

ROPSU Consultation Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update

Message From the Director of Planning, Policy and Research

This is the third in a series of newsletters on the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU). This newsletter provides an update on various consultation initiatives carried out by the Region.

Peel Planning staff involves stakeholders through various consultation activities such as workshops and public meetings, as described in this newsletter.

As part of the process to update the 1996 Regional Official Plan (ROP), the Region has, through the Web site, newsletters and various functions, raised awareness of four focus areas: Environment, Human Services Planning, Regional Structure and Transportation.

The valuable input gained through consultation to date

will assist in creating new policy for the ROP. Through working with various stakeholders and focusing on consultation initiatives, the ROPSU is on track. I invite you to contact us to provide your input or attend one of our upcoming consultations.

Please see the back cover on how you can provide comments.



**Arvin Prasad,
Director of Planning
Policy and Research**

ROPSU Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders is an important part of the planning process and helps Council make decisions on planning matters. Stakeholders such as the public, interest groups, ratepayer groups and business associations, are integral partners in the planning process and their involvement is critical to the success of the ROPSU.

The ROPSU process provides various ways to involve stakeholders in the planning process, to obtain their input, to gain awareness and obtain support for policy changes. Stakeholder involvement is

sought through workshops, open houses, public meetings, displays and discussions with various groups involved in the planning process.

The Region recognizes the significance of a participative planning process. Public participation and input provides an opportunity for citizens, staff, elected representatives to share information, knowledge and goals to create an Official Plan that is sound, attractive and understandable for those affected by it. Broad public input among other advantages "Creates stronger, more

effective and comprehensive plans," (Burby, J. Raymond – APA Journal, Winter 2003, Vol. 69, No. 1). The benefits of consultation are illustrated through the success of the ROPSU process. The Oak Ridges Moraine Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 7 (ROPA 7) is an illustration of the benefits of consultation through the ROPSU process.

Regional staff is committed to continuing to gain stakeholder participation through various communication tools in order to achieve effective amendments to the Regional Official Plan through ROPSU.

Official Plan
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UPDATE

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The Made-In-Peel Smart Growth Workshop

Did You Know...
 The Region's Smart Growth Website, www.peel-smartgrowth.ca contains Smart Growth background materials, audio and video clips of key speakers from the Made-In-Peel Smart Growth Workshop.

The Success of the Made-In-Peel Smart Growth Workshop

In February 2002, the Province of Ontario launched the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel to provide the government with advice on a strategy to promote long-term, healthy growth in Central Ontario to 2035.

As part of the ROPSU process, the Region has undertaken projects to stay current with the Provincial Government's Smart Growth initiative.

As directed by Council, staff have been reviewing and reporting back on the strategy, as the work of the Panel may result in an amendment to the Regional

Official Plan.

As part of this work, Peel Region hosted a "Made-In-Peel" Smart Growth Workshop on February 7, 2003 at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga. This workshop was held in order to discuss the work of the Panel and develop a "Made-In-Peel" response to the Panel's work.

More than 120 professional planners, policy-makers, consultants, developers, and other private sector stakeholders from Peel, and across the GTA actively participated, contributing their views, concerns and recommendations through

panel sessions and breakout groups.

The "Made-In-Peel" Smart Growth Workshop was a complete success! The input gained from the workshop will contribute to the ROPSU process and to the refinement of the regional growth management policies in the Regional Official Plan.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.peel-smartgrowth.ca for proceedings of the workshop and other relevant background information on Smart Growth.



The Multicultural Outreach Workshop

Did You Know...
 The 2001 Census showed that 43.1 per cent of Peel Region is made up of immigrant population, up from 36.1 per cent in 1991.

The Multicultural Outreach Workshop

Consultation, outreach and communication are critical to the success of the ROPSU. Gaining input and informing Peel's diverse communities will help the Region identify areas of interest and concern that should be addressed in the Regional Official Plan.

As part of the consultation process, planning staff organized a workshop on March 20, 2003 in partnership with the Multicultural Inter-Agency Group (MIAG). MIAG is an umbrella organization which works with over 60 member agencies to coordinate service delivery for Peel's diverse

communities.

The Multicultural Outreach Workshop was well attended with approximately 65 participants including Peel staff. This half day workshop began with planning staff providing participants with presentations on ROPSU and information around human services planning. The participants then took part in sharing ideas and concerns through small discussion groups.

The Region, in partnership with MIAG was able to host a very successful workshop which allowed staff to undertake community

outreach to various organizations and groups in Peel.

Staff was able to inform community organization representatives on the Region's efforts to keep the Regional Official Plan current, effective and visionary. Further, staff were able to expand ongoing communication between the Region and multicultural communities in Peel.

Planning staff will continue to carry out consultation and communication activities with stakeholders in updating the Regional Official Plan.

Public Meeting on Population and Employment Projections

The Region of Peel Council will hold a public meeting on a proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROPA 8) to provide current population and employment forecasts. The public meeting will be held on June 12, 2003 at the 5th Floor Regional Council Chamber at 9:30 a.m.

Tom McCormack of The Centre for Spatial Economics and Bob Lehman of Meridian Planning Consultants have reviewed the work of the area municipalities in projecting

population and employment forecasts.

Both have agreed to the use of area municipal projections for the purposes of updating the Regional Development Charges By-law, and for an amendment to the Regional Official Plan to update these projections to 2021.

In their report, the consultants confirmed growth estimates for 2021 but also investigated an alternative development scenario that could potentially

impact long-term growth in the GTA due to increasing gridlock resulting in growth being directed away from the GTA to service communities such as Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Barrie.

In receiving the report, Regional Council requested that staff investigate the potential for varying rates of growth in Peel and to report back to Council as part of the ROPSU process.



Neighbourhood in Mississauga

Did You Know...

By 2031, Peel's population is expected to grow to more than 1.5 million. Employment forecasts also show significant growth, predicting that Peel will account for more than 800,000 jobs by 2031. Currently, Peel is second in the GTA after Toronto in both population and employment.

Regional Council Adopts Oak Ridges Moraine Amendment

On April 17, 2003 Regional Council adopted a By-law to bring the Region's Official Plan into conformity with the provincial Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) through Regional Official Plan Amendment Number 7 (ROPA 7). The ORMCP is designed to protect the long-term ecological and hydrological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Extensive pre-consultation with the public, Regional and Caledon area municipal Councillors, the Province, the area municipalities, and agencies greatly assisted Regional Planning staff in preparing a balanced official plan amendment. Since the release of the ORMCP, Regional Planning staff have worked in partnership with a working group from the Town of Caledon, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). This proactive

initiative is intended to provide official plan amendments for Peel and Caledon that are supportive and complementary.

As part of the public consultation process. Peel and Caledon jointly hosted a community information meeting in November 2002 that was well attended with an estimated 200 residents. In addition to the November 2002 information session, the Region held a statutory public meeting on February 19, 2003 with approximately 80 people in attendance.

The format for the evening included an open house where residents could informally ask questions. This was followed by the formal agenda, which included introductory remarks by Emil Kolb – Regional Chair and Nick Tunnacliffe – Commissioner of Planning and a presentation by Andrea Warren – Principal Planner. This was followed by an

opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

ROPA 7 is now before the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. A Notice of Adoption was sent to all individuals requesting such notice on April 22, 2003. The Province is now reviewing the adopted amendment and may make modifications before its approval.

Regional Council requested the Province to defer approval of the Region's amendment until Caledon's amendment is complete. This will provide an opportunity for Peel and Caledon staff to work with the Province on any potential modifications to the amendments as a complete package. Once the Province notifies the Region of its approval of the official plan amendment, it will be consolidated into Peel's Official Plan.



The Oak Ridges Moraine

Did You Know...

More than half the moraine is used for rural and agricultural purposes. These lands are critical to the moraine's important recharge role for the bio-region's aquifers and necessary to retain base flows for headwater streams.

Current Transportation Initiatives

Long Range Transportation Planning (LRTP) Exercise

Consultants have been retained for the three key policy studies: Goods Movement, Transportation Demand Management and Transportation for Persons with Disabilities. The Goods Movement study is a seven month project which is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2003. Transportation for Persons with Disabilities and Transportation Demand Management are both four months studies and are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2003. The Terms of Reference for the Caledon Transportation Needs Study are currently being finalized. All other elements of the LRTP exercise are progressing as planned.

Peel is working with other GTA regions to develop a GTA Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program

Peel Region staff are working with the Cities of Toronto and Hamilton and other regional and local municipalities in the GTA in developing an exciting public/private partnership program to manage travel demand in the GTA. A joint proposal is being developed with one-third funding from the federal Urban Transportation Showcase Program. The proposed GTA TDM Program includes the establishment of a network of Transportation Management Associations

(TMA's) in the GTA, to encourage employers and employees to use sustainable modes of transportation. The GTA TDM Program will help reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging commuters to use transit, carpool, vanpool, bicycle, walk and tele-commute. The GTA TDM Proposal will be submitted to Transport Canada in mid-May, 2003.

The proposed TDM program complements the LRTP exercise and supports the Region's and Province's transportation/land use policies and programs. In addition, the recently released Smart Growth Panel discussion paper specifically recognizes the implementation of TDM as a key to unlocking gridlock.

Goods Movement Study in Peel is progressing well

The effective movement of goods is important to Peel's industries, jobs and quality of life. A Goods Movement study is being undertaken by the Region of Peel in cooperation with the area municipalities. It is the first such study done in Peel and will lead to new policies to be included in the Regional Official Plan. Work is already underway to provide an overview of goods movement in the Region by truck, rail, air

and even pipeline. Freight has been one of the fastest growing activities in our transportation system, spurred by a healthy manufacturing sector in the Region. Growth trends will be reviewed locally, provincially and globally.

The study will include interviews with a cross section of businesses and transportation companies in Peel and a stakeholder workshop will be held to discuss current issues and ways to improve the mobility of goods. This study is expected to be completed by Fall 2003.

Update on Caledon Transportation Needs Study

The Caledon Transportation Needs Study is undertaken jointly by the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel. Caledon has many cultural and natural features such as the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and the headwaters of the Credit and Humber rivers. While Caledon is basically rural in character, over the next 20 years the Town is expected to realize significant growth (from a population of 51,000 to 84,000). Given this growth and current traffic levels, there is pressure to upgrade the local and regional roads and highway corridors to serve the growing interregional traffic. The study will investigate alternative strategies and ways to move both people and goods through Caledon.



Highway 403 and Erin Mills Parkway

Did You Know...

The average work trip in Peel has a length of about 15 km. – slightly longer than for GTA residents (14.4 km). The average work trip lengths in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon are 14.3 km., 14.5 km and 25.8 km., respectively. Thus Caledon residents, on average, are commuting almost twice the distance of other Peel residents.

Source: 2001 Transportation Tomorrow Survey

Send us your comments or get on the mailing list by:

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Visit the ROPSU Web site to receive up to date information on upcoming events such as the Peel Children's Water Festival, ROPA 8 Public Meeting

We're online!

www.region.peel.on.ca/planning
www.peel-smartgrowth.ca

Region of Peel
Working for you