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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Works  
Report: #2025-INFO-68  
Date: August 29, 2025

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**Subject:**

Maintenance Operations, Depot Rationalization Update

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To provide information on the planned relocation of the Whitby/Oshawa Maintenance Operations Depot, required to support regional growth, and to advise Council that the Region will proceed with the detailed design of a new Whitby/Oshawa campus at the existing Scugog Depot location. This action aligns with the recommendations of the completed Rationalization Study for the Works Department's Operations and Maintenance Depots.

**2. Background**

2.1 A depot rationalization study was commissioned in 2021 to assess the Regional Municipality of Durham's (Region) depot network and recommend the most effective and efficient operational and site utilization strategies to meet both immediate and long-term service delivery needs in response to population growth. The study also examined opportunities to co-locate operational facilities and groups to improve efficiency and leverage synergies.

- 2.2 The study included a high-level needs assessment that projected space and operational requirements to 2040, examined depot capacity limitations, and identified opportunities to enhance service delivery, reduce operating costs, and improve safety and operational efficiency. Key challenges identified at all depots include aging infrastructure, insufficient indoor space for vehicle and equipment storage, and limited capacity to meet future growth and operational demands.
- 2.3 The study concluded that the Oshawa/Whitby Depot, located at 825 Conlin Road East in the Town of Whitby and built in 1978, should be relocated. The recommendation included acquiring land for a new depot campus and consolidating other regional operational groups, such as Traffic Field Operations and Facilities Maintenance and Operations, at the new location to improve service integration and operational efficiency.

### **3. Proposed Works**

- 3.1 Efforts to secure a suitable site within the Oshawa/Whitby boundary for the construction of a new depot have been unsuccessful. As a result, the Region has shifted focus to constructing a new depot campus on Regionally owned lands at the existing Scugog Depot location.
- 3.2 The proposed Scugog Depot campus would accommodate several regional operational services, including Fleet Services, the Water Meter Group, Laboratory Services, excess soil management, and the Corporate Health and Safety confined space simulator. Additional operational support functions and regional groups would also be relocated to this campus.
- 3.3 The existing Oshawa/Whitby Depot would remain in service and would continue to support Maintenance Operations. The Region will also be exploring opportunities for shared use of the site by other departments, including Waste Management.
- 3.4 A report will be brought forward to the September Finance and Administration Committee to seek Regional Council approval to reallocate the funding from the approved Oshawa/Whitby Depot capital project to the Scugog Depot Expansion project. The Region will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural and engineering services to complete the detailed design of the new facility.

#### **4. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 4.1 A memorandum was provided to Regional Council on June 21, 2024, summarizing the Regional Works Depot Rationalization and Asset Renewal Implementation Strategy, which included the recommendation for a new Oshawa/Whitby campus. A link is provided for [Memo dated June 21, 2024 to Regional Chair and Regional Council](#).
- 4.2 Confidential Report #2024-F-11 was provided to the Finance and Administration Committee on May 14, 2025, regarding the proposed acquisition of land with respect to additional debenture financing to support land acquisition for the new Oshawa/Whitby Depot project.

#### **5. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
    - C1. Align Regional infrastructure and asset management with projected growth, climate impacts, and community needs.
  - b. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
    - E3. Prepare for and respond to severe weather impacts.
  - c. Strong Relationships
    - S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.
- 5.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The planned expansions and modernization of a new Scugog Depot campus represents a critical step toward ensuring the Regional Municipality of Durham's

infrastructure keeps pace with ongoing population growth and increasing service demands. Guided by the recommendations of the Rationalization Study, this project will improve operational efficiency, enhance service delivery, and support long-term growth across the Region.

6.2 With an upcoming Request for Proposals for architectural and engineering services, the Regional Municipality of Durham is well-positioned to implement these improvements in a timely and coordinated manner. Through a September Finance and Administration Committee Report, staff will be seeking Regional Council approval for the reallocation of approved funding from the Oshawa/Whitby Depot project to the Scugog Depot Expansion project. Staff will continue to update Regional Council as the project progresses.

6.3 For additional information, contact:

- James Kilgour, Director, Special Projects, at 905-668-4113.
- David Dunn, Director, Transportation and Field Services, at 905-668-4113 extension 3422.

Respectfully submitted,

**Original signed by:**

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Commissioner of Works