



**Sent Via Email**

February 28, 2020

Chris Raynor  
Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Raynor,

**Re: SRPRS.20.004 – York Region’s Municipal Comprehensive Review (Part 2): Major Transit Station Areas, Settlement Area Expansion, and Agriculture System**

Richmond Hill Council, at its meeting held on February 26, 2020, adopted the 2 separate recommendations with respect to staff report SRPRS.20.004, as follows:

**Recommendation 1:**

- a) That staff report SRPRS.20.004 regarding York Region’s Municipal Comprehensive Review (Part 2): Major Transit Station Areas, Settlement Area Expansion, and Agricultural System, be received;
- b) That Council endorse the staff recommendations contained in staff report SRPRS.20.004 for modifications to the identification, boundaries, and resident to job ratios of York Region’s proposed Major Transit Station Areas, as follows:
  - i) Staff Recommendation 1: Link the Richmond Hill Centre and Bayview MTSAs,
  - ii) Staff Recommendation 2: Investigate through the OP Update the inclusion of lands on the east side of Bathurst Street in the Bathurst/Highway 7 MTSA,
  - iii) Staff Recommendation 3a: Consider Employment Conversion requests in setting of residents to jobs ratio,
  - iv) Staff Recommendation 3b: Increase Bayview MTSA to a ratio of 80 residents to 20 jobs, and
  - v) Staff Recommendation 3c: Increase Weldrick MTSA to a ratio of 80 residents to 20 jobs;

- c) That Council continue to direct City staff to communicate to the Region the desire to include the following GO Stations as MTSA's in the Region's intensification framework:
  - i) the Richmond Hill (Newkirk) GO Station; and
  - ii) the Gormley GO Station
- d) That Council support Regional Staff's proposed refinement of the Provincially identified Prime Agricultural Areas within the City of Richmond Hill;
- e) That York Region be advised of Council's support for the recommendations as set out in staff report SRPRS.20.004, and that the City Clerk forward a copy of staff report SRPRS.20.004 to York Region as input to York Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review Process.

**Recommendation 2:**

Whereas, the COUNTRYSIDE AREA designation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) is intended to protect prime agricultural areas, promote and protect agricultural and other rural land uses and normal farm practices and maintain the rural character of a Rural Settlement; and

Whereas, the agricultural industry along the Leslie Street and Hwy. 404 Corridor is no longer economically viable, practical or safe and this intent can no longer be met; and

Whereas, the 2001 ORMCP direction for the designated COUNTRYSIDE AREA for this part of the City of Richmond Hill conflicts with the 2020 direction by the province to produce more housing faster (more homes and more choice) and provide for land use intensification within urban areas; and

Whereas, the ongoing protection and enhancement of the NATURAL CORE and NATURAL LINKAGE areas of the ORMCP can fulfill the core mandate of the ORMCP; and

Whereas, the province and Metrolinx have developed two new GO stations on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill; and

Whereas, Metrolinx has announced its desire to see urban intensification related to its Go Station lands and in the vicinity of its stations; and

Whereas, the Town of Whitchurch - Stouffville has no substantial marketable employment lands upon which to foster economic development; and

Whereas, the province has announced it will entertain 40 hectare urban SETTLEMENT area land expansions to provide for comprehensive planning; and

Whereas, discussions have taken place with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff confirming their support with the direction proposed in this motion;

Therefore, be it resolved that;

- i. The City of Richmond Hill and the Town of Whitchurch - Stouffville formally work together to approach the Region of York and the Province of Ontario to develop a Highway 404 economic corridor to facilitate the housing and economic development aspirations held by the province in 2020;
- ii. That the lands currently designated COUNTRYSIDE AREA along this corridor be re-designated SETTLEMENT AREA with NO change to the designated LINKAGE AREA or CORE AREA lands;
- iii. The Region of York and the City of Richmond Hill, through their ongoing respective Municipal Comprehensive Reviews (MCR), provide direction for the preparation of a Secondary Plan for the area north of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of the North Leslie Secondary Plan up to Bethesda Road, east and south of the West Gormley Secondary Plan.

In accordance with Council's directive, please find attached a copy Staff Report SRPRS.20.004 regarding York Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review (Part 2): Major Transit Station Areas, Settlement Area Expansion, and Agriculture System.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning at (905) 771-2420.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen M.A. Huycke  
Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

Attachments