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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Community Growth and Economic Development Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:33 AM.

Councillor Chapman assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Councillor Ashe * attended the meeting at 10:25 AM
Councillor Brenner*
Councillor Pettingill* attended the meeting at 10:25 AM

Members

Absent: Councillor Collier

Staff Present: S. Austin, E. Baxter-Trahair*, D. Ellis*, H. Finlay*, L. Foulds, T. Fraser, S. Gill, C. Goodchild, R. Inacio, C. Leitch, I. McVey, N. Prasad, C. Rochon, K. Smith, and R. Woon.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion #6

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Woo,

That the minutes of the regular Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, be adopted.

Carried

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Eleanor McMahon, Founder and Board Chair, Share the Road Cycling Coalition Re: Bicycle Friendly Communities Bronze Award Designation for Region of Durham (2026-CG-4)

S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, introduced E. McMahon, Founder and Board Chair, Share the Road Cycling Coalition.

E. McMahon, Founder and Board Chair, Share the Road Cycling Coalition, appeared with respect to the Bicycle Friendly Communities Bronze Award Designation for the Region of Durham. E. McMahon advised that the Share the Road Cycling Coalition was created in 2007 to unite cycling organizations from across the province; work with and on behalf of municipalities to enhance their ability to make their communities more bicycle-friendly; and to advocate for investment and engage all levels of government. E. McMahon also advised that the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program was launched in Canada in 2010 and the awards recognize municipalities from across the province that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to creating safe, accessible and vibrant cycling environments. E. McMahon further advised that the Share the Road Cycling Coalition hosts the annual Ontario Bike Summit and are also in attendance at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference.

E. McMahon extended congratulations to Durham Region on being the first Regional Government in Ontario to receive Bicycle Friendly Community status and she presented the Committee with a Bicycle Friendly Community sign.

E. McMahon responded to questions from the Committee with respect to what is required to receive the Bicycle Friendly Community Silver Designation; the implementation of programs with school boards to promote active school travel; what members of Council can do to encourage active school travel; and how to improve road safety in school zones while ensuring they remain bicycle friendly.

5.2 Caitlin Rochon, Manager, Corporate Initiatives - Policy
Re: Light Touch, Lasting Change: Public Art and Placemaking in Action (2026-CG-5)

C. Rochon, Manager, Corporate Initiatives – Policy, provided a presentation regarding Light Touch, Lasting Change: Public Art and Placemaking in Action. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Council direction at a glance
- Arts drive economic impact
- Durham Region’s Public Art and Creative Placemaking Program Guiding Principles
- How we work
- Stewardship and durability
- Scale of the impact
- Snapshot: Traffic Cabinet Wraps
- Snapshot: Transit Shelter Wraps
- Snapshot: Sculptural Benches
- Snapshot: Courtice Mural
- [View all installations on the map viewer](http://www.durham.ca/art) (www.durham.ca/art)

C. Rochon responded to a question from the Committee with respect to the process for selecting locations for Muskoka chair installations.

6. Delegations

6.1 Ivan Battye, Whitby resident
Re: Aviation related to Durham Region and Pickering Lands

I. Battye, Whitby resident, appeared before the Committee with respect to aviation related to Durham Region and the Pickering Lands.

I. Battye referenced a Land Over Landings map showing the size of the airport lands expropriated in the City of Pickering and the Oshawa Executive Airport lands. He stated that the lands are both governed by Transport Canada and are part of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority Ground Lease.

I. Battye also referenced the spin-off revenue and economic impact figures for the Toronto Island Airport (Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport) and stated that the Oshawa Executive Airport is about the same size and capable of 5,000 feet. I. Battye further stated that there has been a planning error related to the Oshawa Executive Airport, and he referenced what takes place when there is an aviation accident. I. Battye stated what the potential economic impact from Oshawa Executive Airport could be and that it is not being realized. I. Battye further stated that Durham Region is a nominator to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority which governs the contract and aviation.

6.2 Jonathan Scott, Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
Re: New Report “Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress” on
the status of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

J. Scott, Executive Director, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, participating electronically, provided a presentation regarding the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition and their new report “Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress”. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Role of Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
- Protecting Lake Simcoe: Turning Strong Plans into Sustainable Action
- Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition: Protect Our Plan
- The Problem is Not the Plan
- Local Leadership is Strong
- What the Report Does
- Three Examples Councils Should Care About
- What We’re Asking of Council

7. Community Growth

7.1 Correspondence

A) Memorandum from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, re: ALTO High-Speed Rail through Durham Region

Discussion ensued with respect to support for a stop within Durham Region; and potential uses for the federally owned lands in northeast Pickering (Pickering Lands).

Staff responded to questions with respect to where a stop within the City of Pickering may be located; and whether a stop within the Pickering Lands has been considered. S. Austin advised that staff are engaged with the Federal government regarding their future plans for the Pickering Lands.

Motion #7

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham support the addition of a station stop in the City of Pickering; and
- B) That Regional staff be directed to continue working with the City of Pickering, Indigenous community representatives, ALTO and their construction consortium throughout the planning, design, and implementation process to advocate for a station location in Durham Region.

Carried

- B) Correspondence from Doug Glass, Ajax resident, re: ALTO High-Speed Rail – Regional Station Location Considerations
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Motion #8

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from Doug Glass, Ajax resident,
regarding ALTO High-Speed Rail – Regional Station Location
Considerations, be referred to consideration of Item 7.1 A).

Carried

7.2 Reports

- A) Bicycle Friendly Communities Award – Bronze Designation
(2026-CG-4)
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Report #2026-CG-4 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #9

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That Report #2026-CG-4 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

Carried

- B) Light Touch, Lasting Change: Public Art and Placemaking in Action
(2026-CG-5)
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Report #2026-CG-5 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #10

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That Report #2026-CG-5 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

Carried

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Economic Development reports to consider.

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 and Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Motion #11

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman
Chair

T. Fraser
Committee Clerk