. Regional Official Plan Strategic Update, Transportation Association of Canada, Transportation Working Group
- Played a significant role in preparing the GTA Agricultural Symposium/Action Plan

C. Trends and Issues

C.1 Emerging Trends

- Aging population
- Aging infrastructure
- Growing traffic congestion
- Goods movement – truck traffic growing at 7.2% per year during the A.M. peak period
- 60% of people live and work in Peel
- Greater health, environmental concerns (Severe Acute Repertory Syndrome/West Nile Virus), increasing gas prices and security issues may lead to desire to work from home or close to home
- Greater privatization of public sector services (e.g. 407/hospitals)
- Increasing involvement of private sector in infrastructure development
- Increasing demand for specific data and sharing data within shorter time frames
- Continuing pressure to urbanize agricultural and environmental land
- Rising vacancies in rental market
- Fewer affordable housing units being provided except by government programs
- Stable and low interest rates
- Citizen groups, businesses becoming more informed, better organized
- Province is passing strong environmental legislation but not funding implementation, no authority is provided to protect resources
- Renewed signs of Provincial involvement in land use planning
- Growing pressure on Region to meet local concerns previously handled by Province
- Renewed signs of leadership at provincial and federal levels (e.g. transportation planning)
- Market pressure to convert employment lands to residential
- Increasing dependence on automobiles
- Increasing awareness of planning issues
- Growth in population largely due to immigration (60-62%) – affects services
- Programs increasingly offered through partnerships
- Governments expected to operate as a business and yet be more accountable
- Increasing pressure for services for the disabled
- Rising energy prices

C.2 Key Strategic Issues

- Given the high level of growth, how to shape growth and change at a Regional level, while improving the quality of life in Peel
- Working with the Province and Greater Toronto Area Municipalities to develop and implement a long term growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area
- Need for an integrated land use and transportation system in Peel that is more sustainable in the long term
- Protecting the environment in the face of increased growth and change
- Enhancing relationships with the Area Municipalities
- Supporting an effective Regional planning team

D. Mandate, Objectives and Actions

D.1 Mandate and Objectives

Mandate:

Peel Planning will manage growth and change to create a more liveable region.

Objectives:

1. To balance the competing demands of economic, social and environmental interests when managing growth and change.
2. To preserve, protect and enhance Peel's natural environment and resources.
3. To achieve a more sustainable land use and transportation system.
4. To provide innovative and responsive regional planning.
5. To foster a working environment that supports an effective Regional Planning team.

D.2 Objectives and Actions

- 1. To balance the competing demands of economic, social and environmental interests when managing growth and change.**
 - 1.1 Initiate the Liveable Peel project
 - 1.2 Ensure Regional interests are addressed in planning matters
 - 1.3 Influence federal/provincial initiatives
 - 1.4 Research and analyze factors influencing growth and change
 - 1.5 Determine changes to the regional structure sections of the Regional Official Plan
- 2. To preserve, protect and enhance Peel's natural environment and resources.**
 - 2.1 Strengthen partnerships for environmental and resource protection
 - 2.2 Implement, monitor and update natural resource and natural environment policies
 - 2.3 Support initiatives of the agricultural sector to maintain its viability
 - 2.4 Support Regional strategies to improve air and water quality
- 3. To achieve a more sustainable land use and transportation system.**
 - 3.1 Undertake comprehensive long term transportation planning
 - 3.2 Create and implement a more efficient and sustainable land use and transportation plan
 - 3.3 Develop and implement plans to optimize the use of transportation infrastructure and services
 - 3.4 Promote strategies for improving inter-regional and inter-municipal transit

3.5 Partner with senior levels of government and industry to improve goods movement

4. To provide innovative and responsive regional planning.

- 4.1 Enhance the effectiveness of our relationships with partners
- 4.2 Undertake educational and outreach programs
- 4.3 Secure funding to implement Regional Planning programs and initiatives
- 4.4 Research and implement leading edge planning practices
- 4.5 Determine and measure customer/client/citizen satisfaction and determine future needs

5. To foster a working environment that supports an effective Regional Planning team.

- 5.1 Utilize the SSBP Management System and workplans to prioritize tasks
- 5.2 Encourage continuous learning and career development
- 5.3 Address staff concerns and needs (e.g. B.E.S.T., suggestion boxes, internal communications strategy)
- 5.4 Retain and attract quality staff

D.3 Strategic Plan Connection

The objectives and actions in the Planning Department Service Strategy Business Plan are consistent with, and support, the following goals in the Region of Peel’s Strategic Plan, *Fast Forward Peel: Building a Strong Community Together*.

- Goal 1:** Improve the community’s health, social well being and safety
- Goal 2:** Assess and manage all aspects of growth that affect Peel services to ensure a more liveable region
- Goal 3:** Preserve, protect and enhance Peel’s natural environment and resources
- Goal 4:** Contribute to a vibrant and diverse regional economy
- Goal 5:** Be a citizen focused Regional government

D.4 Service Principles (Optional)

The Regional Values function as the service principles for the Planning Department.

E. *Monitoring and Measuring the Service Strategy Business Plan*

E.1 Objectives and Outcomes

- 1. To balance the competing demands of economic, social and environmental interests when managing growth and change.**
 - Development focused in urban areas and rural service centres
 - Use of physical infrastructure optimized
 - Human services needs met
 - Natural environment and resources are protected and used wisely
 - Population and employment are balanced
 - Land available for growth
 - Peel remains attractive for investment
 - Strong awareness and support for Regional Planning programs and services

- 2. To preserve, protect and enhance Peel's natural environment and resources.**
 - Protection of environmental, agricultural and natural resources
 - Proper use of aggregate lands
 - Important environmental features and functions are protected and enhanced
 - Cleaner air and water
 - Increase in the amount of greenspace protected relevant to population growth
 - Agricultural lands maintained with a vibrant agriculture industry in Peel

- 3. To achieve a more sustainable land use and transportation system.**
 - Less reliance on automobiles
 - More use of sustainable transportation modes
 - More intensive and mixed land uses
 - Better urban design to encourage walking, bicycling and transit
 - Increased development in nodes and corridors
 - Improved integration between modes of travel (both passenger and goods)
 - Balanced investment in transportation (roads and transit)
 - Cooperative partnerships
 - Higher proportion of people living and working in Peel
 - Safe, efficient movement of goods and people
 - Healthy communities
 - Decreasing proportion of development in green field locations

4. **To provide innovative and responsive regional planning.**
 - External recognition and respect for the role of Regional Planning Department
 - Public awareness of and interest in Regional Planning programs
 - Recognized as the source for data and planning expertise in Peel
 - Satisfied customers and clients
 - Modified public behaviour that supports balanced growth
 - Well funded Regional Planning programs

5. **To foster a working environment that supports an effective Regional Planning team.**
 - High job satisfaction
 - Motivated employees
 - Good staff morale
 - Healthy employees
 - Highly skilled/trained and well informed staff
 - Better work life balance
 - Low staff turnover
 - Cooperative working relationships with our stakeholders
 - Peel Planning Department will be regarded as a desirable place to work

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