

VIA Email < premier@ontario.ca >

March 24, 2020

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

RE: Provincially Stranded Assets

Please be advised the above-noted matter was placed before Council at its meeting held on March 24, 2020, and the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS GO rail services and 400-series highways are amongst the most significant infrastructure to support growth & competitiveness in York Region; and

WHEREAS Provincial policies encourage future mixed uses development in Strategic Growth Areas and support employment growth along highways; and

WHEREAS there are major opportunities for transit-oriented development for York Region, specifically for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and the City of Richmond Hill with the opening of Gormley and Bloomington GO stations by the Highway 404 lands; and

WHEREAS a significant amount of lands near Gormley & Bloomington GO stations and along the Highway 404 are designated "countryside" and protected mainly for agricultural uses; and

WHEREAS much of the lands protected for agricultural uses near the GO stations are no longer viable for normal farm operations; and

WHEREAS overly protecting lands from development suppresses York Region's competitive opportunity in the GTHA and restricts Provincial investments and significant economic development opportunities; and



WHEREAS there is an apparent need to further assess the lands surrounding all Provincially Stranded Assets in York Region to determine their best uses; and

WHEREAS Whitchurch-Stouffville Council resolved on December 11, 2018 requesting the Province to consider some of the stranded lands in the Highway 404 corridor Provincially Significant Employment Zone; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond Hill Council at its meeting on February 26, 2020 also directed staff to review the current land use designation near the Gormley GO station and along the Highway 404 corridor for future development; and

WHEREAS York Region Council at its meeting on March 21, 2019, unanimously passed a resolution to support Whitchurch-Stouffville's position for the Highway 404 corridor lands; and

WHEREAS growing employment opportunities, attracting people and businesses, and increasing access to efficient transportation options are the objectives of the current York Region Council to increase economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS only the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing can decide on a change of use for the stranded lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Whitchurch-Stouffville Council request York Region Council to direct York Region staff to identify the suggested Provincially Stranded Assets in this resolution and report back on the competitive benefits to the Region and local municipalities if land designations were to be changed in the future; and

THAT Council request York Region to formally request the Province to re-designate lands at the Gormley and Bloomington GO stations on both sides of the Highway 404 corridor from "countryside" to "urban settlement area"; and

THAT Council request York Region Council to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to permit the new land use designations within the applicable Provincial plans; and

THAT this Council resolution be forwarded to all York Region's Councils, York Regional Council, York Regional MPP's, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing & the Premier for their information.

Carried



TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, ON L4A 0Z8

Customer Service Centre: 905-640-1900

Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWN (8696)

Automated: 905-640-1910

Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWS (8697)

Fax: 905-640-7957

www.townofws.ca

Yours truly,

Kristina Soolepp, Council Coordinator
(905) 642-4130

cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Steve Clark
Aurora – Oak Ridges – Markham Riding, MPP Michael Parsa
King – Vaughan Riding, Hon. Stephen Lecce
Markham – Stouffville Riding, Hon. Paul Calandra
Markham – Thornhill Riding, MPP Logan Kanapathi
Markham – Unionville Riding, MPP Billy Pang
Newmarket – Aurora Riding, Hon. Christine Elliott
Richmond Hill, MPP Daisy Wai
Thornhill Riding, MPP Gila Martow
Vaughan – Woodbridge, Hon. Michael A. Tibollo
York – Simcoe Riding, Hon. Caroline Mulroney
York Region
City of Markham
City of Richmond Hill
City of Vaughan
Town of Aurora
Town of East Gwillimbury
Town of Georgina
Town of Newmarket
Township of King