



MA-B1-1

Regional Clerk's Office
Corporate Services Department

March 23, 2012

Ms. Carol Reid
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Suite A and B
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Works	
Employee and Business Services	RC Apr 26/12
Health Services	File
Human Services	
Peel Living	

Dear Ms. Reid:

**Re: Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006 Office Consolidation
January 2012 Including Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan for the
Simcoe Sub-area**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on March 22, 2012, adopted the recommendations of the Planning and Economic Development Committee regarding the report entitled "Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006 Office Consolidation January 2012 Including Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan for the Simcoe Sub-area", as amended.

A copy of Clause No. 4, Report No. 3 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee is enclosed for your information.

Please contact Barbara Jeffrey, Manager Land Use Policy and Environment at 905-830-4444, ext. 1526, if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk

G. Boulianne/kc
Attachments

4119994 P07 February 29, 2012

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

MAR 27 2012

REGION OF PEEL
CLERKS DEPT.

Clause No. 4 in Report No. 3 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on March 22, 2012.

4

**GROWTH PLAN FOR THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE 2006
OFFICE CONSOLIDATION JANUARY 2012
INCLUDING AMENDMENT 1 TO THE GROWTH PLAN
FOR THE SIMCOE SUB-AREA**

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated February 9, 2012, from the Executive Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning and the following additional recommendation:

2. **Staff report back at the April 4, 2012, Planning and Economic Development Committee regarding areas of concern that are missing and steps to have them included within the Growth Plan.**

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Minister of Infrastructure, local municipalities in York Region and the adjacent Regions of Peel, Halton, Durham and Toronto.

2. **PURPOSE**

This report provides Council with an update on Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("Growth Plan") and provides information on the Province's inclusions and exclusions based on the Region's previous comments.

Clause No. 4
Report No. 3
Planning and Economic Development Committee

3. BACKGROUND

Simcoe County has been the subject of Provincial study for some years, culminating in the release of the 2012 Office Consolidation of the Growth Plan in January, 2012

The Simcoe Sub-area includes the County of Simcoe, the City of Barrie and the City of Orillia. The Provincial *Growth Plan* forecasts a total of 667,000 residents and 254,000 jobs for the area by 2031 representing growth of approximately 229,900 residents and 73,300 jobs.

The Simcoe Sub-area has been the subject of Provincial study for some years. On January 19, 2012, the Province of Ontario released the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, January 2012 Consolidation. The consolidation includes a new Chapter 6 dealing with the Simcoe Sub-area (Chapter 6 and additional excerpts appended as *Attachment 1* to this report). All Growth Plan changes are included in Chapter 6 and in any definitions that result from Chapter 6.

Outside of Simcoe County, the Growth Plan's policies from 2006 continue to apply.

Council commented on matters dealing with the Simcoe Sub-area in September 2009 and January 2011 and identified a number of important issues with the proposed Growth Plan Amendment

In June 2009, the Province released a growth strategy for the Simcoe Sub-area entitled, "*Places to Grow – Simcoe Area: A Strategic Vision for Growth*" ("Simcoe Growth Vision"). The report established a policy framework to better manage the *Growth Plan* forecasts. Council at its meeting of September 24, 2009 endorsed Clause 5 of Report 6 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee containing detailed comments in regard to this Vision.

In October 2010, the Province released *Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Growth Plan: an Amendment and Implementation Tools for the Simcoe Sub-Area* on the Environmental Board Registry with a comment deadline of January 2011. Regional Council at its meeting of January 27, 2011 endorsed Clause 10 of Report 1 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee which summarized the issues for York Region following review of proposed Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan.

The key points raised in the Regional review in 2009 and 2011 were:

- The need for the Province to implement the *Growth Plan* equitably across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- The Province assess the impact on the GTA regions including York Region, resulting from the two employment area designations in Bradford and Innisfil.
- The Province commit to the transportation capacity improvements to accommodate the forecasted growth in the Simcoe area to address issues of increasing traffic congestion including the Highway 404, 427 and Bradford Bypass expansions.
- The Province clarify how the Proposed *Growth Plan* Amendment for the Simcoe Sub-area will conform to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, as well as how servicing this growth will impact the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed in York Region.
- The Province requires that the construction and/or operation of all existing water and proposed water and wastewater treatment facilities in the Lake Simcoe watershed be held to the same high standard of environmental responsibility and performance as those in York Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

New Growth Plan Chapter 6 policies contain changes that apply specifically in Simcoe County

Chapter 6 applies specifically to Simcoe County, its municipalities and to the cities of Barrie and Orillia.

The key elements of the Chapter 6 policies are:

- Overall growth forecasts of 667,000 persons and 254,000 jobs in 2031 at the County level have been carried forward from the 2006 Growth Plan. A new Schedule 7 provides population and employment forecasts for Barrie, Orillia and all local municipalities in the County and a new Schedule 8 identifies the hierarchy of settlement areas in Simcoe County.
- Introduction of new definitions, only applicable in Simcoe County, with related policies or criteria including *primary settlement area*, *employment area*, *economic employment district*, *lands for urban uses*, *lands not for urban uses*, *municipalities with primary settlement areas*, *small cities and towns* and *strategic employment areas*, among others (highlighted in *Attachment 1*).
- Identification of Barrie as a *primary settlement area* in Simcoe County as well as maintaining its status as having an *urban growth centre*.
- Identification of Alcona as a *primary settlement area*.
- Permission for the County of Simcoe to approve local OP's or OPA's that redesignate *lands* in excess of what is required for the 20-year horizon or to accommodate the Schedule 7 forecasts, to a maximum of 20,000 persons over the forecast.
- Identification of the following four areas on Schedule 8 of the Growth Plan:

Clause No. 4

Report No. 3

Planning and Economic Development Committee

- the *Bradford West Gwillimbury strategic employment area*
- the *Innisfil Heights strategic employment area*
- the *Lake Simcoe Regional Airport strategic employment area*
- the *Rama Road strategic employment area*
- Provision for the Minister of Infrastructure in consultation with others to determine the boundaries of *strategic employment area* and *economic employment districts* subject to criteria and requires the County and local municipalities in their official plans to delineate such areas and districts.
- Permission for, but not requirement for, a municipality to identify natural heritage systems, features and areas for protection in *strategic employment areas*.
- Committing the Minister of Infrastructure to identify County of Simcoe and lower-tier intensification targets and density targets for designated greenfield areas.

The Plan provides flexibility for Simcoe County not enjoyed by York Region and others

The changes approved for Simcoe County through the 2012 Consolidation of the Growth Plan provide Simcoe with flexibility for forecasts and urban area designations that is not currently enjoyed by York Region or other Region's in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Further, the consolidation fails to add critical transportation infrastructure (most particularly the Bradford Bypass) to the overall plan for Simcoe County and adjacent Regions, as identified by York Region in its comments on the draft Amendment.

Two key issues raised by York Region have been acted on – Compliance with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009 and the Simcoe County Transportation Plan

Of the five key issues identified by York Region in 2009 and 2011, only two have been acted upon as part of their Growth Plan Amendment. Chapter 6 now requires that official plans and official plan amendments be in accordance with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009 and the Transportation Plan for Simcoe County is underway.

With regard to the Simcoe County Transportation Plan, the Plan is to be completed in two phases:

- Phase 1: Origin/Destination survey of existing traffic patterns in Simcoe County is completed
- Phase 2: Development of a Multi-Modal Transportation System Review (assignment initiated January 2012).

Regional staff will continue to monitor this study and report back to Council as necessary.

Issues not identified are:

- equitable application of the Growth Plan across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, assessment of the impact of new employment designations in Bradford and Innisfil, and,
- the request that water and wastewater systems around the Lake be held to the same high standard of environmental responsibility and performance as those in York Region have not been directly addressed.

With regard to the issue of wastewater treatment, the Region maintains that a minimum treatment standard for facilities within the Lake Simcoe watershed should incorporate advanced tertiary treatment of wastewater.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

This staff report supports a number of Vision 2026 goal areas, including Managed and Balanced Growth, and Infrastructure for a Growing Region, Enhanced Environment, and Responding to the Needs of our Residents.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Region associated with the review and analysis of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, January 2012 Consolidation.

However, the January 2011 report to Planning and Economic Committee summarized the significant \$42 million investment the Region had made in the transportation system in the northern part of the Region including Green Lane. In addition, the 10-year capital plan and Transportation Master Plan Update identify a number of capital improvements in the area between Newmarket and Keswick estimated in the order of \$152 million. The transportation infrastructure projects planned are premised on Provincial commitment to improve and extend the 400-series network, including the Bradford Bypass as a 4-lane expressway. The ongoing Simcoe County Transportation Study will identify the need for future infrastructure improvements.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Land use and transportation issues associated with growth in Simcoe County will have the most effect on the Town's of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket, as well as the Township of King. It is recommended that this report be sent to all municipalities in York Region and adjacent regions in the GTA.

7. CONCLUSION

On January 19, 2012, the Province released the consolidated Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006. The consolidation includes a new Chapter 6 dealing with the Simcoe Sub-area (excerpts appended as *Attachment 1* to this report).

Regional Council has previously responded to Provincial initiatives dealing with Simcoe County in 2009 and in January 2011. Regional comments highlighted several concerns including the identification of new employment areas and the need to undertake a transportation study for Simcoe County

The Growth Plan now provides Simcoe County with flexibility for forecasts and urban area designations that are not currently enjoyed by York Region or other Region's or municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Although the consolidation does not deal with transportation issues raised by the Region, the Simcoe County Transportation Plan is underway and may address the need for transportation improvements.

For more information on this report, please contact Barbara Jeffrey, Manager Land Use Policy and Environment at 905 830-4444, Ext. 1526.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)