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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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 Pickles, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Collier  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Neal\*  
Councillor Shahid  
Councillor Wotten\* left the meeting at 10:30 AM  
Regional Chair Henry\*  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Chapman, Chair

Also

Present: Councillor Crawford  
Councillor Dies\*  
**\* denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair\*, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning  
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
D. Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning  
H. Finlay\*, Manager, Transit on Demand (TOD)  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Director, Planning  
B. Holmes\*, General Manager, Transit  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
A. Luqman\*, Senior Planner, Special Studies  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning  
K. Ryan\*, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Policy & Special Studies

J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development  
N. Taylor\*, Commissioner of Finance  
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

In the absence of Chair Chapman, Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development introduced C. Goodchild as the new Director of Planning.

## **2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Collier,  
(1) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, be adopted.  
CARRIED

## **4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Danielle Culp, Project Planner, Planning and Economic Development, re: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023 (2024-P-5)**

Danielle Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning, appeared before the Committee to provide a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Active Transportation Vision
- Active Transportation Snapshot
- Growing the Network
- Increasing Cycling Mode Share
- Enhancing Education and Awareness
- Next Steps

D. Culp responded to questions with regards to what other modes of transportation are being accessed during the morning peak travel time; how active transportation will be affected with the implementation of 4 new GO Transit

stations throughout the Region; how the \$100,000 of federal grant funding is being allocated to support the cycling strategy implementation throughout the Region; who would be responsible for improving the signage on the Trans Canada Trail; how the Region can provide safe bike storage; and how the Region can ensure the roads are safe for cyclists.

## 6. Delegations

### 6.1 Zac Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1)

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Zac Cohoon appeared before the Committee with respect to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DAAC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as Envision Durham, backyard chickens, and updates to Regional roads and infrastructure projects;
- Providing advice to the Region on agricultural and rural related planning matters such as Bill C-234 and the proposed Provincial Planning Statement update; and
- Hosting the Annual Farm Tour that took place at Carncroft Farms and Swain Beef in Blackstock, Scugog.

Z. Cohoon responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked Z. Cohoon and members of DAAC for their work.

### 6.2 Jay Cuthbertson, Vice-Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, re: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-2)

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Jay Cuthbertson, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee with respect to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DECAC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as the Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure program, the Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, and restoring and protecting pollinator habitat rights-of-way;
- Providing advice to the Region on various issues including input and comments on the Draft Durham Regional Official Plan through Envision Durham; and
- Participating in community outreach and stewardship activities such as implementing a spring bee pollinator seed distribution project and hosting

the 2023 Durham Environmental Achievement Awards in partnership with the Durham Climate Roundtable.

J. Cuthbertson responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked J. Cuthbertson and members of DECAC for their work.

6.3 Ron Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee, re: Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-3)

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Ron Lalonde appeared before Committee with respect to the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DATC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as the Region's Durham Meadoway Visioning Study, the Region's Wayfinding and Signage Strategy, and the Share the Road Cycling Coalition's Bike Friendly Communities Program;
- Providing advice to the Region on various issues such as the deteriorating conditions on the North Durham Rail Trail Corridor; and
- Ensuring a consistent and open channel for active transportation communication amongst municipalities.

R. Lalonde responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked R. Lalonde and members of DATC for their work.

6.4 Sherry Colbourne, President and CEO, Spark Centre, re: Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023 (2024-EDT-1)

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Sherry Colbourne, participating electronically, appeared before Committee with respect to the Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- How does The Spark Group achieve its mission?
- Sectors We Serve
- How we Help our Clients
- A Year in Review
- Advisors & Educators
- Mentors
- Spark Centre Local Clients
- What is the Eastern Ontario Innovation Corridor (EOIC)?
- How does it work?
- What are the results?
- Spark Group Contribution to the Region

- Spark Group Funding
- Client Success
- Marketing & Events
- Marketing
- Connecting Community
- Elite Partners
- Key Funding Partners
- Board of Directors
- Our Ecosystem

S. Colbourne responded to questions from the Committee.

## 7. Planning

### 7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

### 7.2 Reports

#### A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1)

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Report #2024-P-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(2) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-1; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-1 be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

#### B) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-2)

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Report #2024-P-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(3) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-2; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-2 be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

C) Durham Active Transportation Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-3)

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Report #2024-P-3 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(4) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-3 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-3; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-3 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

D) Smart Mobility Durham 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-4)

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Report #2024-P-4 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(5) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Smart Mobility Durham's 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan;

- B) That Smart Mobility Durham's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #2 to Report #2024-P-4; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-4 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, and the Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

E) Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023 (2024-P-5)

Report #2024-P-5 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(6) That we recommend to Council:

That Report #2024-P-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

## 8. Economic Development

### 8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

### 8.2 Reports

A) Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023 (2024-EDT-1)

Report #2024-EDT-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(7) That Report #2024-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Tourism Delivery in Durham Region and Comments on Central Counties Tourism Draft 2024-2025 Business Plan (2024-EDT-2)

Report #2024-EDT-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(8) That we recommend to Council:

A) That Report #2024-EDT-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be submitted to Central Counties Tourism as Durham

Region's comments on their draft 2024-2025 Business Plan, and that Central Counties Tourism be advised that Durham Tourism (Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Division) remains the preferred Destination Management Organization for Durham Region;

- B) That the Region continue to collaborate with Central Counties Tourism and area municipal tourism staff and organizations to promote, support, and develop the tourism industries in Durham Region; and
- C) That Report #2024-EDT-2 be sent to all other municipalities covered by the work of Central Counties Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, and Durham's area municipalities.

CARRIED

## 9. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

### 9.1 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

- A) Resolution regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(9) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) being in support of Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act and that it be received for information.

CARRIED

- B) Resolution regarding Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Battery Storage Sites

Staff advised that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) will require an environmental assessment to be completed before any battery storage projects are approved. These EAs will examine a range of potential impacts including impacts to agriculture and agricultural lands. Staff advised that while DAAC's input is valued, long-term energy storage solutions are an important part of the sustainability of a modern energy grid and suggested that EAs be allowed to inform the siting of such facilities, rather than a blanket policy to prohibit them on agricultural lands.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(10) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) not being in support of battery storage sites being located on, or adjacent to, agricultural land in Durham Region.



CARRIED

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

**11.1 Update on the Approval of the Regional Official Plan**

In response to a question from the Committee regarding an update on the status of the Region's Official Plan and whether it is with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. B. Bridgeman advised that as of January 8, 2024, staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing were still undertaking their review of the document. He advised that when the new Official Plan is approved, it would be many more years before any development in the new growth areas (9,100 acres) is expected to take place. He further advised that the status of the new Official Plan will not have an impact on the 2024 budget.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Collier,  
(11) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Pickles, Vice-Chair

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S. Ciani, Committee Clerk