



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Planning and Economic Development Committee Agenda

Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

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4. Statutory Public Meetings	
There are no statutory public meetings	
5. Presentations	
5.1 Lori Talling, Sport Tourism Program Specialist Re: Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games (2023-EDT-7) [Item 8.2 a)]	
5.2 Dan Ruby, Manager, Business Development & Investment Re: 2022 and Q1-2023 Commercial and Industrial Development in Durham Region (2023-EDT-9) [Item 8.2 c)]	
5.3 Gary Muller, Director of Planning Re: Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 - The Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813 (2023-P-19) [Item 7.2 d)]	
6. Delegations	
6.1 Rob Alexander, President, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association	

Re: Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week (2023-EDT-8) [Item 8.2 b)]

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- a. Appointment of a DECAC Representative on the Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors
Recommendation: Approval and Subsequent Recommendation to Regional Council

- a. City of Pickering - Backyard Chickens in Pickering
Recommendation: Approval and Subsequent Recommendation to Regional Council
- b. Impacts of Bill 97
Recommendation: Approval and Subsequent Recommendation to Regional Council

10. Confidential Matters

There are no confidential matters to be considered

11. Other Business

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 9:30 AM

13. Adjournment

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. This also includes oral submissions at meetings. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles*, Vice-Chair, attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Collier*
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
D. Culp, Project Planner, Strategic Planning
H. Finlay, Acting Manager - Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies
S. Hajsaleh, Planning Analyst, Planning Division
L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
E. Kennedy, Program Specialist (Film), Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development
G. Macfarlane, Rural Program Specialist, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
G. Muller, Director of Planning
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
D. Ruby, Manager, Economic Development, Business Development and Investment
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation

R. Woon, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
M. Barta, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(42) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

- 4.1 Application to Amend the Durham Official Plan, submitted by Michael Smith
Planning Consultants Development Coordinators Ltd., on behalf of Gowanlea
Ltd., to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the
consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Township of Brock, File: OPA
2023-003 (2023-P-13)
-

The Chair advised that this portion of the Planning & Economic Development
Committee meeting constitutes the Statutory Public Information meeting under
the Planning Act for a proposed amendment to the Durham Regional Official
Plan. He also advised that notice of the public meeting was advertised in the
applicable newspaper and mailed to landowners and residents within 120 metres
of the subject property. He noted that it is important that anyone who may have
an interest in this matter make a submission prior to Regional Council making a
decision.

A) Presentation

Sara Hajsaleh, Planning Analyst, Planning Division, provided a presentation
outlining the details of Report #2023-P-13 of the Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development. She advised that an application has been submitted by
Michael Smith Planning Consultants Development Coordinators Ltd., on behalf of
Gowanlea Ltd., to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a
result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Township of
Brock. The subject site is municipally known as 1705 Concession Road 7 and is
located at Part of Lots 17 & 18, Concession 7 in the Township of Brock. She
provided an overview of the application and land use policy considerations. She
also advised that to date there have been no concerns regarding the proposal.

S. Hajsaleh responded to questions regarding the size of the lot being rendered surplus; whether the property is being rezoned; and whether the accessory building and livestock barn will be removed from the property.

The Chair asked if there were any persons in attendance who wished to make a submission or ask any questions.

B) Delegations

1. Gord Mahoney, Michael Smith Planning Consultants, on behalf of Gowanlea Ltd.

Gord Mahoney, Michael Smith Planning Consultants, appeared on behalf of Gowanlea Ltd. He advised that the zoning by-law has been submitted and gone to public meeting to prohibit residential use, protect the woodland, and provided an overview of the size and uses on the residential property.

C) Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

D) Report

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(43) A) That Report #2023-P-13 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and

B) That all submissions received be referred to the Planning Division for consideration.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Glen Macfarlane, Rural Program Specialist, re: North Durham Online Business Toolkits (2023-INFO-27) [Item 8.1 a)]

Glen Macfarlane, Rural Program Specialist, provided a presentation regarding the North Durham Online Business Toolkits.

G. Macfarlane advised that the North Durham Online Business Toolkit was developed for each north Durham municipality to fulfill the need for a one-stop-shop for relevant, Township-specific and up-to-date business resources.

G. Macfarlane provided a live tutorial of the business toolkit for the Township of Brock. He advised that the toolkits are kept up to date and information is added as needed. He further advised that members of Council will receive promotional post-cards to distribute at grand openings, meetings with business communities, and offices/facilities where target audiences may visit.

G. Macfarlane responded to questions with regards to how the websites are kept up to date; and whether realtors are included on the websites.

5.2 Greg Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, and Danielle Culp, Project Planner, re: Freight and Goods Movement Forum (2023-P-14) [Item 7.2 a)]

Greg Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, and Danielle Culp, Project Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Freight and Goods Movement Forum.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Region in Context
 - Durham is Growing
 - Jobs are on the Rise
 - Freight Activity and Key Opportunities in Durham
- Purpose of the Forum
- Alignment with Regional Plans and Goals
- Forum Snapshot
- Trends and Recommended Actions
- Key Takeaways
- Next Steps

Staff responded to questions with regards to education and training programs offered for jobs in this field; frequency of downtime and charging electric trucks; description of disruptive technology; whether truck only lanes will improve efficiency; details of the Request for Proposal; how participants were chosen for the forum; opportunities to hire more drivers; current state of research and development for autonomous vehicles in Durham Region; and concern for infrastructure with the weight of electric vehicles.

5.3 Jacquie Severs, Manager, Marketing & Cluster Development, re: Film Durham Event – How to do Business with the Film and Television Industry (2023-EDT-6) [Item 8.2 a)]

Jacquie Severs, Manager, Marketing & Cluster Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Film Durham Event – How to do Business with the Film and Television Industry.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Film and Television Industry
- Success through Partnership
- Event Overview
- Panel Discussion and Q&A
- Attendees and Local Business Opportunities

- Guide to Filming in Durham

Staff responded to questions with regards to feedback received from participants; eligibility for Durham businesses to obtain film industry tax credits; and marketing initiatives to promote film and television in Durham Region.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations heard.

7. Planning

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Freight and Goods Movement Forum (2023-P-14)

Report #2023-P-14 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(44) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2023-P-14 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2023-P-14 be provided to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Durham Region's area municipalities.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

A) Information Report #2023-INFO-27 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, re: North Durham Online Business Toolkits

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(45) That Information Report #2023-INFO-27 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, re: North Durham Online Business Toolkits, be received for information

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

A) Film Durham Event – How to do Business with the Film and Television Industry (2023-EDT-6)

Report #2023-EDT-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(46) That Report #2023-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

9. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

9.1 Durham Active Transportation Committee

A) Resolution regarding June Bike Month

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(47) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

And whereas Durham Regional Planning Staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June;

And whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region's planned Bike Month activities;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request Regional Council's support of the planned Regional Bike Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

CARRIED

10. **Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. **Other Business**

11.1 Final Draft of the Regional Official Plan

Councillor Wotten inquired about the pending approval of the final draft of the Regional Official Plan given changes to upper-tier planning being proposed through Bill 23, and with the commenting periods for Bill 97 and the new proposed

Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) not being completed; and the impact of Bill 23, Bill 97 and the new PPS on the Official Plan once it has been adopted. Councillor Neal inquired about the possibility of moving the date of the Special Council meeting for the adoption of the final draft Regional Official Plan; and the involvement required from local municipalities for the final draft Regional Official Plan.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(48) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-P-16
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and 2023 Workplan,
File:C07-02

Recommendations:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Terms of Reference be approved, as outlined in Attachment 1, to Commissioner's Report #2023-P-16;
 - B) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment 2, to Commissioner's Report #2023-P-16;
 - C) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2023-P-16 be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and the Area Municipalities.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) is required to prepare a proposed Workplan for the coming year and when necessary, recommend revisions to the Terms of Reference (ToR), for consideration and approval of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the proposed DAAC ToR and 2023 Workplan.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 In April 2023, Council considered DAAC's membership appointments for the 2023-2026 term through report [#2023-P-11](#).
- 2.2 In January 2023, Council considered DAAC's 2022 Annual Report through report [#2023-P-3](#).
- 2.3 In January 2022, Council considered DAAC's 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Workplan through Commissioner's Report [#2022-P-3](#).

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 DAAC is guided by Council approved ToR. The ToR outlines the goal, mandate and scope of activities for the Committee (Attachment 1).
- 3.2 DAAC has proposed to add one member to the Committee that would represent the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association. The Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association is a not-for-profit membership-based organization established in 1993. Durham Farm Fresh is involved in local food marketing, local agricultural fairs, local food events, signage, and education and training. Following approval of the proposed membership structure by Regional Council, staff will reach out to Durham Farm Fresh to request they nominate an individual to represent their Association on DAAC. The nomination will be brought forward to Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council for approval in the fall.
- 3.3 DAAC already includes a member that is appointed to represent the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA). DRFA is one of 51 county and regional federations supported by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture across the province. DRFA represents the voice of agriculture in the local community and advocates on behalf of farm families in Durham on local agricultural issues.

4. 2023 Workplan

- 4.1 The proposed 2023 DAAC Workplan (Attachment 2), represents activities which are a priority, and achievable within the calendar year. The activities are divided into four categories:

- a. **Policy Development and Implementation** – Activities involve providing advice on the formulation and implementation of land use planning policies to the Planning and Economic Development Department and Planning and Economic Development Committee;
- b. **Communication/Outreach/Educate** – Activities that support community knowledge and awareness such as farm tours or workshops (including the 2023 Farm Tour);
- c. **Economic Development and Tourism** – Activities to encourage economic development research and implementation strategies to assist Durham’s agricultural sector; and
- d. **Issues of Interest** – Activities related to the monitoring of issues that DAAC deems significant and may require further consideration.

5. Relationship to the Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Under Goal 3; Economic Prosperity, Objective 3.5, Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is recommended that:
 - a. The proposed 2023 DAAC Terms of Reference be approved (Attachment 1) with the addition of a new Committee member to represent the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association;
 - b. The proposed 2023 DAAC Workplan be approved (Attachment 2); and
 - c. A copy of this report be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and the Area Municipalities.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: Proposed 2023 DAAC Terms of Reference

Attachment #2: Proposed 2023 DAAC Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

May 2023

1. Goal

- 1.1 To provide advice to the Region of Durham on agricultural matters and rural matters as they relate to agriculture.

2. Mandate

- 2.1 The Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) is a volunteer Advisory Committee established by Regional Council in accordance with these Terms of Reference. Committee members are guided by these Terms of Reference.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference provide for a balance between activities referred from the Planning and Economic Development Department or the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee or Regional Council and an allowance for the DAAC to be proactive and advise on matters identified on its own initiative.
- 2.3 Matters may be referred to the DAAC from the Regional Planning and Economic Development Department, the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee, or Regional Council. The DAAC may report directly to the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee on substantive matters as determined by the Planning and Economic Development Committee. Otherwise, the DAAC shall report through the Regional Planning and Economic Development Department.

3. Scope of Activities

- 3.1 The scope of the DAAC may include activities such as:
- a) Providing advice on issues and concerns of the agricultural community;
 - b) Providing advice on the implementation of Provincial and Federal legislation, policies, and guidelines related to the agricultural industry;
 - c) Providing advice on agricultural and rural policy directions pursued by the Region. This may include providing advice on Regionally-initiated official plan amendments related to agricultural matters; on Regional agricultural matters through an official plan review; or, other policy directions pursued by the Region;

- d) Providing advice on the identification and implementation of programs which encourage public awareness and education of agricultural and related rural issues; and
- e) Providing advice on matters as they arise, at the request of the Region.

4. Composition

4.1 The DAAC will be comprised of seventeen members in total, as follows:

- Fourteen (14) members will be private individuals who do not represent their respective employers or advocacy groups in their capacity as a DAAC member. Of these fourteen members, eleven will be bona fide farmers who are directly involved in the agricultural industry¹; and three will be residents who are not directly involved in the agricultural industry.
- One (1) member representing the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture who is a bona fide farmer directly involved in the agricultural industry.
- One (1) member of the Planning and Economic Development Committee whose role is to act as liaison.
- One (1) member representing the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association.

4.2 Membership shall correspond with the term of Regional Council. However, members shall continue to serve until their replacements are appointed by Regional Council. If a member chooses to resign, the Region will seek a replacement in accordance with Section 5.

4.3 At the discretion of the DAAC, non-attendance of three consecutive meetings will be sufficient grounds for replacement.

5. Membership Selection

5.1 For regular members, Durham Region will place an advertisement seeking individuals interested in volunteering for appointment to the DAAC. Interested individuals will be required to submit an application form to the Regional Clerk outlining their interest and qualifications.

¹ Note: Where an interested bona fide farmer cannot be found to represent an area municipality, as an exception, a non-farm rural resident may be substituted.

- 5.2 The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department will review the applications received. Applications from qualified applicants will be forwarded to the respective area municipality with a request that the local Council nominate one representative from the applicants who are bona fide farmers directly involved in the agricultural industry. The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department, from the remaining applications received, will nominate three additional members at large who are bona fide farmers; and three members at large who are not directly involved in the agricultural industry, to bring the regular member complement to fourteen.
- 5.3 In nominating members to the DAAC, regard shall be given to achieving a diversity of members engaged in varied disciplines of the agricultural industry and members living in the rural community with knowledge of agricultural and related rural issues. Regard shall also be given to residency within the Region and availability to attend meetings. All residents of Durham Region are eligible for membership. An elaboration of the selection criteria is provided in Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference.
- 5.4 The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department will formally request the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA) to nominate one person to represent the DRFA.
- 5.5 The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department will formally request the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFF) to nominate one person to represent the DFF.
- 5.6 All members of the DAAC shall be appointed by the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council.
- 5.7 Regional Council shall appoint a representative and an alternate to the DAAC from the members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- 5.8 In the case of a vacancy, the approach described in Section 5 will generally be followed.
- 6. Officers**
- 6.1 A chair and two vice-chairs (first and second) will be elected annually by the membership of the DAAC. The Planning and Economic Development Committee representative will chair the inaugural DAAC meeting.
- 7. Support Services**
- 7.1 The Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development or designate, shall serve as staff liaison to the DAAC. The staff liaison will provide administrative, procedural and technical support to the DAAC.

- 7.2 The staff liaison will co-ordinate all requests for advice from the DAAC, through meeting agendas. DAAC responses to such requests shall be co-ordinated by the staff liaison to the Planning and Economic Development Department.
- 7.3 The Region will provide secretarial and other support services. Regional Council will provide a budget to cover the operational expenses of the DAAC, and this budget will be administered by the Planning and Economic Development Department.

8. Meetings

- 8.1 Regularly scheduled meetings of DAAC will be held at the Durham Regional Headquarters, unless otherwise stated. The DAAC, will establish a meeting schedule taking into account the business needs and the schedule of Regional Council and the Planning and Economic Development Committee. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair.
- 8.2 All meetings will be open to the public. As a formal Advisory Committee to the Region, the DAAC is subject to the Regional Procedural By-law, unless otherwise specified in the Terms of Reference.
- 8.3 Quorum for DAAC meetings shall be a majority of the sitting members.

9. Delegations of Committee Meetings

- 9.1 Any person(s) wishing to appear before the DAAC as a delegate must submit a request to delegations@durham.ca, advising of the topic or item to which they wish to speak, which will then be forwarded to the staff liaison in the Regional Planning and Economic Development Department. All requests for delegations must be received at least one week prior to the meeting to ensure that the delegation is included on the agenda. Any person wishing to address the DAAC as a delegate, who has not previously arranged to do so, may be granted permission to do so only by Committee resolution.

10. Minutes and Agenda

- 10.1 The minutes of each DAAC meeting will be amended as necessary and approved at the following meeting. The unapproved minutes will be circulated to members of Council as part of the Council Information Package (CIP) prepared by the Regional Clerk.
- 10.2 The DAAC agendas will be prepared by the staff liaison and the DAAC chair or vice-chair with input from other DAAC members. Agendas will be distributed the week prior to the meeting.

11. Committee Resolutions

- 11.1 The DAAC will seek to achieve consensus on decisions. Recommendations are “carried” if supported by a majority, unless otherwise specified in these Terms of Reference or Regional Council Rules of Procedure. Only resolutions as they appear in the adopted Minutes may be considered as officially representing the position of the DAAC.

12. Annual Reports and Workplan

- 12.1 An annual report summarizing the activities completed in the previous year shall be prepared by the DAAC. The annual report shall be forwarded to the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- 12.2 An annual workplan with an estimate of the resources necessary and any suggested revisions to the Terms of Reference for the coming year shall also be prepared by the DAAC for consideration and approval by the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council.
- 12.3 An annual review of the DAAC by the Planning and Economic Development Committee will be completed to examine the effectiveness of the Committee and to ensure continued improvements.

Appendix 1: Membership Eligibility Criteria

To facilitate the nomination and appointment of new members to the DAAC, the following criteria will be considered. The aim is to achieve a diversity of members engaged in varied disciplines of the agricultural industry and community representation with knowledge of agricultural and related rural issues.

1. Residency

- 1.1 Members should reside in Durham Region. Where a person who resides in Durham cannot be found, a farmer who owns land in Durham Region may be substituted.

2. Agricultural Expertise and Knowledge

- 2.1 Applicants engaged in the agricultural industry having the following attributes would be considered as an asset:

- Demonstrated knowledge of agricultural and rural land use issues;
- Relevant farm experience;
- Involvement with activities of the agricultural community;
- Technical training in an agriculture-based field; and
- Knowledge of properties and farm operations within Durham.

3. Rural Experience

- 3.1 For applicants from the non-farm rural community consideration will be given to the duration of residency in the community and the individual's level of knowledge of agricultural related rural issues. The relevance of their interests to the mandate of the DAAC will also be an important consideration.

4. Availability

- 4.1 It is important that an applicant be able to attend as many DAAC meetings as possible and undertake work outside of the regular monthly meetings. An applicant should be able to be contacted or reached during the day in order for meetings to be arranged.



DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAAC) 2023 WORKPLAN

1. Advice on Policy Development and Implementation

a. Provide advice on:

- Proposed amendments to the Durham Region Official Plan.
- Agricultural and rural related planning matters, with a view to:
 - sustaining the viability of farming;
 - protecting and preserving agricultural land as a first priority; and
 - ensuring adequate separation between agricultural land uses and activities and urban residential areas.
- Durham Regional Official Plan Implementation.
- Provincial land-use planning policies, plans and regulations.
- Implementation of the Regional Broadband Strategy.
- Ongoing implementation of the Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Regional Cycling Plan Update.
- Growing Agri-Food Durham implementation.
- Growing North Durham Plan implementation.

2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate

a. Host the 2023 Farm Tour that will:

- assist Local and Regional Councillors, Provincial and Federal government officials as well as Conservation Authorities (including staff), to understand the concerns, opportunities and challenges of the agricultural community;
- reach key industry partners whose mandate may impact the agricultural community; including the educational sector to understand opportunities and challenges of the agri-food industry;
- highlight the diversity of agriculture in Durham Region and the economic benefits across the agri-food value chain to support the broader Regional economy.

b. Deliver Agriculture 101 Training to Local Municipal Councils.

c. Continue to work with Regional Departments including Planning and Economic Development, Works, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.

- d. Encourage participation of the Durham agricultural youth organizations.
- e. Investigate other outreach opportunities as they arise.
- f. Municipal representatives on the Committee will continue to dialogue with their respective municipalities including presentations to area municipal Councils on matters of interest where appropriate.
- g. Continue to establish a working relationship with the Durham Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee and other Regional Committees.

3. Economic Development and Tourism

- a. Provide advice and feedback to staff on economic development and tourism activities pertaining to support and growth of the agri-food industry.
 - On an annual basis, assist with identifying priority projects that align with activities identified in the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan (e.g. supporting the development of on-farm diversification, implementing a Food Processing Business Retention and Expansion Project).
 - Identify emerging trends and opportunities to grow the agri-food industry in Durham.
- b. Support the implementation of the Growing Agri-Food Durham Action Plan, the Local Food BRE Action Plan and Growing North Durham Plan.

4. Issues of Interest

- Federal Pickering airport lands.
- Federal Oshawa Port.
- Federal policies effecting agriculture (tariffs, carbon tax, etc.)
- Alternative energy (e.g. solar farms, biomass, wind).
- Farm safety.
- Municipal, Provincial and federal legislation and policy affecting agriculture (e.g. species at risk, provincial land use plans).
- Commercial fill, excess topsoil and excess soil
- Aggregate matters, including aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Implementation of source water protections plans.
- Farmland assessment and taxation.
- Farm animal health and wellness (e.g. DRPS, Avian Influenza).
- Natural Heritage System protection and construction of new farm infrastructure.
- Minimum Distance Separation formulae.
- Water and wastewater master planning.

- Biosecurity, trespassing and vandalism.
- Municipal Class EA's.
- Regional road projects.
- Conservation Authority matters.
- Energy-from-Waste implementation and monitoring.
- Region's waste diversion programs.
- Local food strategy.
- Agricultural training and employment, through continued work with the Durham Workforce Authority, Durham College, and Ontario Tech University.
- Activities of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.
- Land use planning matters.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry (e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, By-laws and Permits).
- Rouge National Urban Park.
- Clean Fuel Standards.
- Supportive agri-business in Durham, addressing local agri-food supply chain gaps.

5. Meeting Schedule

- a. DAAC has scheduled 5 regular meetings for the remainder of 2023. An additional meeting may be held in August, at the call of the Chair. Resources (Planning and Clerks) will be provided to accommodate this schedule and workload.

- June 13, 2023
- September 12, 2023
- October 10, 2023
- November 14, 2023
- December 12, 2023



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-P-17
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2023 Workplan and Terms of Reference, File: A01-37

Recommendations:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment 2, to Commissioner's Report #2023-P-17; and
 - B) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2023-P-17 be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and the Area Municipalities.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Terms of Reference (ToR) requires the preparation of a proposed Workplan for the coming year and when necessary, recommend revisions to the ToR, for consideration and approval of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the proposed DECAC 2023 Workplan and Terms of Reference.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 In April 2023, Council considered DECAC's membership appointments for the 2023-2026 term through report [#2023-P-12](#).
- 2.2 In January 2023, Council considered DECAC's 2022 Annual Report through Report [#2023-P-3](#).
- 2.3 In December 2022, Council endorsed a revision to the DEAC ToR that subsumed the role of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) within the DEAC mandate, resulting in the renaming of the committee to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) (Report [#2022-COW-28](#)).

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 DECAC is guided by Council approved Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR outlines the goal, mandate, and scope of activities for the Committee (Attachment 1). No changes are proposed for the coming year.

4. 2023 Workplan

- 4.1 The proposed 2023 DECAC Workplan (Attachment 2), represents activities which are a priority, and achievable within the calendar year. The activities are divided into four categories:
 - a. **Policy Development and Implementation** – Activities involve providing advice on the formulation and implementation of land use planning policies to the Planning and Economic Development Department and Planning and Economic Development Committee;
 - b. **Communication/Outreach/Educate** – Activities that support community environmental awareness. This includes the pollinator distribution project and promoting and implement the Environmental Achievement Awards Program.
 - c. **Committee Education and Development** – Activities, such as presentations and tours that enhance members' knowledge of environmental issues; and
 - d. **Issues of Interest** – Activities related to the monitoring of issues that DECAC deems significant and may require further consideration.

5. Relationship to the Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability’s objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.

6. Conclusion

6.1 It is recommended that:

- a. The proposed 2023 DECAC Workplan be approved (Attachment 2);
and
- b. A copy of this report be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and the Area Municipalities.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: 2022 DECAC Terms of Reference

Attachment #2: Proposed 2023 DECAC Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

December 2022

1. Goal

- 1.1 To provide advice to the Region of Durham on environmental sustainability and climate change-related impacts of Regional matters, as expressed in Regional policies and plans including the Durham Regional Official Plan and climate declaration.

2. Mandate

- 2.1 The Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) is a volunteer Advisory Committee established by Regional Council in accordance with these Terms of Reference. Committee members are guided by these Terms of Reference.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference provide for a balance between activities referred from a Regional department, Standing Committee, or Council and a provision for DECAC to be proactive and advise on matters identified on its own initiative.
- 2.3 Regional staff, Standing Committees, or Council may refer environmental sustainability and climate change-related matters to DECAC. DECAC shall report directly to the Planning and Economic Development Committee and/or the Regional Planning and Economic Development Department.

3. Scope of Activities

- 3.1 The scope of the DECAC may include activities such as:
- a) providing advice on environmental and climate-change related policy directions and initiatives pursued by the Region. This may include providing advice, feedback, and guidance to Regional staff and Council on official plan policies through Official Plan amendments or via an Official Plan review process, or providing advice on Durham's climate change-related plans and initiatives;
 - b) providing advice in the identification and implementation of new or existing programs, approaches, or policies relating to the protection, sustainability, and enhancement of natural resources and systems, and climate change

- adaptation and mitigation within the Region in co-operation with other organizations where appropriate. This may include investigating conservation easements, land trusts, tree planting, environmental stewardship, new provincial directions, and funding grants; or providing advice, feedback, and guidance to Regional staff and Council on Durham's climate change plans;
- c) providing advice in identifying and implementing community outreach activities which support the growth of environmental awareness and appreciation in Durham Region in co-operation with other organizations where appropriate. This may include recommending and assisting with educational workshops or homeowner guides which can be used by the public in areas such as tree cutting, fertilizer use, erosion control and general enhancement of the environment;
 - d) providing advice on Regional environmental data in co-operation with other organizations where appropriate;
 - e) providing advice on the state of environmental resources such as water resources and natural heritage features such as wetlands, forests, and wildlife within Durham Region in co-operation with other organizations where appropriate;
 - f) appointing a member of DECAC to participate on steering committees for environmental impact studies related to Regional Official Plan Amendment applications. In accordance with the Region's approved EIS Guideline, a DECAC representative would participate in Regionally co-ordinated EIS's and peer reviews; and
 - g) at the request of Regional Standing Committees or departments, provide advice on miscellaneous matters as they arise.

4. Composition

4.1 The DECAC will be comprised of thirteen members in total, as follows:

- Ten (10) citizen members (eight (8) municipally appointed, two (2) at-large).
- One (1) Post-Secondary Student member.
- One (1) youth member.
- One (1) member of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

- 4.2 All members are regarded as private citizens and do not represent their respective employers or advocacy group in their capacity as a DECAC member.
- 4.3 Membership for citizen members shall correspond with the term of Regional Council. However, citizen members shall continue to serve until their replacements are appointed by Regional Council. If a member chooses to resign, the Region will seek a replacement in accordance with Section 5.
- 4.4 Membership for Post-Secondary Student members shall be up to a 4-year term, generally corresponding with the length of their college or university program.
- 4.5 Membership for youth members shall be up to a 3-year term, generally corresponding with the school year.
- 4.6 At the discretion of the DECAC, non-attendance of three consecutive meetings will be sufficient grounds for replacement.
- 4.7 DECAC will strive to maintain a high level of relevant technical expertise and competence in environmental issues within its membership.

5. Membership Selection

- 5.1 Durham Region will place an advertisement seeking individuals interested in volunteering for appointment to the DECAC. For post-secondary student and youth members, the Region shall also contact colleges, universities, and secondary schools in Durham Region to request that students be notified about the opportunity to volunteer with DECAC. Interested individuals will be required to submit an application form to the Regional Clerk outlining their interest and qualifications.
- 5.2 The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department will review the applications received. Applications from qualified applicants will be forwarded to the respective area municipality with a request that the local Council nominate one representative. The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department, from the remaining applications received, will nominate a sufficient number of citizen members at large in order to bring the citizen membership to ten. The Regional Planning and Economic Development Department will also nominate a Post- Secondary Student member and a youth members from the applications received.
- 5.3 In nominating citizen members to the DECAC, regard shall be given to the aim of achieving a combination of technical experts and community representatives with knowledge of environmental and land use planning matters. Regard shall also be given to residency within the Region and availability to attend meetings. An elaboration of the selection criteria is provided in Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference. The nomination of members at large will help to achieve the desire of

a diverse and balanced DECAC. All residents of Durham Region are eligible for membership.

- 5.4 In nominating a Post-Secondary Student member, consideration shall be given to the individual's interests, level of participation and knowledge of environmental issues in Durham Region and the planning process. The member must be enrolled full-time in a college or university program and express an interest in environmental matters. The relevance of their interests to the mandate of DECAC will be an important consideration. Regard shall also be given to residency within Durham Region for the school year and availability to attend meetings. An elaboration of the selection criteria is provided in Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference.
- 5.5 All members of the DECAC shall be appointed by the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council.
- 5.6 Regional Council shall appoint a representative and an alternate to the DECAC from the members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee. The role of the Council representative will be to champion DECAC's mandate, support and advocate DECAC's interests at Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council meetings, and take a lead role in presenting updates to the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council, including, but not limited to, DECAC's annual report and workplan in partnership with DECAC's chair.
- 5.7 In the case of a vacancy, the approach described in Section 5 will generally be followed.

6. Officers

- 6.1 A chair and two vice-chairs (first and second) will be elected annually by the membership of the DECAC. The Planning and Economic Development Committee representative will chair the inaugural DECAC meeting.
- 6.2 Post-Secondary Student members and youth members are not eligible to sit as chair or vice-chair.

7. Support Services

- 7.1 The Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development or designate shall serve as staff liaison to the DECAC. The staff liaison will provide administrative, procedural and technical support to the DECAC.
- 7.2 The staff liaison will co-ordinate all requests for advice from the DECAC, through meeting agendas. DECAC responses to such requests shall be co-ordinated by the staff liaison to the Planning and Economic Development Department.

7.3 The Region will provide secretarial and other support services. Regional Council will provide a budget to cover the operational expenses of the DECAC, and this budget will be administered by the Planning and Economic Development Department.

8. Meetings

8.1 Regularly scheduled meetings of DECAC will be held at the Durham Regional Headquarters. The DECAC, will establish a meeting schedule taking into account the business needs and the schedule of Regional Council and the Planning and Economic Development Committee. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair.

8.2 Unless otherwise determined, all meetings will be open to the public. As a formal Advisory Committee to the Region, the DECAC is subject to the Regional Procedural By-law, unless otherwise specified in the Terms of Reference.

8.3 A quorum for DECAC meetings shall be a majority of the sitting DECAC members.

9. Delegations of Committee Meetings

9.1 Any person(s) wishing to appear before the DECAC as a delegate must submit a request to delegations@durham.ca, advising of the topic or item to which they wish to speak, which will then be forwarded to the staff liaison in the Regional Planning and Economic Development Department. All requests for delegations must be received at least one week prior to the meeting to ensure that the delegation is included on the agenda. Any person wishing to address the DECAC as a delegate, who has not previously arranged to do so, may be granted permission to do so only by Committee resolution.

10. Minutes and Agenda

10.1 The minutes of each DECAC meeting will be approved at the following meeting. The unapproved minutes will be circulated to members of Council as part of the Council Information Package (CIP) by the Regional Clerk.

10.2 The DECAC agendas will be prepared by the staff liaison and the DECAC chair or vice-chair with input from other DECAC members. At the beginning of every meeting, the Committee shall approve its agenda.

11. Committee Resolutions

11.1 The DECAC will seek to achieve consensus on decisions. Recommendations are "carried" if supported by a majority. Only resolutions as they appear in the adopted Minutes may be considered as officially representing the position of the DECAC.

12. Annual Reports and Workplan

- 12.1 An annual report summarizing the activities completed in the previous year shall be prepared by the DECAC. The annual report shall be forwarded to the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- 12.2 An annual workplan with an estimate of the resources necessary and any suggested revisions to the Terms of Reference for the coming year shall also be prepared by the DECAC for consideration and approval by the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council. To avoid duplication, the DECAC shall ensure that the workplan is co-ordinated with other environmental initiatives in the Region.
- 12.3 An annual review of the DECAC by the Planning and Economic Development Committee will be completed to examine the effectiveness of the Committee and to ensure continued improvements.

Appendix 1: Membership Eligibility Criteria

1. Citizen Membership Eligibility Criteria

1.1 To facilitate the nomination and appointment of new citizen members to the DECAC, the following criteria will be considered:

A) Residency

Members should reside in Durham Region.

B) Technical Expertise

A high level of technical expertise is required within the Committee. Applicants with academic qualifications and/or work experience in environmental and climate change-related disciplines, such as, energy, housing, transportation, and conservation, will be an important consideration. Applicants are also encouraged to have experience within a range of industries, including public agencies, academia, professional and industry associations, and community and socially focused organizations, in order to bring a diverse and holistic range of perspectives to DECAC.

C) Community Representatives

Consideration shall be given to the individual's level of participation and knowledge of environmental issues and the planning process. The relevance of their interests to the mandate of DECAC will be an important consideration.

D) Availability

It is important that an applicant be able to attend as many DECAC meetings as possible and undertake work outside of the regular monthly meetings. An applicant should be able to be contacted or reached during the day in order for meetings to be arranged.

1.2 The aim is to achieve a diverse committee with a combination of technical experts and community representatives.

2. Post-Secondary Student Membership Eligibility Criteria

2.1 To facilitate the nomination and appointment of new Post-Secondary Student members to the DECAC, the following criteria will be considered:

A) Residency

Members should reside in Durham Region for the school year.

B) Education

Members must be accepted into, or enrolled in a full-time College or University program and express an interest in environmental matters.

Consideration shall be given to the individual's interests, level of participation and knowledge of environmental issues in Durham Region and the planning process.

The relevance of their interests to the mandate of DECAC will be an important consideration.

C) Availability

It is important that an applicant be able to attend as many DECAC meetings as possible and undertake work outside of the regular monthly meetings. An applicant should be able to be contacted or reached during the day in order for meetings to be arranged.

3. Youth Membership Eligibility Criteria

3.1 To facilitate the nomination and appointment of new youth members to the DECAC, the following criteria will be considered:

A) Residency

Youth members should reside in Durham Region.

B) Education

Youth members must be enrolled in Grade 10, 11, or 12 and express an interest in environmental matters.

C) Availability

It is important that an applicant be able to attend as many DECAC meetings as possible. An applicant should be able to be contacted or reached during the day in order for meetings to be arranged.

D) Letter of Reference/Support

Applicants for youth membership must include a letter of reference from their school and a letter of parental/guardian support with their expression of interest.



**DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DECAC)
PROPOSED 2023 WORKPLAN**



Item	Progress
1.0 Policy Development and Implementation	
Provide advice on	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Official Plan – input and advice on proposed amendments. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects subject to a Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Community Energy Plan implementation and low-carbon pathway implementation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate action monitoring, reporting, and reduction. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial and Regional Climate Change guidance materials. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessment (EA) Studies. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and/or Stakeholder Advisory Committees. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Bill of Rights postings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency initiatives. 	
2.0 Community Outreach and Stewardship	
High Priority	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and continue to implement the Environmental Achievement Awards. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in, and organize community environmental and stewardship events, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree planting targets and initiatives, and canopy protection and stewardship. ○ Opportunities for community clean-up/waste reduction. 	
Medium Priority	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to foster a working relationship with the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, Durham Active Transportation Committee, and the Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Climate Change outreach activities/events hosted by DECAC. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Region of Durham Natural Features Map. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive and native species management and education. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator seedling distribution project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for a volunteer program. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a forum for community climate groups. 	
3.0 Committee Education & Development	
The Committee will expand its knowledge in some of the following issues:	

Item	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy (e.g. sources, alternatives, producers, efficiency, etc.). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational uses in the natural environment. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Planning documents. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality (e.g. Duffin Creek water treatment plant). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human health and the environment. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green infrastructure and low impact development. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road salt. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species at risk. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste reduction and management progress. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifecycle assessment of products and packaging (e.g. plastics). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microplastics. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest, grassland, and wetland health. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active transportation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticides and alternatives. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native species. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban sustainability. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food security. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate pit rehabilitation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peat moss and top soil removal and restoration. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological and physical decomposition (e.g. incineration, gasification, carbonization, anaerobic digestion, waste, etc.). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and light pollution. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen science. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground and surface water preservation and protection. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education around Just Transition initiatives. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous reconciliation and partnership. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate justice and inequality. 	
<p>4.0 Issues of Interest</p>	
<p>The committee will continue to monitor the following issues as prioritized by current events:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authority initiatives and activities, such as Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update and McLaughlin Bay Restoration Strategy. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial planning initiatives. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak Ridges Moraine. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenbelt. 	

Item	Progress
• Regional Official Plan Amendment applications.	
• Water – groundwater, surface water, watersheds.	
• Climate change impacts, e.g. flooding.	
• Transportation developments.	
• Waterfront protection and development.	
• Nuclear Energy Management	
• Potential future airport lands.	
• Rouge National Urban Park.	
• Urban forest/naturalization strategies.	
• Trails.	
• Energy from Waste Facility.	
• Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs).	
• Durham Community Energy Plan – Implementation Governance Task Force.	
• Large-scale fill operations.	
• Waste management and diversion.	
• Environmental or climate incentives.	
• Environmental impacts of agricultural and bioproducts producers.	
• Air quality initiatives and metrics.	

Meeting Schedule

Due to the Committee’s workload, DEAC will schedule 9 meetings for 2023. In general, meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month. Resources (Planning Division and Legislative Services) will be required to accommodate the schedule and workload.

The 2023 meeting schedule is as follows:

- January 19, 2023
- February 16, 2023
- March 23, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- May 18, 2023
- June 15, 2023
- September 21, 2023
- October 19, 2023
- November 16, 2023



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-P-18
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Workplan

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment 1 to Commissioner's Report #2023-P-18;
 - B) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2023-P-18 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's Area Municipalities.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference of the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) specifies that an annual Workplan that guides DATC's activities for the coming year is to be submitted for consideration and approval by the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- 1.2 The DATC held its inaugural meeting on April 13th, 2023 to commence its 2023-2026 term, wherein the newly appointed eight area municipal representatives and Council representative endorsed the 2023 DATC Workplan. The purpose of this report is to present the 2023 DATC Workplan.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 In March 2023, Council considered DATC's membership appointments for the 2023-2026 term (Report [#2023-P5](#)).
- 2.2 In January 2023, PEDC received the 2022 Annual Report for the DATC (Report [#2023-P3](#)).

3. 2023 Workplan

- 3.1 The 2023 Workplan (Attachment #1) consists of activities which are a priority and achievable within the calendar year. These activities are grouped into four categories:
 - a. **Sustainability** - Recognizing and advancing Active Transportation (AT) as activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - b. **Cycling Safety and Education** - Encouraging public awareness and education on the identification and implementation of programs such as Vision Zero and Active and Sustainable School Travel; and supporting work to help achieve Bronze-level Bike-Friendly status for the Region of Durham and any area municipalities not yet designated in Durham, and advancing wayfinding and signage initiatives.
 - c. **Infrastructure** - Supporting the implementation of multi-modal transportation options with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the Durham Transportation Master Plan and the Regional Cycling Plan; and
 - d. **Communication and Advocacy** - Collaborating with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels, including the Lake Ontario Waterfront Blueway, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, Conservation Authorities, and the Health and the Social Services Department to raise Durham's AT profile, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

4. Relationship to the Strategic Plan

- 4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability's objectives:
 - #1.4 Demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.
 - #1.5 Expanding sustainable and active transportation.

- b. Goal 2: Community Vitality's objectives:
 - #2.1 revitalizing existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected and have a mix of attainable housing

5. Conclusion

5.1 The DATC will actively support Regional active transportation initiatives and provide advice to the Region of Durham throughout 2023. The members look forward to helping the Region expand and improve AT for all residents and visitors to Durham.

5.2 It is recommended that:

- a. The 2023 DATC Workplan be approved (Attachment #1); and
- b. A copy of this report be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's Area Municipalities.

6. Attachment

Attachment #1: 2023 DATC Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1



Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Workplan

Scope of Activities

The following areas of Active Transportation (AT) will act as a guideline for the DATC Committee's work throughout the year. Many of the initiatives are ongoing, but those that can be substantially achieved in 2023 have been identified:

Sustainability

1. Recognize and advance AT activities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Region of Durham. (ongoing)

Active Transportation Safety and Education

2. Provide advice on the identification and implementation of programs, which encourage public awareness and education on AT matters, including the achievement of bronze-level Bike-Friendly status for the Region of Durham and any area municipalities not yet designated in Durham, in collaboration with the Works Department and other stakeholders. (ongoing)
3. Provide input and support for Active & Sustainable School Travel (ASST), also known as Active & Routes to Schools, in some jurisdictions. (ongoing)
4. Promote the use of AT in the Region, especially the important role that it plays in connecting people to transit. (ongoing)
5. Recognize the differing AT needs of commuters and recreational users within the urban and rural areas. (ongoing)

Infrastructure & Policy

6. Continue to advance the Regional Trail Network (RTN) as a key transportation and tourism component of the AT network based on various requests and initiatives in partnership with Planning and Economic Development, Health and Works Department staff and area municipal partners. (ongoing)
7. Support the implementation of multi-modal transportation options in the Region of Durham with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the 2017 Durham Transportation Master Plan and the Regional Cycling Plan 2021. (ongoing)

8. Assist in providing support to the Regional and Area Municipal Active Transportation Plans and support the development of the Region's Durham Meadoway Plan. (ongoing)

Communications and Advocacy

9. Coordinate efforts to advance the shared goals of the various area municipal AT committees. (ongoing)
10. Collaborate with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels, including: Lake Ontario Waterfront Blueway, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, Smart Mobility Durham, the Active and Sustainable School Travel program, the Durham Meadoway, the Greenbelt Route and Public Health. (ongoing)
11. Provide advice to Regional Council on legislative matters, programming, and policies from all levels of government related to AT. (ongoing)
12. Identify and advance initiatives to improve communication and collaboration between the Region and the eight area municipalities' Active Transportation Committees. (ongoing)
13. Provide advice on AT matters related to Vision Zero initiatives and mid-block crossings to improve safety on Regional infrastructure. (ongoing)

2023 Meeting Dates

- April 13, 2023
- June 8, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- December 14, 2023



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-P-19
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Durham Region's response to provincial consultation on Bill 97 – the Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and related ERO Postings [#019-6821](#), [#019-6822](#), [#019-6813](#).

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the letter dated May 5, 2023 (see Attachment #1) from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be endorsed as Durham Region's comments on Bill 97;
- B) That the following recommendations form the Region's comments on the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, namely that the province:
 - i) make stable and predictable funding available to Indigenous communities to facilitate their fulsome participation in the planning process.
 - ii) require municipalities to develop population and employment forecasts to a common 25 to 30-year time horizon based on a standard methodology provided by the province.

- iii) continue to require that settlement area boundary expansions be permitted only through municipal comprehensive reviews, informed by a standardized methodology. Within a regional context, the implications of infrastructure and servicing on settlement area boundary expansions collectively should continue to rest with upper-tier municipalities as the jurisdiction responsible for the infrastructure and servicing, regardless of planning approval responsibility.
- iv) continue to consult on the implementation framework so that municipalities within the Greenbelt Plan area can understand how they will be affected by the proposed policy changes.
- v) permit municipalities to designate Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) in their official plans and clarify if the Highway-2 BRT in Durham would be captured as a higher order transit corridor following repeal of the Growth Plan.
- vi) continue to support intensification targets and approaches to calculation within municipal official plans.
- vii) continue to consult with upper-tier municipalities that may no longer have planning approval authority under Bill 23 on how the proposed new PPS can be implemented through their role as a Housing Service Manager to facilitate the coordinated delivery of affordable housing.
- viii) provide definitions (e.g. affordable and attainable) and establish clear policy that enables the delivery of affordable housing and include targets, definitions and policies in the proposed new PPS.
- ix) uphold agricultural systems planning and strengthen language in the proposed new PPS to require municipalities to use an agricultural systems approach.
- x) allow the ability for limited lot creation on rural lands, but only if it is locally appropriate while discouraging residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas, aside from those created through surplus farm dwellings.
- xi) not permit light industrial, manufacturing and small-scale warehousing within SGAs as it would undermine the ability for sensitive uses, particularly residential uses, to locate within SGAs.
- xii) include policy language that will strengthen a municipalities' ability to require mixed use developments in SGAs, and not solely residential developments, which could undermine the province's objectives related to complete communities.

- xiii) clarify the general intent of the proposed policy that requires municipalities to “leverage the capacity of development proponents” in planning for infrastructure and public service facilities as it may be interpreted to mean that municipalities will be compelled to enter into agreements with proponents for the provision of infrastructure and public service facilities;
 - xiv) release proposed natural heritage policies and definitions as soon as possible and in turn allow stakeholders time to comment on the proposed new PPS holistically;
 - xv) develop policy approaches to intensification and settlement area boundary expansions within the context of a changing climate;
 - xvi) include a policy framework for natural hazards within the final proposed new PPS to support municipalities in their efforts to ensure public health and safety, protect property, and avoid the creation of new or aggravate existing natural hazards;
 - xvii) retain policy direction for on-site and local reuse of excess soil, and provide planning authorities with guidance on how to accommodate expected increases in excess soil generated as residential development accelerates; and
- C) That a copy of this report be forwarded to Durham’s area municipalities, conservation authorities, and neighbouring municipalities for information.
-

Report:

1. Purpose and Background

- 1.1 On April 6, 2023, the province released Bill 97, the “Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act”, as well as a proposed new Provincial Planning Statement (referred to in this report as the proposed new PPS) to replace the existing Provincial Policy Statement (referred to in this report as the existing or current PPS). It is proposed that the existing PPS and the document commonly known as the Growth Plan (formally titled “A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe”) will be consolidated. As proposed, the existing Growth Plan would be eliminated. Together, Bill 97 and the new PPS represent a major shift in the land use planning regime in Ontario, especially in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

- 1.2 The deadline for comments on Bill 97 was May 6, 2023 (a 30-day commenting period). On May 5, 2023, the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development (the Commissioner), on behalf of Durham Region, provided preliminary comments to the province on Bill 97, stating they had not yet been endorsed by Regional Council (see Attachment #1). The purpose of this report is two-fold, the first one being to recommend that Council endorse the comments on Bill 97 previously provided to the province by the Commissioner.
- 1.3 The deadline for comments on the new PPS is August 4, 2023, (a 120-day commenting period). The second purpose of this report, therefore, is to recommend that Council endorse the comments provided herein on the new PPS.
- 1.4 It is expected that the proposed new PPS will come into force in the fall 2023. While decisions on planning matters will need to be consistent with the new PPS as of its effective date, Bill 97 would allow for the Minister to make regulations which could address different transition rules.
- 1.5 The release of the proposed new PPS follows a provincially initiated housing-focused policy review of the current PPS and Growth Plan that occurred in the fall 2022 that sought input on how to integrate the two policy documents ([ERO #019-6177](#)).
- 1.6 The current PPS first came into effect in 1997. It has been updated several times. It was updated in 2017 and most recently in 2020. It applies province-wide and provides that land-use planning in Ontario operates on the basis of a policy-led system.
- 1.7 The current Growth Plan first came into effect on June 16, 2006. It was updated in 2017, again in 2019, and once again in 2020.
- 1.8 The Region's new Official Plan ("Envision Durham") which was adopted by Council on May 17, 2023, is based on the directions provided under the existing PPS and Growth Plan as well as other relevant provincial plans and policies. Envision Durham enables the coordination of high-level service and infrastructure investment, and guides decision-making on growth management. Envision Durham is intended to achieve complete communities, prioritize intensification in strategic growth areas, and support a range and mix of housing options. Land needs have been informed by the Growth Plan's population and employment forecasts to 2051, and the land needs analysis was prepared using a standard methodology involving intensification and density targets, and feasibility criteria.

1.9 Report [#2023-INFO-29](#) dated April 21, 2023 provides a detailed summary of Bill 97 and the changes proposed under the proposed new PPS. In brief, all the directive policies of the current Growth Plan, (e.g. forecasts, intensification and density targets) are proposed to be eliminated except for those requiring minimum densities around major transit station areas (MTSAs).

2. Previous Reports

2.1 An overview of Bill 97 – The Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023 and the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement was provided in Report [#2023-INFO-29](#) in April 2023.

2.2 Initial preliminary comments from the Chief Administrative Officer on Bill 23 were presented in Report [#2022-INFO-93](#) in November 2022.

2.3 Implications of Bill 23 on the Region of Durham were presented in Report [#2022-COW-33](#) in December 2022 with FAQs on the impacts of Bill 23 provided to residents through www.durham.ca/Bill23.

2.4 Durham Region's response to the provincial consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, including the removal of lands from the Greenbelt, were presented in Report [#2022-COW-31](#) in December 2022.

2.5 Comments from the Region of Durham on the Report of the Provincial Housing Affordability Task Force were presented in Report [#2022-INFO-12](#) in February 2022.

3. Regional Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

3.1 The current PPS and Growth Plan both generally provide policy direction on land use planning matters including:

- a. growth management, intensification, efficient use of land and infrastructure, housing and economic development;
- b. infrastructure planning, including sewage, water, and stormwater; management services, transportation, transit, energy supply and corridor protection;
- c. protection and management of resources, including prime agricultural areas, aggregates, natural heritage, water, and cultural heritage; and
- d. protection of public health and safety, such as mitigating potential risks due to natural and human-made hazards.

3.2 The proposed new PPS can be described as a re-write of a significant amount of provincial policy guiding land use planning particularly for lands the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The intent of the exercise is to combine the existing PPS and the Growth Plan into a single document while introducing a number of foundational policy shifts. The proposed new PPS includes a set of policies that would only apply to 29 municipalities considered to be the largest and fastest growing, with the greatest need for housing. Within Durham Region, Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington are included in the list of large and fast-growing municipalities.

Indigenous Engagement

3.3 The proposed new PPS would require planning authorities to undertake early engagement with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters to facilitate knowledge-sharing, support consideration of Indigenous interests in land use decision-making and support the identification of potential impacts of decisions on the exercise of Aboriginal or treaty rights. The province's Duty to Consult would benefit from regular engagement. The Region has been working diligently to foster good working relationships with the Williams Treaty communities over the past several years. To support ongoing engagement, **it is recommended that the province make stable and predictable funding available to Indigenous communities to facilitate their fulsome participation in the planning process.**

Growth Management

3.4 The current Growth Plan requires municipalities to plan for population and employment forecasts to 2051 and includes density and intensification targets. The proposed repeal of the Growth Plan will remove these forecasts and targets except for density around Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs). However, the coordination of population and employment forecasts, as well as density and intensification targets to enable service and infrastructure planning is guided by upper tier plans. A provincial role on a standardized methodology is suggested to assist municipalities in developing subsequent official plans along with direction on developing forecasts to a common 25 or 30-year timeframe based on a common methodology provided by the province. A common forecast period shared between jurisdictions will:

- a. enable better infrastructure planning for projects that cross municipal boundaries;
- b. facilitate coordinated and efficient transportation and infrastructure modelling;

and

- c. reduce duplication and delay by not requiring a calibration of forecasts across municipalities back to a common time horizon to inform infrastructure planning.
- 3.5 Although forecasts and targets for MTSAAs would not be affected, within Durham these locations only account for a relatively small share of overall forecasted growth. Planning for transit-oriented communities in all other Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) could be affected, since approval authorities could no longer require development to be implemented based on densities that optimize the use of transit. **It is recommended that the province require municipalities to develop population and employment forecasts to a common 25 or 30-year time horizon based on a standard methodology provided by the province.**
- 3.6 The proposed new PPS removes the requirement that settlement area boundary expansions only be considered through a municipal comprehensive review, and there would be no limitation or guidance on when landowners could apply for an expansion. A standard methodology for the conduct of settlement area boundary expansions should be maintained to ensure the land use and fiscal impacts from ad hoc urban boundary expansions are properly understood. Additionally, requirements for consideration of settlement area boundary expansions have been softened since the demonstration of land need would no longer have to be undertaken when applying for an expansion.
- 3.7 The fundamental shift being proposed regarding settlement area boundary expansion requests could invite speculation and ad-hoc submissions which could destabilize the agricultural land base. A clearer evaluation approach would reduce the likelihood of lengthy appeals to the OLT where methodology could be at issue. If unneeded expansions are allowed, a further expectation for extending municipal services to these areas is likely to ensue. This approach creates unnecessary challenges to long term servicing and infrastructure planning. **It is recommended that the province continue to require that settlement area boundary expansions be permitted only through municipal comprehensive reviews, informed by a standardized methodology. Within a regional context, the implications of infrastructure and servicing on settlement area boundary expansions collectively, should continue to rest with upper-tier municipalities as the jurisdiction responsible for the infrastructure and servicing, regardless of planning approval responsibility.**

- 3.8 There are various instances where the Greenbelt Plan defers to the Growth Plan and the current PPS. For example, the Growth Plan allows settlement area boundary expansions up to a 5 percent increase in size to a maximum of 10 hectares for urban areas within the Greenbelt Plan area. This 10-hectare cap policy does not form part of the proposed new PPS and, therefore, appears to enable further development in the Greenbelt Plan area. Although the implementation framework provided with the consultation materials on the proposed new PPS appears to indicate that an amendment is being proposed to the Greenbelt Plan to have the policies of the Growth Plan and current PPS related to rural settlement growth (including Urban Areas within the Greenbelt and restrictions on Hamlet expansion) continue to be applied within the Greenbelt Plan area, these materials have not yet been provided. **It is recommended that the province continue to consult on the implementation framework so that municipalities within the Greenbelt Plan area can understand how they will be affected by the proposed policy changes.**
- 3.9 The Growth Plan introduced the concept of Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), which includes MTSAs, which now form part of the proposed new PPS. The Growth Plan requires the delineation of SGAs and the application of minimum density targets along identified priority transit corridors. Within Durham, eight MTSAs were identified along the Lakeshore East GO line, four surrounding existing GO Stations and four surrounding planned stations. The proposed policies indicate that SGAs are not a land use designation but are still to be delineated at the discretion of the municipality. The proposed 2023 PPS would require the delineation of MTSAs along higher order transit corridors, which includes the Highway-2 Bus Rapid Transit Corridor (BRT) and Regional Centres along the BRT. **It is recommended that the province permit municipalities to designate SGAs in their official plans and clarify if the Highway-2 BRT in Durham would be captured as a higher order transit corridor following repeal of the Growth Plan.**
- 3.10 The 50 percent intensification target under the Growth Plan, requiring municipalities to plan for this target within a prescribed Built Boundary would be removed under the proposed new PPS. The removal is likely to contribute to an increase in urban expansion pressures and could detract from other goals of creating complete communities or efficient use of planned infrastructure and public service facilities. In addition, the ability to measure intensification consistently over time based on consistent benchmarks to inform long term service planning would be removed. **It is recommended that the province continue to support intensification targets and approaches to calculation within municipal official plans.**

Housing

- 3.11 The requirement that planning authorities establish and implement minimum targets for affordable to low- and- moderate income households has been removed in the 2023 PPS. It has been replaced with a requirement to co-ordinate land use planning and planning for housing with Service Managers to address the full range of housing options including housing affordability needs. Although this may align with the 2016 Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans Policy Statement, which provides policy direction to reflect a coordinated approach within Ontario’s land use planning framework, it is unclear how this is to be achieved from a practical perspective, given pending changes under Bill 23 to remove upper-tier planning approval authority, and the absence of clear direction on affordable housing within the proposed new PPS.
- 3.12 As a Housing Services Manager, the Region’s familiarity with local conditions make it well-equipped to inform the development of municipal housing policies and action plans. However, the ability to require the inclusion of any policies pertaining to housing affordability through an upper-tier official plan would be lost. **It is recommended that the province continue to consult with upper-tier municipalities that may no longer have planning approval authority under Bill 23 on how the proposed 2023 PPS can be implemented through their role as a Service Manager to facilitate the coordinated delivery of affordable housing.**
- 3.13 The term “low- and- moderate income households”¹ is proposed to be removed within the 2023 PPS and a definition for affordable housing has not been carried over from the existing Growth Plan or PPS. Although it is a provincial objective to increase housing supply, ostensibly to improve housing affordability, the absence of any definition or clarity on how affordable housing is identified or defined will make it difficult for municipalities to achieve meaningful or commonly understood affordable housing goals. Further, with housing affordability being an issue of ever-growing concern, it is suggested that the province also provide affordable housing targets within the proposed new PPS in consultation with municipalities. **It is recommended that the province provide definitions (e.g. affordable and attainable) and establish clear policy that enables the delivery of affordable housing and include definitions, policies and targets in the proposed new PPS.**

¹ low- and- moderate income households, as defined within the current PPS, means:

- a) in the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for the *regional market area*; or
- b) in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for renter households for the *regional market area*.

Agriculture and Rural Lands

- 3.14 The agri-food industry is a key economic driver in the Region. With over 12,000 hectares of Durham in production, agriculture is one of the largest primary goods producing sectors within the region. Rural lot creation is a complex matter where the economic needs of the agricultural community are balanced with the preservation of agricultural land to ensure the viability of the Rural System. In southern Ontario where prime agricultural soils predominate, it is necessary to take steps to protect the agricultural land base by minimizing fragmentation and minimize the introduction of uses that are incompatible with efficient farming practices.
- 3.15 The Growth Plan identifies a Provincial Agricultural System that municipalities are required to implement. The proposed new PPS does not include this requirement, and instead “encourages” municipalities to use an agricultural systems approach. The Region has implemented the Provincial Agricultural System through its recently adopted ROP by completing a combination desktop exercise and on-the-ground assessment of the region’s rural area. This process validated many provincial determinations of additional prime agricultural areas and supported the retention of Major Open Space Areas to provide flexibility for some non-farming uses (Report [#2022-P-16](#)).
- 3.16 The proposed departure from Provincial Agricultural System mapping will result in less protection for prime agricultural areas and would make mapping in municipal official plans and protection of agricultural land in the long term more difficult. **It is recommended that the province uphold agricultural systems planning strengthen language in the proposed new PPS to require municipalities to use an agricultural systems approach.**
- 3.17 The proposed 2023 PPS would introduce a new policy framework allowing residential lot creation on rural lands and prime agricultural areas, including multi-lot residential development on rural lands and up to three new lots within prime agricultural areas. The ability to support the long-term stability and viability of agricultural lands would be eroded, due to increased conflict between sensitive uses and normal farm operations. The maintenance of rural character would also be at risk under this policy framework. **It is recommended that the proposed new PPS should allow the ability for limited lot creation on rural lands, but only if it is locally appropriate while discouraging residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas, aside from those created through surplus farm dwellings.**

Employment Areas

- 3.18 The proposed new PPS would permit the introduction of light industrial, manufacturing, and small-scale warehousing in SGAs, subject to them not having adverse effects near sensitive land uses. It does not address the impacts of having potentially higher volumes of truck traffic to/from and within SGAs. Allowing these employment uses within SGAs increases the potential for more conflicts between goods movement-focused traffic and transit. Introducing these uses outside of employment areas works against the benefits of transit investments and intensification in SGAs. **It is recommended that the province not permit light industrial, manufacturing and small-scale warehousing within SGAs as it would undermine the ability for sensitive uses, particularly residential uses, to locate within SGAs.**
- 3.19 It is recognized that the province views the introduction of housing into employment areas that do not need to be set aside for heavier industrial uses as a mechanism to increase housing supply and create mixed use, complete communities. However, **it is recommended that the province include policy language that will strengthen a municipalities' ability to require mixed use developments in these areas, and not solely residential developments, which could undermine the province's objectives related to complete communities.**

Infrastructure and Public Service Facilities

- 3.20 The proposed new PPS retains policy direction that requires that planning for infrastructure and public service facilities to be coordinated and integrated with land use planning and growth management. The retention of these policies are key to the delivery of growth-related infrastructure. Additional direction has been introduced that requires leveraging the capacity of development proponents when planning for infrastructure and public service facilities. It is unclear what the term "leverage the capacity of development proponents" means. The Region ensures a sustainable network of transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and public service facilities such as paramedic and police stations. These are provided in the appropriate locations and in an efficient and cost-effective manner to achieve Council's goal through the ROP of supporting orderly, sequential and phased development in Durham. There is inherent risk to introducing proponent-led projects to this process. **It is recommended that the province clarify the general intent of this proposed policy as it may be interpreted to mean that municipalities will be compelled to enter into agreements with proponents for the provision of infrastructure and public service facilities.**

Natural Heritage, Climate Change and Natural and Human-Made Hazards

- 3.21 According to the posted materials, natural heritage policies have not been included within the proposed new PPS as they are still under consideration by the province. Further, once proposed policies and definitions are ready for review and input, they will be made available through a separate posting on the ERO. It is concerning that natural heritage policies have been left out of the proposed new PPS because they are fundamentally linked to all other policy areas. Without them, the full impact of the proposed policy changes is unknown. **It is recommended that the province release proposed natural heritage policies and definitions as soon as possible and in turn allow stakeholders time to comment on the proposed new PPS holistically.**
- 3.22 Policies requiring municipalities to plan for climate change remain in the proposed 2023 PPS. However, language has been softened from “planning authorities shall” to “planning authorities shall plan to” address the impacts of a changing climate. Additionally, the proposed 2023 PPS is less prescriptive in how planning authorities can implement this direction. Reducing the importance of intensification to achieve complete communities, being more permissive related to settlement area boundary expansions, and providing less climate change specific direction for planning authorities, does not support the goals of achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate.
- 3.23 In January 2020 Durham Regional Council declared a climate emergency that recognizes environmental sustainability and climate change as strategic priorities in Durham Region’s Strategic Plan and as a factor in the decisions of Regional Council. The Region is implementing programs to build more resilient infrastructure, communities and natural systems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Region’s brand new Official Plan adopted May 17, 2023 includes policies to support these goals, but without directive policies within the proposed new PPS, they may be challenging to defend. **It is recommended that the province develop policy approaches to intensification and settlement area boundary expansions within the context of a changing climate.**
- 3.24 Proposed policies within the 2023 PPS related to natural hazards are consistent with those in the current PPS. The Region is supportive of this approach and will continue to work closely with our partner conservation authorities to direct development away from natural hazard lands. **It is recommended that the province include a policy framework for natural hazards within the final 2023 PPS to support municipalities in ensuring public health and safety, protecting property, and avoiding the creation of new or aggravation of existing natural hazards.**

3.25 The current PPS requires planning authorities to support, where feasible, on-site and local reuse of excess soil through planning and development approvals, while protecting human health and the environment. This policy direction has not been carried over into the proposed new PPS. **It is recommended that the province retain policy direction for on-site and local reuse of excess soil and provide planning authorities with guidance on how to accommodate expected increases in excess soil generated as residential development accelerates.**

4. Regional Comments on Bill 97 – the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023

4.1 Comments from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development dated May 5, 2023, are provided within Attachment 1 to this report. **It is recommended that these comments be endorsed as the Region’s comments on Bill 97.**

5. Other Comments

5.1 Bill 23 made changes to the Planning Act that, upon proclamation, would remove statutory approval authority under the Planning Act for the Region of Durham, along with six other upper-tier municipalities. The proposed approach to implementing the proposed new PPS indicates that this change will not take effect until “winter 2024 at the earliest”. The lack of certainty associated with this timeline is a challenge. **It is recommended that the province provide more definitive information about how and when legislation changes not yet proclaimed under Bill 23 are to be expected.**

5.2 The Region has submitted the new ROP that was adopted by Council on May 17, 2023, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. **It is recommended that the Minister approve the Region’s new ROP prior to bringing the proposed new PPS into effect, or alternatively, include specific mention within any transition provision regulations that the current PPS and Growth Plan continue to apply to Durham’s new ROP until such time that area municipal official plans are adopted.**

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Objective 1.3, protect, preserve and restore the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, parks, trails and farmland;
- b. Objective 1.4, demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change;

- c. Objective 2.1, revitalize existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected, and have a mix of attainable housing;
- d. Objective 3.5, provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries; and
- e. Objective 4.1, revitalize community housing and improve housing choice, affordability and sustainability.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The province has released a suite of legislative and policy proposals through Bill 97 and the proposed new PPS that reflect a fundamental change to the Ontario planning framework. The underlying intent to get more homes built is understood, but questions remain as to whether these changes will result in better planning outcomes or make housing more affordable.
- 7.2 While efforts to streamline the current PPS and the Growth Plan, introduced through these proposals, are appreciated, staff have concerns surrounding how fundamentally growth planning, in particular is proposed to change. Key concerns include:
- a. removal of population and employment forecasts;
 - b. relaxed requirements for settlement area boundary expansions;
 - c. increased permissions for rural residential development;
 - d. changing policy framework for employment areas; and
 - e. absence of natural heritage policies and definitions.
- 7.3 It is recommended that this report and its recommendations be endorsed and submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as Durham Region's formal response to the proposals.
- 7.4 Regional staff will keep Committee and Council apprised when Bill 97 receives Royal Assent and the 2023 PPS is finalized, and what changes are made.
- 7.5 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Regional Works Department, Corporate Services – Legal Services, Social Services – Housing Services, Durham Region Transit, and the CAO's Office.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: Letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Durham Region Staff Comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario Postings #019-6821 and #019-6822, Proposed Bill 97 – the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



May 5, 2023

**The Regional Municipality
of Durham**

**Planning and Economic
Development Department**

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**Brian Bridgeman, MCIP,
RPP, PLE**
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

The Honourable Steve Clark
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark:

**RE: Region of Durham Staff Response to Environmental
Registry of Ontario Postings #019-6821 and #019-6822
related to proposed Bill 97 – the Helping Homebuyers,
Protecting Tenants Act, 2023**

On April 6, 2023, the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023 (Bill 97) was released for comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (Postings #019-6821 and #019-6822). At the date of sending this letter, the Bill reached Second Reading (April 20, 2023). Bill 97 would make changes to the following pieces of legislation:

- Building Code Act, 1992
- City of Toronto Act, 2006
- Development Charges Act, 1997
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Act
- Municipal Act
- Planning Act
- Residential Tenancies Act, 2006

The key changes proposed by this legislation include:

- various amendments to support the implementation of the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23);

- new fee refund provisions;
- new regulation-making authority for site plan control for 10 or less residential units;
- changes to rules surrounding appeals of interim control bylaws;
- new authority for Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs);
- ministerial authority to require development agreements;
- changes to support the review of provincial policies and regulation-making authority for a new provincial policy document; and
- changes to employment area protections.

The comment period for this legislation closes prior to our next Council meeting. Please accept the following staff comments, which will be presented to the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee at its June 6, 2023 meeting.

- 1) Bill 97 proposes changes pertaining to the conversions of residential rental properties and site plan control. These changes are applicable to the City of Toronto and local municipalities only. Regional staff have no comment.
- 2) Bill 97 proposes that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be provided the authority to exempt lands that are the subject of MZOs from complying with provincial policies and official plans, when other planning approvals are applied for, such as plans of subdivision. It is our understanding that this would give the Minister the ability to address circumstances where an MZO permits residential uses in an area where the official plan does not.

The Region previously provided recommendations to the province that, if implemented, would provide greater clarity as to how and when the MZO tool would be used (Report [#2020-P-30](#)).

With the increasing frequency of MZO requests, the Bill 97 proposal introduces further uncertainty related to ensuring future land use decisions made by way of an MZO represent good planning and in the public interest. It is recommended that the province not proceed with proposed expansions to Ministerial authority for MZOs and clarify what safeguards are in place to ensure that the aforementioned principles continue to be protected.

- 3) Bill 23 introduced exclusions to site plan control for developments consisting of less than 10 residential units. It is proposed through Bill 97 that site plan control may still be applied where these developments are proposed within 120 metres of a shoreline or 300 metres of a railway line. These measures will allow the approval authorities to include measures within a site plan agreement pertaining to noise and vibration from rail facilities, or flood risks in proximity to shorelines.

Although Regional staff are supportive of expanding the conditions under which site plan control may be applied, there are other factors that should be included. For example, in the case of small developments less than 10 units along existing arterial roads, a right-of-way widening may be required in favour of the municipality having jurisdiction (and in the case of higher order arterials, the upper-tier municipality, or where a development fronts a provincial highway, the Ministry of Transportation). Developments along arterial roads may also be susceptible to road noise, and requirements for mitigation of noise to achieve Ministry of Environment noise criteria are normally implemented through site plan agreements. It is recommended that the province either expand the criteria as noted above or continue to leave the application of site plan control to the discretion of the area municipalities. Other opportunities, including green infrastructure or low impact development approaches may also be provided in consultation with municipalities.

- 4) In April 2022, under Bill 109 – the More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022 a requirement was introduced that, as of January 1, 2023, municipalities were required to refund application fees if they failed to meet statutory deadlines for decisions on zoning bylaw amendments or site plan applications. The Region previously recommended that the province not proceed with the requirement to refund planning application fees (Report [#2022-P-9](#)). Bill 97 proposes to delay the commencement of these refund provisions to July 1, 2023.

Although Regional staff generally support a six-month extension to these provisions, staff recommend that the province reconsider this requirement entirely. The notion of the refund imposed through Bill 109 can lead to other unintended consequences, including adding to a backlog of cases at the Ontario Land

Tribunal (OLT), extending timelines through litigation, forcing decisions on applications without the benefit of considering the best information, adversely affecting the ability to negotiate better outcomes, and potentially undermining good working relationships between applicants and stakeholders.

- 5) Bill 97 would narrow the scope of “areas of employment” under the Planning Act to mean lands designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic uses including (but not limited to) manufacturing uses, warehousing uses, but excluding institutional uses and commercial uses (which includes retail and office uses not associated with primary industrial uses). Although the Bill would allow lands within areas of employment that are used for other purposes to continue, there are instances where larger scale institutional uses are appropriate within Employment Areas. For example, college campuses (e.g., [Durham College - Whitby Campus](#)) and hospitals are land extensive and high employment generators. Other types of land extensive land uses may also be appropriate.

Regional staff are not supportive of this approach. It is recommended that the province continue to consult with the affected municipalities to arrive at a policy suite for areas of employment that better reflects the range of uses attributed to these areas. Further, it is recommended that transition provision regulations indicate that privately initiated employment area conversions not be permitted until such time as municipalities, in consultation with the province, are able to identify and assess how these core employment areas are to be protected.

- 6) Bill 97 proposes to make changes to section 38 of the Planning Act pertaining to ability to appeal the passing of an interim control by-law enacted by a local municipality. The Region was previously not able to appeal such a by-law due to the prior enactment of Bill 139, resulting in the delay of a needed supportive housing project. Although Bill 23 would, upon proclamation of Planning Act related provisions, restrict the ability of Durham to appeal such a decision, the removal of the appeal restrictions in Bill 23 for upper-tier municipalities together with the changes proposed through Bill 97 could help remove barriers to the delivery of Regional housing projects or facilities.

- 7) Amendments to the Municipal Act grant the Minister authority to make regulations governing certain powers of a local municipality, including regulations that would impose restrictions, limits and conditions on the power of a local municipality to prohibit and regulate the demolition and conversion of residential rental properties. The province should limit the scope of this authority to developments where there is a net benefit to the community including impacts to housing affordability and additional needs housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into Bill 97. Following the June 28, 2023 Regional Council meeting, staff will advise of any changes to the above noted comments.

Staff comments on the related proposed Provincial Planning Statement will be provided prior to the June 5, 2023 commenting deadline.

Sincerely,

Brian Bridgeman

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-EDT-7
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to celebrate the successful 2023 Ontario Parasport Games hosted by Durham Region from February 3 to 5, 2023. The success of the Games is captured in the following celebration video:
<https://youtu.be/OAybp8AARrl>.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Ontario Parasport Games is one of the Province's five multi-sport games delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) Games Ontario unit. Ontario Games provide athletes with quality competitive experiences and the opportunity to pursue their athletic goals.

- 2.2 With the endorsement of Regional Council, a bid was prepared and submitted to host the 2023 Ontario Parasport Games. MTCS awarded the Games to the Region and the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement between the Region and the MTCS, for delivery of the Games, was fully executed on March 30, 2022.
- 2.3 The Economic Development and Tourism Division's sport tourism program (Sport Durham) formed a 24-member Games Organizing Committee ("GOC"), led by the Region's Sport Tourism Specialist, Lori Talling (Games General Manager), as well as Don Terry (Co-Chair and Chair of Sport Durham) and Mike Frogley (Co-Chair and Chair of the Durham Adaptive Sport Collective). The GOC was comprised of chairs and co-chairs, including Regional staff and volunteers who led 15 subcommittees, and two MTCS representatives. Planning was supported by another 45 subcommittee members.

3. Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games

- 3.1 From February 3 to 5, Durham Region welcomed over 400 athletes, athlete assistants, coaches, managers, officials and provincial sport organization representatives, as well as hundreds of spectators.
- 3.2 More than 200 volunteers helped to deliver the Games over the course of the weekend. 92% of respondents to a post-Games volunteer survey said they enjoyed their Games experience and 87% said they would very likely or likely volunteer again.
- 3.3 The Games also received tremendous support from Regional staff across a variety of departments and roles, including Planning, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of the CAO (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), Durham Region Transit, Corporate Services and Finance, from the bid phase to event delivery.
- 3.4 Just as they were in 2019, the Games were widely reported by the athletes, coaches and other participants to be an overwhelming success. 92% of respondents to a post-Games participant survey rated their Games experience as good or excellent and 92% rated their interactions with volunteers as good or excellent.
- 3.5 It was projected that the Games would result in a Regional economic impact of greater than \$500,000. An economic impact assessment will be completed, and results will be provided in a final report to the MTCS in the coming months.

- 3.6 Special events and program elements included:
- a. 100-Day Countdown event
 - b. Headband Knitting Campaign
 - c. Be the Roar Campaign
 - d. Opening Night Dinner for Participants – Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex
 - e. VIP Reception – Abilities Centre
 - f. Opening Ceremony – Abilities Centre
- 3.7 The Games featured 11 sport competitions at eight venues in five municipalities:
- a. 5-a-side Soccer – Civic Recreation Complex
 - b. Boccia – Abilities Centre
 - c. Goalball – J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate
 - d. Para-Alpine – Brimacombe
 - e. Para-Nordic – Brimacombe
 - f. Sitting Volleyball – Abilities Centre
 - g. Sledge Hockey – Iroquois Park Sports Centre
 - h. Visually Impaired Curling – Oshawa Curling Club
 - i. Wheelchair Basketball – Durham College & Ontario Tech University Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre
 - j. Wheelchair Curling – Oshawa Curling Club
 - k. Wheelchair Tennis – Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex
- 3.8 The Games also included the following four demonstration sports, a new addition to the Games, which were expected to elevate the profile of emerging sports within Durham Region and beyond:
- a. Adapted Climbing – Abilities Centre
 - b. Floor Curling – Abilities Centre
 - c. Para Equestrian – WindReach Farm
 - d. PowerHockey – Abilities Centre
- 3.9 Legacy initiatives and partnerships often occur post Games, but the GOC facilitated a number of these in advance of the Games, including:
- a. AccessNow mapping of Games venues and all municipal facilities;
 - b. A pilot fitness and training program, “Shaping the Future of Parasport in Canada,” for eight Durham-based athletes with disabilities, led by an assistant professor of Physiology and a PhD candidate in Physiology at Ontario Tech

- University, with funding from the Canadian Paralympic Committee's Paralympic Sport Development Fund;
- c. A pilot program to add more adaptive sport and recreational opportunities at Durham College and Ontario Tech University;
 - d. Sensory support kits at libraries and Games venues;
 - e. An inclusive Athlete's Lounge where participants gathered between competitions;
 - f. Collection of donations in support of Feed the Need in Durham; and
 - g. Launch of a PowerHockey program in Durham Region.
- 3.10 Fifty-nine partners, including the Durham Regional Police Service, local area municipalities, sport venues, post-secondary institutions, local businesses, hotels, service clubs, and other organizations, provided cash or value-in-kind contributions to the Games.
- 3.11 The official Games website, available in both English and French, containing additional information is: www.durhamregion2023.ca/en/

4. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 4.1 [#2021-EDT-8](#) – On November 24, 2021, Regional Council endorsed Sport Durham's bid to host the 2023 Ontario Parasport Games for a second time, building on the momentum and legacy of hosting the Games in 2019, and approved a financial contribution of \$40,000 cash and \$66,000 in-kind for transportation provided by Durham Region Transit.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 2: Community Vitality
 - Item 2.5 – Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.
 - b. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity
 - Item 3.2 – Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 6.1 The Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games were a resounding success. The Games received tremendous support throughout planning and execution from the entire regional community through sponsorship, volunteerism, spectators, contracted services, headband knitting, athlete support through the 'Be The Roar' campaign, attendance at special events, and much more.
- 6.2 The Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Organizing Committee will complete event wrap-up activities and will prepare a final report for the MTCS which will include financial reporting, an economic impact report, and the legacy contributions from the Games. A summary report will also be shared with Regional Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-EDT-8
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Provide an update on the activities of the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA); provide their 2023 workplan; and to advise that a DFFMA representative will be appearing as a delegation before the Planning and Economic Development Committee at its meeting on June 6, 2023 to provide an annual update;
- b. Inform Members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee that the first week of June each year is Ontario Local Food Week.

2. Background

2.1 The Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Section of the Economic Development and Tourism Division works with several local agricultural organizations, including the DFFMA, to implement programming in support of the agricultural and rural economy in Durham Region.

- 2.2 The Region contributes \$13,500 in core funding annually to the DFFMA through the Division's Annual Business Plan and Budget to support the local agri-food sector.
- 2.3 The DFFMA is a largely volunteer-led and membership-based organization with one part-time coordinator. DFFMA has been promoting the production and consumption of local food in Durham Region for almost 30 years.
- 2.4 Established in 1993, the DFFMA has been a leader in the producer-led local food marketing movement in Ontario. Members of Regional Council, businesses, and residents will be familiar with the DFFMA branding; including: the annual 'Buy Fresh, Buy Local' map and brochure; directional road signs; and the [DFFMA website](#) promoting its members.
- 2.5 There were over 60 DFFMA members in 2022. In the last few years, DFFMA has modernized their membership structure to create categories for full members, associate members, and supporting members. This reflects the evolving interests of consumers in not only local food products but also local food experiences, local beverages, agri-tourism (e.g., sunflower, and lavender farms) and other forms of on-farm diversification.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [#2022-EDT-10](#) – The Growing Agri-Food Durham – A Five-Year Plan to Grow the Agri-Food Industry.
- 3.2 [#2022-EDT-16](#) – Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project: Annual Implementation Update.
- 3.3 [#2022-EDT-9 – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week](#) (The DFFMA reports and delegates annually to the Planning and Economic Development Committee).

4. 2022 Review and 2023 Workplan Activities

- 4.1 Throughout 2022, the DFFMA continued to support their members by facilitating joint marketing opportunities through KX-96 radio campaigns to highlight members timed with seasonal products, offering networking and social opportunities for farm members to increase their business-to-business connections, and introducing a subcommittee structure to focus on advancing key priorities such as policy reform, funding opportunities, member recruitment, education, and more.

- 4.2 Over the past year, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Section staff and the DFFMA have collaborated to complete several activities that support the agri-food sector:
- a. Gates Open: Find Your Flavour event on October 1 and 2, 2022 which highlighted the diversity of agri-tourism and on-farm experiences offered across the region;
 - b. Migrant worker information session for farmer operators utilizing the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and/or the Temporary Foreign Worker Program;
 - c. Durham Farm Fresh awards night and networking event at Old Flame Brewing Co.;
 - d. Durham Farm Fresh Holiday Party and Annual General Meeting at Pingles Farm Market.
- 4.3 The DFFMA was a key partner in the development of the Growing Agri-Food Durham: A Five-Year Plan to Grow the Agri-Food Industry. Insights provided by the Board of Directors through multiple presentations and meetings assisted staff with identifying goals and actions that support local food producers across the region. Going forward, staff will continue to engage regularly the DFFMA to advance the implementation of the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan.

5. Ontario Local Food Week

- 5.1 Every year, the first week of June marks Ontario Local Food Week. This is an opportunity to make an intentional effort to shop local and support the local agri-food economy. Buying and supporting local food creates jobs and contributes to economic growth.
- 5.2 Below are some ways to celebrate Ontario Local Food Week in Durham Region:
- a. Purchase from DFFMA members; look for their recognizable road signs on Regional roads or visit www.durhamfarmfresh.ca and use the interactive farm map to find members across the region;
 - b. Search for local farms across the region by visiting www.investdurham.ca/localfood; and
 - c. Promote Ontario Local Food Week on social media, use the hashtag #LoveONTfood and tag Invest Durham and Durham Farm Fresh.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

a. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity

- Item 3.5: Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries

7. Conclusion

7.1 The DFFMA is a long-standing farm organization that continues to promote and enhance the agri-food sector in Durham Region. They serve as a valued partner in implementing the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan to grow the agri-food industry in Durham.

7.2 As trends in the agri-food industry continue to shift to meeting the demands of consumers, the DFFMA continues to offer a collaborative marketing platform and business opportunities for local food producers across the region.

7.3 Staff will continue to work closely with DFFMA to assist in their sustainability plans and encourage consumers to buy fresh, local food.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-EDT-9
Date: June 6, 2023

Subject:

2022 and Q1-2023 Commercial and Industrial Development in Durham Region

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level summary of the important commercial and industrial projects that are underway and in the pipeline across the Region, and to highlight the potential job creation numbers from those projects. The information presented in this report has been compiled from information provided by Durham Region's area municipalities, with each municipality providing information on significant investments in their community. Only information provided by the area municipalities has been included in this report.
- 1.2 The significance of an investment selected by an area municipality to be included in this report was determined in a variety of ways, including: a new business investing in the municipality; new buildings or expansion of existing space; the growth of an existing business creating local employment; a major investment in new equipment or machinery; or an investment of strategic importance to the economy.

1.3 The report is intended to provide a “snapshot” of the general nature of non-residential development and job creation in Durham.

2. Report

2.1 Across Durham Region in 2022, the value of building permits for new commercial and industrial development (excluding renovations to existing spaces, tenant fit-ups, temporary floorspace, etc.) was \$427,246,210, creating total new floor space of nearly 278,000 square metres (3 million square feet). A breakdown of this new commercial and industrial development activity by area municipality can be found in Appendix 1 of this report, and additional building permit data is further summarized in Report [#2023-INFO-40](#): 2022 Annual Building Activity Review.

2.2 Durham’s area municipalities identified 43 significant investments in 2022 and Q1-2023. Combined, these significant investments are expected to create over 8,600 jobs (note that total job creation values include only reported values). Details of these investments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report. Some of the jobs are expected in the short term, while others are expected in future years.

2.3 This report is accompanied by a video that showcases some of these recent investments across the Region. The video can be accessed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/IMkIIDmZuDY>.

3. Conclusion and Next Steps

3.1 The Durham Economic Development Partnership (DEDP), comprised of Economic Development staff of the Region and the area municipalities, are pleased to report that in 2022 and the first quarter of 2023, Durham experienced considerable growth in commercial and industrial development and job creation.

3.2 Through ongoing collaboration, the DEDP is working to advance the Region’s investment-readiness and is working to promote a prosperous Region that is open for business.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix 1: 2022 Commercial and Industrial Building Permit Values for New Floorspace

Area	Value of non-residential Building Permits (\$)	Floor Space (Sq. Ft.)
Ajax	\$78,573,147	548,468
Brock	\$12,235,000	23,308
Clarington	\$88,767,710	265,160
Oshawa	\$44,447,700	229,816
Pickering	\$53,100,000	573,743
Uxbridge	\$2,000	3,197
Whitby	\$815,000	4,162
Scugog	\$149,305,653	1,328,429
Durham	\$427,246,210	2,976,282

Appendix 2: 2022 and Q1-2023 Significant Investment Highlights by Area Municipality

Ajax

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
H&M Warehouse / Distribution Facility	300	716,837	H&M will be the sole tenant of the industrial building B in the GTA East Industrial Park in Ajax. GTA East Industrial Park includes Amazon Fulfillment Centre, the H&M Facility, and the upcoming Building C currently under construction.
Swegon North America	100	90,409	A state-of-the-art logistics facility completed at Harwood Avenue N. This building is located on a 17-acre site along with 675 Harwood Avenue North in the Harwood Business Park.
Business Porters Inc.	22		Business Porters Inc. offers shipment-related services.
Wolseley Canada	8		Wolseley Canada is the leading wholesale distributor to plumbing, HVAC/R, waterworks and industrial markets in the country.
Grandview Kids Children's Treatment Centre			The vision for the new Grandview Kids Children's Treatment Centre is to support the provision of family-centred care for children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs and their families in the Durham Region. It will be an open, welcoming and inclusive community-based pediatric facility supporting an integrated mix of rehabilitation, medical and clinical services, as well as education and research activities. Currently under construction on Harwood Avenue in Ajax with completion targeted for Fall 2024.

Brock

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Agile Manufacturing	30	17,000	Retrofit of existing building to establish a business that performs 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing Services, and Machine Sales.

Clarington

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Small Modular Reactor development at Ontario Power Generation, Darlington Campus			<p>October 25, 2022, Canada Infrastructure Bank announced loan to Ontario Power Generation in the amount of \$970 million to build Canada's first SMR at Darlington.</p> <p>December 8, 2022 OPG announced site preparations are underway.</p> <p>The project's preliminary schedule is to complete construction of the reactor by 2028 with commercial operation starting in 2029.</p>
Manufacturing and Technology Centre		114,398	Repair and refurbishment of electronics and appliances, reverse logistics and fulfillment services.
Home Hardware	20	62,000	The new store will include retail and warehouse floor space, a garden centre, and an outdoor lumber yard.
Courtice Town Center	100	116,078	Courtice Town Center includes Food Basics Grocery Store, Shoppers Drug Mart, Dollarama, a 2 story retail building with multiple businesses. Three additional buildings have been approved but not yet constructed on site.

Oshawa

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
GEODIS/Aosom Canada Inc.		630,000	
Costoco Wholesale	300	161,000	
Ontario Power Generation	2,000+	285,000	New Corporate Headquarters
Martin Brower	175	172,500	Logistics/Distribution Centre
Broccolini (Tenant TBD)	150	up to 420,000	TBD
General Motors Canada	800		Addition of third shift to assembly line
Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority			Marine/Shipping Infrastructure
JJ McGuire (& Others)		60,000	Industrial/Office Space

Pickering

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Emix		164,000	Industrial building in Brock Industrial Park.
Kubota	250	500,000	Includes 65,000SF of office space, meeting areas, and training facilities.
Hotel (Durham Live)			A 275-room hotel.

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Jerry Coughlan Health and Wellness Centre			The Jerry Coughlan Health and Wellness Centre will be a new medical centre bringing services closer to home for people living in the area. The multi-storey building will be located at 2580 Brock Road on 2.3-acre property that is currently owned by Lakeridge Health.
Porsche Experience Centre			
The Arena (Durham Live)			
FGF Brands	3,000		<p>FGF Brands acquisition represents the largest land deal in the Innovation Corridor with 149 acres being purchased.</p> <p>Phase one will bring 1,000 jobs and phase two expected to be roughly 2,000 jobs. In the long-term, the full build-out is expected to be 5,000 jobs which will all be direct, making them the largest employer in Pickering.</p> <p>First phase of development will have five buildings (4 buildings with manufacturing and office and one distribution building). The second phase is to be determined.</p>
Amazon	200		The new delivery facility is expected to create more than 200 jobs in sorting, operations, and management with approximately 85 per cent being full-time positions. Amazon Logistics expects to start recruitment four to six weeks prior to launch.

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
SmartCentre / Bad Boy	200	233,000 SF	New 233,000-square-foot, multi-unit \$70 million complex in north Pickering. The development is a partnership between SmartCentres and Lastman's Bad Boy, which will alone take up 130,000 square feet of the space.

Uxbridge

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Zano-con		13,950	Proposed industrial building, repair garage and office component
Oakvalley Health - Uxbridge Campus (hospital)			Proposal includes: long term care facility with 192 beds, 31 hospital beds
Victoria Drive medical offices		TBC	5 storey office building in downtown Uxbridge
Second Wedge Brewing Co.		4,000	Reconstruction and expansion following tornado damage
Wooden Sticks		58,103	5 storey hotel with 79 rooms proposed at existing golf course site

Scugog

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Greenwood Mushroom		97,446	Phased expansion of mushroom growing rooms, harvesting and packaging facilities
Adamsons Engineering		20,000	Expansion to existing facility

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Taylor Ford	19	25,341	New build (car dealership, car repair, washing facility)
Tessera Group	95	40,000	New advanced manufacturing facility (packaging)
Woodland Mills	24	17,000	New manufacturing facility and showroom

Whitby

Company	2022 and Q1/2023 Jobs Created	Building Size / New Floor Space Added (sq ft)	Comments
Thermea Spa		300,000	
Durham College Centre for Skilled Trades		60,000	
Amazon Centre	500	703,951	
Atlantic Packaging		250,000	
ThermoFisher Scientific		28,000	Manufacturing and supply of Merck's COVID-19 antiviral pill
Oshawa Clinic Group	350	120,000	The state-of-the-art facility will help 85 physicians better serve patients across the region.

Resolutions from Advisory Committees

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

1. Appointment of a DECAC Representative on the Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors

That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That Muaz Nasir be appointed as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) representative on the Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors.

Resolutions from Advisory Committees

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

1. City of Pickering – Backyard Chickens in Pickering

That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of the City of Pickering's resolution to not proceed with a backyard chicken pilot program, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the area municipalities.

2. Impacts of Bill 97

That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee strongly opposes Bill 97 as it does not consider the impact of severances on Minimum Distance Separations in relation to animal operations; and it encourages farmland fragmentation which will negatively impact long-term farm environmental and economic sustainability.