

ROPSU

Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update Growth Management

Message From the Chief Administrative Officer of the Region of Peel



Roger Maloney,
CAO of the
Region of Peel

The Region of Peel is currently updating the Region's Official Plan, through the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU). The Region is planning to update this long-term policy document, looking forward over the next 20 or more years, guiding future growth and development from a growth management perspective.

variety of traditional and evolving techniques to guide local patterns of land use including the manner, location, rate and nature of development. Through the Region's Strategic Plan, Directions for Success: Investing in Peel's Future, Regional Council established a vision that Peel will be a healthy, vibrant, and safe community that values the diversity and quality of life.

being a leader in the provision and co-ordination of regional services.

In implementing the Region's Strategic Plan, the Region's Executive Management Team (includes Commissioners of each department), has identified the need to review the Regional Official Plan, develop growth management strategies and undertake comprehensive, long-term transportation planning.

The ROPSU program provides an opportunity to look at Peel's growth management issues and the Region's planning staff is working hard to develop additional growth management strategies to implement the Smart Growth Panel's Final Report, Shape the Future.

For more information on smart growth please visit our website at:

www.peel-smartgrowth.ca



The Regional Official Plan provides a formal mechanism to guide future municipal decisions and to evaluate conflicting land use demands. The Plan guides future decisions on roads, water supply, sewage disposal, housing and public facilities. The policies in the Plan set standards and rules for development to ensure positive community growth and improvement through growth management tools.

Growth management means the use by government of a

The Region's growth management work serves to uphold this vision and support the strategic directions, which call for:

- 1) improving the community's health, social well-being and safety;
- 2) assessing and managing all aspects of growth that affect Peel;
- 3) preserving, protecting and enhancing Peel's natural environment and resources; and,
- 4) contributing to a vibrant and diverse regional economy and

Growth Management Inside this issue:

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Traffic Congestion in Peel

Did you know...

A.M. peak period trips originating in Springdale are expected to double in the next 20 years.

The Springdale Transportation Cap OMB Decision

On June 26, 2003 the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) opened the door to approving new subdivisions in the Airport Road/Countryside Drive area of Brampton, known as Springdale.

The City of Brampton had refused to approve the applications and they were appealed to the OMB. The issue was the adequacy of the road system to handle the additional traffic expected. The City of Brampton and Regional Councils had set a limit or "cap" of 13,550 new housing units in Springdale to ensure that traffic would not exceed the capacity of the road system resulting in further congestion and delays. This cap was to be in place until road improvements were in place; notably the extension of Highway 410.

The OMB however, preferred the evidence of the developers' transportation planner who said that traffic will take alternative routes and therefore, there is enough road capacity to handle the traffic expected from the new subdivisions. The cap will be exceeded by 1,258 housing units.

In their written decision, the OMB commented on the fact that the transportation cap is being used as a growth management tool but is not formally part of the Region's or City of Brampton's Official Plans. The OMB observed that the cap would have been given more weight had it been part of the Official Plans and had it provided clearer policy direction on how subdivision applications are to be assessed.

The Region and City are now challenged to rethink the appropriateness of relying on administrative tools, such as the Springdale Cap, to manage the significant growth forecast in Peel for the future. The recent OMB decision points out the need and advantages of Regional Council adopting a regional growth management strategy to ensure that growth and the provision of services are properly co-ordinated.

Secondly, the Region has invested significantly in sewer, water, roads and human services and it is in the taxpayers' interest to ensure that new development goes to these serviced areas and contributes to the costs of growth. This could happen through a Regional growth management strategy.



New Neighborhood in Brampton

Did you know...

Peel's population is expected to grow to 1,388,000 people by 2021. That is almost 400,000 more residents that will be living in Peel.

How do you Implement Smart Growth in Peel Region?

The Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel has been undertaking research, in consultation with stakeholders, on a long-term strategy for Central Ontario to develop recommendations for managing growth into the year 2035.

The Region of Peel held a very successful Made-In-Peel Smart Growth Workshop in February 2003. Workshop proceedings are available at www.peel-smartgrowth.ca. The purpose of this event was to receive input on Peel specific growth management issues and to discuss how to implement smart growth in the region.

The Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel, chaired by Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion released its final report, Shape the Future in April 2003.

The report provides strategic directions, such as the need to balance growth, establishing transit as a first priority, protecting the environment, and the need for a more collaborative approach to waste management. The Report focuses the Province's priorities for managing growth in Central Ontario over the next 30 years.

The Region of Peel is examining this report and

doing Peel specific research that will help us better understand the implications of growth for Peel. As part of the ROPSU work we will be examining our existing Official Plan policies from a smart growth perspective. We expect to report to Council on how to implement the Panel's recommendations from a Peel specific perspective.

As part of the consultation efforts we are meeting with key representatives of Peel's development industry to hold a 'think tank' on how to implement smart growth in Peel Region. Current initiatives on smart growth

Workshop for Regional Councillors a Success

On June 26th 2003, the Transportation Planning Division held a Long Range Transportation workshop on Planning for Regional Councillors. As part of the Transportation Focus Area of ROPSU, this workshop provided an update on some of the key transportation issues facing Peel Region.

Half-hour presentations were made, followed by discussions. Presentation topics included Travel Trends in Peel, Goods Movement, Transportation Demand Management, and Provincial Highway Planning.

Seven Regional Councillors attended, along with staff from Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, among others. The morning started off with the Region's Transportation

Planning Director Tom AppaRao giving a brief overview of the Long Range Transportation Planning Work Program. He also presented a summary of the travel trends in Peel and their implications.

Arno Hart of Wilbur-Smith Associates delivered a presentation on the importance of Goods Movement to Peel's, as well as the Greater Toronto Area's, economy. Stuart Anderson of UrbanTrans Consultants presented ideas and methods of implementing smart Transportation Demand Management Practices.

Finally, Teresa Marando and Brian Ogden of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation illustrated the comprehensive process behind Provincial Highway Planning.

The response to each presentation was excellent – the councillors acknowledged the importance of each of these issues by bringing up examples of problems that we are facing in the Region. Partnerships and funding emerged as two key factors in achieving the transportation objectives in Peel.

The workshop was informative and well received. The presentations and discussions confirmed that transportation planning is very important in the fast-growing environment of Peel Region.



Workshop for Regional Councillors, held on June 26, 2003

Did you know...

Over one third of Canadian drivers spend more than one hour on their commute.

Suburban work trips increased by 74% in the last 20 years.

Transportation sector contributes over 25% of Canada's total emissions.

Planning for the Citizens of Peel Region

Did you know that Peel Region's 2001 population of 988,945 persons represents a 16% increase over 1996 Census levels? This is significant level of growth is expected to continue in to the future and will have major impacts on human services provided by the Region of Peel.

Regional Council, in recognizing the importance of planning for future human services needs, has directed Regional staff to consider human services policies in the review of the Regional Official Plan.

Regional staff established a

working group, made up of various regional departments, to review the Regional Official Plan (ROP) Human Services Policies.

The working group has conducted background information research and collected relevant data. A set of reports were also completed to analyze and identify issues around human services planning.

Currently, the working group is drafting ROP human services policies for consultation purposes. The Region will be asking volunteer organizations and human service agencies to

provide input on these draft policies at a workshop scheduled for October 21, 2003. Regional Staff will use this input to revise the policies before bringing them forward to Regional Council for approval.

A public meeting, as required by the Ontario Planning Act, will also be held in the future to obtain the public's views on the draft amendments to the Official Plan before Council adopts the changes. This meeting will be advertised in advance.



Peel's Future

Did you know...

Based on the 2001 Census, 30 % of Peel's population was over 45, while 7% was less than 7 years old. Peel's median age of 34.4 is below the national average of 37.6.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Stakeholder Workshop held on July 11, 2003

As the number of commuters and related vehicle emissions steadily increases, TDM can be a critical component of any regional or local transportation strategy.

Most TDM programs involve partnerships between public and private sectors to maximize the use of existing transportation investments by encouraging employers and employees to use sustainable modes of transportation. These include: carpooling, ridesharing, vanpooling, transit, teleworking, and cycling.

In light of increasing congestion and growth, Peel Region is undertaking a TDM study to develop a policy, identify and implement action tools for TDM initiatives. These will serve to balance transportation options, reduce congestion, reduce consequent vehicle emissions, promote sustainable growth management strategies and

improve air quality.

As part of the Long Range Transportation Planning exercise, the Region of Peel held a TDM stakeholder workshop on July 11, 2003 at Nortel Networks' corporate headquarters in Brampton.

The workshop started with City of Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell and Peel Region CAO Roger Maloney addressing the participants. The TDM workshop provided an opportunity for developers, employers, municipal staff, consultants, and other private sector stakeholders from Peel to discuss future TDM policies and potential programs.

This half day workshop included presentations on Nortel Networks' TDM program, the Black Creek Regional Transportation Management Association, and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo's existing efforts on

trip reduction. These presentations demonstrated how major employers, local non-profit, and municipalities are able to create public-private partnerships to manage transportation demand. This was followed by presentation by UrbanTrans, consultants retained by the Region to conduct the TDM study. The participants then took part in sharing ideas and concerns through small discussion groups.

The TDM stakeholder workshop was a resounding success and the contributions and input from participants will provide the necessary feedback to develop a range of innovative and cost-effective TDM options for Peel Region. The TDM study is scheduled for completion this Fall and the findings will be incorporated in the Region's consolidated Transportation Plan in 2004.



TDM Workshop held on July 11, 2003

Did you know...

In 2001, auto drivers accounted for 69% of Peel's trips while 16% of trips were made by auto passengers. Clearly, there is potential for reducing traffic through more vehicle sharing.

TDM policies can increase the current auto passenger share of trips through carpooling, vanpooling, and ridesharing to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and reduce vehicle emissions.

Visit the ROPSU Web site to receive up to date information on upcoming events.

We're online!
www.region.peel.on.ca/planning
www.peel-smartgrowth.ca



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