

**From:** Dee G

**Sent:** March 1, 2026 10:17 AM

**To:** Clerks <[clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca)>; Bob Chapman; Rick Kerr; Maleeha Shahid; Shaun Collier; Wilma Wotten; Willie Woo; chair <[chair@durham.ca](mailto:chair@durham.ca)>

**Cc:** Sterling Lee

**Subject:** March 3 Community Growth Meeting

Dear Members of Committee,

Clerk, please add this to the March 3rd agenda for discussion. First, I want to acknowledge the clear reporting in the Durham TREES update. Exceeding the original planting target (613,580 vs. 279,000 trees) is measurable performance. Thank you for presenting tangible outcome based results.

That said, with Phase 2 now projecting 22,500 trees over 2026–2028, this is a significant reduction from Phase 1, could staff clarify:

- Is the reduction driven by cost, scope shift, funding limits, or survival outcomes?
- What was the average cost per tree in Phase 1 vs. Phase 2?
- What are the current survival rates? I know in Ajax we are having issues with tree survival and I wonder if the same exist all over Durham?

On Growing Agri-Food Durham, the activity summary is appreciated, but for a five-year economic development plan, measurable outcomes are essential. Nowhere do we see:

- Jobs created or retained
- Business expansion data
- Tax base impact
- Cost per initiative or return on investment

Economic development is critical to reducing the growing reliance on residential taxpayers. Clear KPIs tied to business growth and fiscal impact should be standard reporting for a five-year plan.

Similarly, the Smart Mobility Durham report references a 35% non-auto mode share target by 2031, yet does not state:

- The current mode share
- 2024 and 2025 results
- Year-over-year percentage change
- Cost per percentage shift

Participation numbers are activity measures, not outcome measures. Without baseline, trend, and cost transparency, effectiveness cannot be assessed. Given the 35% non-auto target by 2031, what is the current mode share, what was it in 2024 and 2025, and how is program effectiveness measured relative to cost?

As Durham grows, outcome-based reporting, especially where public funds are involved must be front and centre. I look forward to hearing more details in your meeting and improvements in future reporting.

Thank you

Doug Glass