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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### COMMUNITY GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

A regular meeting of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 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  
Councillor Collier\*  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Woo\* attended the meeting at 9:33 AM  
Councillor Wotten  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Carter\* attended for part of the meeting  
Councillor Crawford\* attended for part of the meeting  
Councillor McDougall  
**\* denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Shahid

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives  
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Economic Development  
D. Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning  
A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Economic Development  
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development & Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Director of Community Growth  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
J. Kelly, Manager, Integrated Growth Management & Policy  
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning  
L. Lovery, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)  
A. Luqman, Acting Manager, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

J. Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, Economic Development  
T. Shaver, Manager, Small Business Enterprise Centre, Economic  
Development & Tourism  
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Economic  
Development  
N. Taylor\*, Commissioner of Finance  
L. Trombino, Manager, Development Advisory Services  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Woon, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
**\* denotes Staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(32) That the minutes of the regular Community Growth & Economic  
Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, be  
adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**5. Presentations**

5.1 Danielle Culp, Project Planner, and Chris Leitch, Manager, Transportation  
Planning, re: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024  
(2025-CG-8) [Item 7.2 a.]

Danielle Culp, Project Planner, and Chris Leitch, Manager, Transportation  
Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Region's  
Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Active Transportation Vision
- Active Transportation Snapshot
- Growing the Network
- Increasing Cycling Mode Share
- Enhancing Education and Awareness
- Looking Ahead: Future Projects and Next Steps for the Network
  - Upcoming Projects for 2025
  - Next Steps

D. Culp and C. Leitch responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the anticipated timeframe for constructing a multi-use path (MUP) bridge over the Oshawa Creek at Simcoe Street, north of Glovers Road, in Oshawa to safely connect other active transportation networks in the area; whether the Region coordinates with the local area municipalities and provincial government to construct MUPs; whether staff collaborate with accessibility committees in the Region to enhance active transportation networks to accommodate persons with accessibility requirements; and whether there is a possibility that cyclist counters may double or triple count the same cyclist whose route passes several counter locations.

## 6. Delegations

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,  
(33) That the rules of procedure be suspended to permit the delegations by Ursula Kressibucher (Item 6.1) and Gary Jarosz (Item 6.2) to each be extended by five minutes.

CARRIED ON A 2/3rds VOTE

### 6.1 Ursula Kressibucher, Chair, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association, re: Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week (2025-EDT-11) [Item 8.2 a.]

Ursula Kressibucher, Chair, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA), appeared virtually before the Committee with regards to Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week.

U. Kressibucher stated that DFFMA is a not-for profit membership-based organization established in 1993 that promotes the production and consumption of local food and markets local products to the local community.

U. Kressibucher provided an overview of DFFMA's accomplishments in 2024 which included an update to its brochure design; a complete website redesign; receipt of the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant which led to the hiring of a part-time coordinator; and hosting of three (3) culinary demonstrations in partnership with Durham Tourism.

U. Kressibucher stated that DFFMA's goals for 2025 include additional enhancements to the website; increased workshops and training with a focus on farm business skills and marketing; expanding the number of offerings of culinary demonstrations to further promote local food; strengthening collaborations with local and regional partners; and increasing media exposure from radio advertising to enhance visibility across the Region.

U. Kressibucher identified challenges that local zoning by-laws present with respect to diversification of operations and stated that DFFMA continues to advocate for policies that support farm businesses and diversification plans.

6.2 Gary Jarosz, Interim CEO, Spark Centre, re: Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024 (2025-EDT-12) [Item 8.2 b.]

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Gary Jarosz, Interim CEO, Spark Centre, appeared in-person with regards to the Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Sectors We Serve
  - Information Technology & Digital Media
  - En3: Energy, Environment & Engineering
  - Advanced Manufacturing & Materials
  - Agriculture & Food Development
  - MedTech Health & Life Sciences
- Full Year 2024 Key Performance Indicators & Full Year 2025 Trends
- Economic Development Investment in Durham & Eastern Ontario
- Regional Investment Impact
- Periodic Table of Durham Region Tech

G. Jarosz responded to questions from the Committee with regards to what strategies can be implemented to encourage more start-up investments to remain in Canada; whether other innovation network organizations in Ontario work with angel investors that help keep companies in Ontario; and whether the Spark Centre also maintains a global client base.

## 7. **Community Growth**

### 7.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

### 7.2 Reports

#### A) Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024 (2025-CG-8)

Report #2025-CG-8 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,

(34) That Report #2025-CG-8 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

**8. Economic Development**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week (2025-EDT-11)

Report #2025-EDT-11 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(35) That Report #2025-EDT-11 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024 (2025-EDT-12)

Report #2025-EDT-12 from the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(36) That Report #2025-EDT-12 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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V. Walker, Committee Clerk