



# Comments on York Region's Draft Regional Planning Transition Plan

Development Services Committee  
December 12, 2023



## Background

- The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23), received royal assent in November 2022, and included legislation to remove planning responsibilities from York Region.
- A draft “Regional Planning Transition Plan” was presented to Regional Council in June 2023 that outlines:
  1. Approaches to transition York Region’s current planning services; and
  2. Activities to prepare for proclamation.
- York Region Council directed staff to consult local municipalities on the draft "Regional Planning Transition Plan".



## Regional Planning Services to be Transitioned

1. Undertaking municipal comprehensive reviews (MCRs) + official plan updates;
2. Implementing the 2022 York Regional Official Plan (YROP);
3. Approving local official plans + amendments;
4. Commenting on local official plans, amendments, secondary plans + related background studies;
5. Commenting on development applications;
6. Appealing local planning decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT); and
7. Being a party to an OLT Hearing.



# Markham to Undertake Future Municipal Comprehensive Reviews

## **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- During transition York Region will continue to assist local municipalities with official plan conformity work.
- Post proclamation York Region would continue to gather and analyze data, forecast growth and support local municipalities.

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That York Region continue its forecasting work in a supportive role to assist local municipalities in preparing local forecasts and the forecasts approved by local Council be used to inform Regional master and capital plans and phasing.



# Markham to Implement the 2022 York Region Official Plan

## **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- During transition York Region will help prepare Markham to assume responsibility for YROP.
- Post proclamation York Region will support administering and interpreting the YROP.

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That additional support to interpret and administer the YROP be an optional service provided by York Region given that Markham will be responsible for making decisions regarding conformity.



# Minister to become Approval Authority for Local Official Plans and Amendments

## **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- During transition York Region will continue to exempt official plan amendments (OPAs) where possible.
- Post proclamation York Region to stop collecting decision fees, but continue commenting on OPAs.

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That York Region comments on OPAs be focused to matters where York Region has authority.



# York Region to Continue Reviewing Official Plans, Amendments and Secondary Plans

## **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- During transition York Region to continue commenting on official plans, OPAs, secondary plans and related background studies.
- Post proclamation York Region's comments will focus only on Regional matters.

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That York Region's role as a commenting agency should also include providing support on City-led initiatives and studies related to matters where York Region has authority.



## Further Information Needed about the Activities to Prepare for Proclamation

### **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- Continue or initiate activities to prepare for proclamation (e.g., retool planning and economic development work plan priorities, continue to develop growth analysis products, clearly define the services provided by the Region, etc.)

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That York Region provide additional detail and clarification on the matters identified in Appendix 'B' (e.g., clarification about the types of data products and services).





# Further Consultation Needed to Confirm the Regional Services that will be Provided to Markham

## **Draft York Region Transition Plan:**

- Define the services provided by the Region to local municipalities through memorandums of understanding.

**Markham Staff Recommendation:** That a memorandum of understanding between York Region and Markham be prepared to confirm the Regional services to be provided by York Region.



## Next Steps

City staff will:

- Provide York Region comments on the draft Regional Planning Transition Plan;
- Engage York Region on transition matters outlined in the staff report; and
- Report back when there is further clarity from the Province and York Region on the transition and planning responsibilities.