

Provincially Stranded Assets

On April 30, 2020 Regional Council made the following decision:

That Council refer the following motion and the correspondence from Kristina Soolepp, Council Coordinator, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville dated March 24, 2020 (April 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes, Item H.1.2) to staff:

WHEREAS the Township of King advised the Region of York in October, 2009 of the Township's interest and intent to explore the possibility of designating additional employment lands in the area of Highway 400 and King Road prior to the 2014 Review of the Greenbelt Plan;

WHEREAS the Council for the Township of King supported the conclusions of the Greater Toronto Mayors Alliance Phase Two Report (March, 2013), including the identification of strategic employment lands that should be protected, particularly along the 400 series highway network, and where these lands adjacent to this infrastructure is otherwise protected, that protection be considered in light of the opportunity it presents to stimulate economic growth;

WHEREAS the Township's Economic Development Strategy (2015) identified the need to pursue opportunities to designate lands at Highway 400 and King Road as a Strategic Employment Area;

WHEREAS the Township requested in September, 2016 that the Province of Ontario include provisions in both the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan to remove strategic employment lands adjacent to 400-series highways from the Greenbelt Plan should the need be demonstrated beyond 2031;

WHEREAS the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville passed a resolution on March 24th, 2020, that among other things, has the general purpose of requesting the Region of York and Province of Ontario to consider the appropriateness, including the competitive benefits to the Region and local municipalities, of re-designating lands in proximity to the Gormley and Bloomington GO Stations, on both sides of the Highway 404 corridor, from "countryside" to "urban settlement area";

WHEREAS the Township of King would also be interested in having the Region of York and Province of Ontario consider the appropriateness and competitive benefits of utilizing lands adjacent to Highway 400 for employment use purposes, given that the potential un-locking of employment opportunities

along Highway 400 aligns with the Township's directions contained Economic Development Strategy and the new Draft Official Plan;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that:

- York Region Staff be directed to report back to Council on the competitive benefits to the Region if employment uses were to be permitted along 400 series Highways; and
- York Region Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to permit, through modifications to the applicable Provincial Plans and Policies, the designation of employment lands adjacent to 400 series Highways