

DATE: December 2, 2019

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES**

FROM: Andrew Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION

That public consultations be initiated on proposed revisions to the Regional Official Plan policies related to Climate Change, Water Resources, Wildland Fire Hazards, Agricultural System, Rural System and Provincial Greenbelt Plans policies;

And further, that a copy of the draft Regional Official Plan policies be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, City of Mississauga, all other municipalities adjacent to the Region of Peel, and to the appropriate agencies for their review and comment.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Regional Official Plan is required to be reviewed periodically. On November 21, 2013, the Growth Management Committee of Council endorsed a work program known as Peel 2041 Regional Official Plan Review. Further additions and changes to the work program were brought forward to Council between 2015 and 2019.
- This process is undertaken as a Municipal Comprehensive Review to ensure conformity to provincial plans, policies and legislation, and to address emerging planning issues affecting the Region of Peel (such as climate change), while ensuring the goals of the Regional Official Plan are met.
- This Report recommends proceeding with the next steps of informal public consultation on Regional Official Plan draft policies for the environment themed focus areas that will update climate change, water resources, wildland fire hazards, agriculture system, rural system, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan policies and related mapping.
- A total of 11 discussion papers have been developed which provide background information on the rationale for the proposed policy amendments.
- Initial consultation on the discussion papers, draft policies and mapping has occurred with internal departments, local municipal staff, provincial staff, stakeholders, conservation authorities, and the development industry.
- Draft policies will be available in accordance with the current Peel 2041 and Municipal Comprehensive Review work plan.
- Draft policies for other policy focus areas such as growth management, settlement expansion, and transportation will be provided in subsequent consultation stages as work progresses.

PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

- New direction from the Province allows municipalities to implement a Municipal Comprehensive Review through staged Official Plan Amendments. Opportunities will be considered for phasing amendments where work is sufficiently advanced and to address strategic priorities that support community building.

DISCUSSION

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request Regional Council's direction to initiate the next stage of informal public consultation on proposed revisions to the Regional Official Plan, in accordance with the Peel 2041 Regional Official Plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review work plan discussed at Regional Council on September 26, 2019 (see Appendix I).

Further consultation on the Regional Official Plan Review is planned to occur in four steps:

- Three informal public consultations on draft policies grouped by focus area theme:
 - First Informal Consultation– Environment Related Focus Areas
 - Second Informal Consultation – Growth Management Related Focus Areas
 - Third Informal Consultation – Settlement Boundary Expansion and Remaining Focus Areas; and
- A final formal statutory public consultation on a recommended draft Regional Official Plan Amendment under the *Planning Act* (open houses and public meeting) consolidating the proposed revisions developed in the first three stages of informal consultations.

The informal public consultation focused on environment related policies is planned to be held in March 2020, in order to obtain public feedback on draft policies. The consultation will also provide an update on all elements of the Peel 2041 work plan, and share supporting studies. This informal public consultation will address draft official plan policies and related mapping updates to the Regional Official Plan for the following areas:

- Agricultural and Rural Systems
- Climate Change
- Provincial Greenbelt Plans Conformity, specifically:
 - Greenbelt Plan
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
 - Niagara Escarpment Plan
- Water Resources
- Wildland Fire Hazards

Notices will be released online (website and social media) and in newsprint regarding the consultations for the environment related set of policies. The public can participate in this first stage of informal consultation by attending one or more open houses to be held in each of the local municipalities, by submitting comments online through the project website, and through community engagement events attended by staff. Consultation and engagement with local municipal staff, Indigenous communities, key stakeholders and public agencies will continue throughout the process. A variety of public friendly digital and published materials have been prepared to summarize and explain the proposed technical work and policy directions contained in the materials attached to this report.

PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

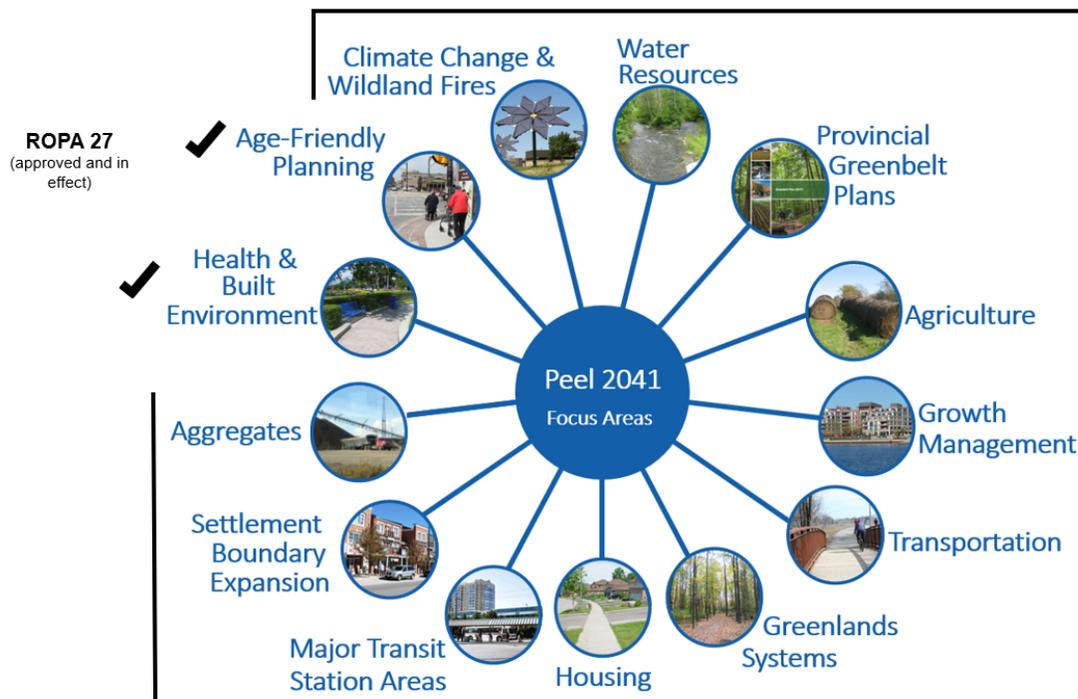
Comments and questions can continue to be submitted throughout the Peel 2041 process. A summary of comments and responses will be available following the consultations. Updates on studies and policies based on consultations will be brought back to Council to inform staff’s final recommended amendment in Q4 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

The Regional Official Plan provides a long-term strategic policy framework for guiding growth and development in Peel, while protecting the environment, managing resources, and outlining a regional structure that supports complete communities.

The Regional Official Plan is reviewed every five years to align with provincial plans, legislation and policies, and to address emerging planning issues affecting the Region. The Region is currently undertaking a legislated official plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Plan as required under section 26 of the *Planning Act*. This work is proceeding consistent with the Growth Plan, 2019, as a single Regional Official Plan Amendment, at this time. The Peel 2041 Regional Official Plan Review (Peel 2041) process will address policy reviews in 13 focus areas as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Regional Official Plan Review Focus Areas



The draft policies in this stage of consultation will ensure the policy framework for the environment and resources in the Regional Official Plan is effective and will contribute to achieving a sustainable, resilient community that is able to respond to the challenges of a changing climate and growing Region. Policy direction ensures that resources are protected and decisions regarding growth and infrastructure are informed by watershed planning and consider

PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

climate change implications and the need for coordination of environmental initiatives with Regional partners. The draft policy directions align with the Region’s Strategic vision of a Community for Life, climate change priorities of the Peel Climate Change Partnership and recently approved Region of Peel Climate Change Master Plan.

As the Region is going through this consultation process, coordination is being undertaken with the local municipalities which are also in the process of updating their official plans.

3. PROVINCIAL POLICY CONTEXT

The Peel 2041 process addresses a number of legislative and policy initiatives that have been introduced by the Province since the last review of the Regional Official Plan was completed in 2012.

Provincial policy and plans form a framework against which municipal policy must be assessed and to which they must conform. Recent provincial policy and plans relevant to the environment, agriculture and rural policies in the Region of Peel include:

- Provincial Policy Statement (2014) - (undergoing review)
- Growth Plan (2019)
- Greenbelt Plan (2017)
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017)
- Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017)
- Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (2009)
- Source Water Protection Plans approved under the Clean Water Act (2006)

Policies in the Regional Official Plan must therefore be reviewed and updated to conform with the above listed provincial policy and plans.

In a correspondence dated November 12, 2019 sent by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, municipalities have been informed that they now have the choice of phasing their municipal comprehensive review through several Regional Official Plan amendments or achieving conformity as part of one single new official plan or plan amendment. As the Region continues its consultation process, staff will consider opportunities for phasing amendments where work is sufficiently advanced and to address strategic priorities that support community building, including opportunities to begin formal statutory consultation as part of the next phases of consultation discussed in this report. An update to Council is planned for January 2020 on potential refinements to the official plan and municipal comprehensive review process as a result of this new provincial direction.

4. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

a) Discussion Papers

Discussion papers have been prepared to provide detailed technical background information, outline provincial policy requirements and set out the rationale for policy options which have been proposed.

10.1-5

PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

Discussion papers being provided in this round of consultation include the following:

- Agriculture and Rural Systems
- Climate Change
- Provincial Greenbelt plans specifically
 - Greenbelt Plan
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
 - Niagara Escarpment Plan
- Water Resources
- Wildland Fire Hazards

b) Draft Policies for Informal Public Consultation

In conjunction with the discussion papers, draft policy amendments have been prepared in consultation with the local municipalities through the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) group, representing Regional and local municipal planning policy staff, and stakeholders including the conservation authorities, provincial staff and building industry representatives. The public and stakeholder consultations discussed in this report will allow for further input before final policies are recommended. The Official Plan Review must conclude by Q4 2021 to have an updated Official Plan by July 1, 2022.

The proposed amendments to the Regional Official Plan along with the accompanying discussion papers and mapping can be found on the Region's website at www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/env.

Copies of the discussion papers and draft policies have also been placed in the Office of the Regional Clerk for viewing.

Environment theme focus areas communication summaries are provided in Appendix II. Summaries of each environmental policy theme and key amendments being proposed are provided in Appendix III.

A list of discussion papers and technical studies, schedules and figures prepared to inform and support the policy review is included in Appendix IV.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Early consultation on draft policies and mapping provides opportunities for public input and supports timely implementation of the Peel 2041 work plan, in order to meet the Provincial deadline of July 1, 2022. There would be a risk in not proceeding with the next stage of public consultation and achieving the planned Peel 2041 work plan timelines and Provincially-mandated conformity date of July 1, 2022.

PEEL 2041 REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SYSTEM POLICIES

NEXT STEPS

This report outlines the planned next steps of public consultations on the draft Regional Official Plan policies including further circulation of draft policies to the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton and the Town of Caledon, adjacent municipalities, Indigenous communities, the conservation authorities, the agricultural community and the building industry for their review and comments.

Following informal consultations, Regional staff will report back to Regional Council on a draft Regional Official Plan Amendment and seek Council's permission to hold a formal statutory public meeting and open house.



Andrew Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:



N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDICES

- Appendix I - Peel 2041 Work Plan and Consultation Schedule
- Appendix II - Environment Theme Focus Areas Communication Summaries
- Appendix III - Summaries of the Peel 2041 Environmental Theme Focus Areas
- Appendix IV - List of Discussion Papers, Technical Studies, Schedules and Figures

For further information regarding this report, please contact Adrian Smith Director Regional Planning and Growth Management and Chief Planner ext.4625 Adrian.Smith @peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Learie Miller