



Office of the Commissioner  
Environmental Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

Date: May 21, 2021

Re: 2021 Water and Wastewater Master Plan Progress Update

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This memorandum provides Council with an overview on engagement for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan update. Engagement with the public, key stakeholders and partners is critical to development of this Master Plan Update.

### **The Water and Wastewater Master Plan outlines critical infrastructure to support growth as envisioned in the Regional Official Plan**

The Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update is a long-term servicing plan that identifies infrastructure and programs required to support projected growth to 2051 as envisioned in the Regional Official Plan. The Master Plan Update is developed in coordination with the Municipal Comprehensive Review and other Regional initiatives including the Transportation Master Plan and Development Charges Bylaw Update. Findings will be used to provide input towards the Regional Fiscal Strategy. The Master Plan Update commenced in Q3 2019 and is expected to be complete in early 2022 as shown in Figure 1.

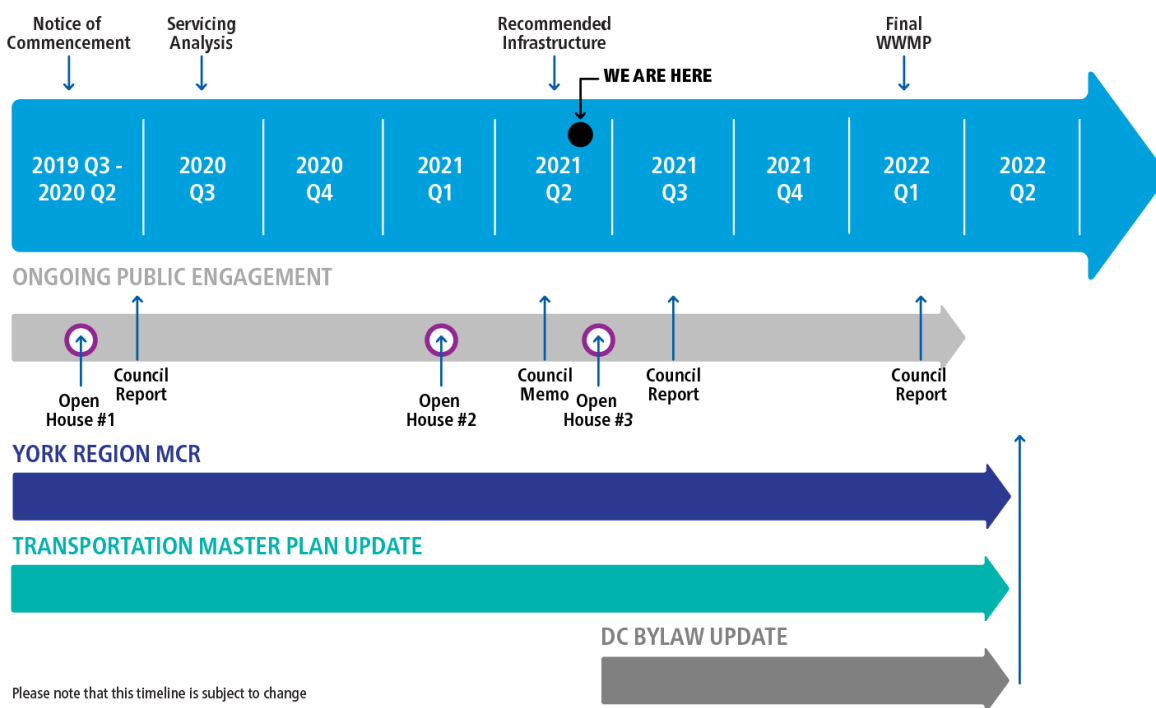
### **Recent engagement focused on servicing strategies required to address new growth targets**

Since the 2016 Master Plan, the Region's circumstances and needs have continued to evolve, including updated growth forecast targets in the A Place to Grow: Growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (the Growth Plan), increased pressures on available resources, changing customer expectations, climate change impacts and updated regulatory requirements. Building on previous Master Plan work and the updated growth forecast targets in the Growth Plan, the servicing strategies identified in 2016 will be adjusted to apply to 2051 growth needs. For the most part, water servicing approaches remain consistent with approaches detailed in prior

updates. Specifically, it is expected that the Region will continue to be supplied with drinking water from Lake Ontario (in partnership with the Region of Peel and the City of Toronto), as well as from Lake Simcoe sources and groundwater wells. This Master Plan Update will further explore operational flexibility through enhanced east-west connections of Lake Ontario water and continued connection of the York Water System to Lake Simcoe.

For wastewater, the servicing strategy builds on prior Master Plan Updates with servicing delivered primarily through the York Durham Sewage System and Peel Diversion to maintain Great Lakes water balances, along with stand alone systems in satellite communities and the Water Reclamation Centre. Advancing demand management and asset management initiatives through the Region’s Long-Term Water Conservation Strategy Update (2021), Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy Update (2021) and Asset Management Plans continue to be integral to meet 2051 needs.

**Figure 1**  
**Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update Timeline**

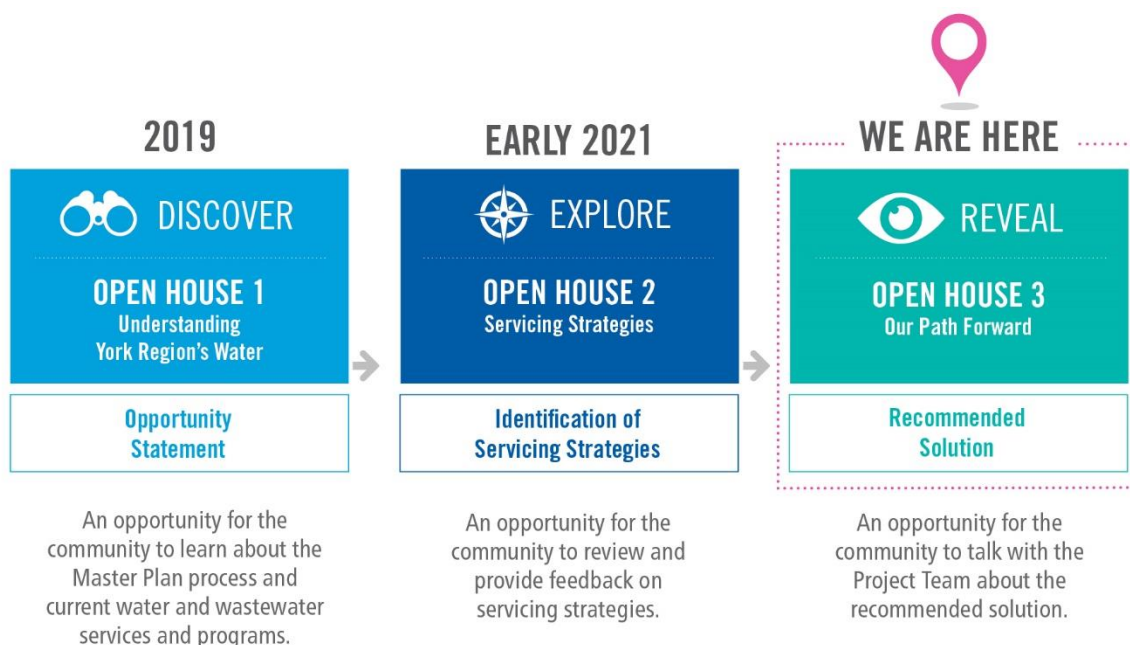


**Ongoing engagement is integral to the Master Plan Update and water and wastewater service delivery**

Engagement is an integral component in developing the future infrastructure needs to support growth to 2051. Completion of the Master Plan Update will fulfill Phase 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.

Over the course of the Master Plan Update, three rounds of project engagement are planned to share information and provide opportunities for feedback. Engagement occurs broadly through one on one meetings with the local municipalities, regional servicing partners (the Regions of Durham, Peel and the City of Toronto), Indigenous communities, Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and with businesses and residents of York Region through public open houses. Engagement milestones are illustrated in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2**  
**Water and Wastewater Master Plan Engagement Milestones**



Feedback is collected and considered as input to the Master Plan Update and shared with other water and wastewater business areas.

**Rounds one and two of project engagement are complete**

The first round of engagement introduced the project and provided information about the Master Plan Update process. In-person open houses were hosted in Fall 2019 in three locations across York Region. Further details about the first round of open houses were reported to Council in [March 2020](#).

A second round of engagement, hosted from February 16 to March 2, 2021, provided a project update and information about proposed servicing strategies. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic engagement shifted to virtual activities prioritizing safety of staff and the public, while making best efforts to maximize participation and maintain physical distancing. Staff leveraged

corporate tools and tactics to ensure the public, stakeholders and partners were engaged and could provide feedback through online formats.

The second open house provided participants a broader understanding of infrastructure planning for growth in the regional context. Servicing strategies required to service growth needs to 2051 were introduced and open house participants were provided an opportunity to learn more about current water and wastewater services and programs. Participants included residents, developers, consultants and representatives from local municipalities and Conservation Authorities.

### **Feedback received will inform the next phases of the Master Plan Update**

Feedback collected through public open houses indicate:

- Participants appreciate the opportunity to learn about Regional water and wastewater services, including sources of water supply, where wastewater goes and how it is treated
- Long-term sustainability of water and wastewater servicing, and responsible resource management for future generations is a priority
- There is a strong interest in future infrastructure details including location, timing, implications to potential developments as well as the potential provision of municipal services to unserved, non-urban lands

In addition to the comments above, local municipal engagement revealed support for timely, well-paced and coordinated infrastructure delivery and planning for resilient infrastructure and robust services.

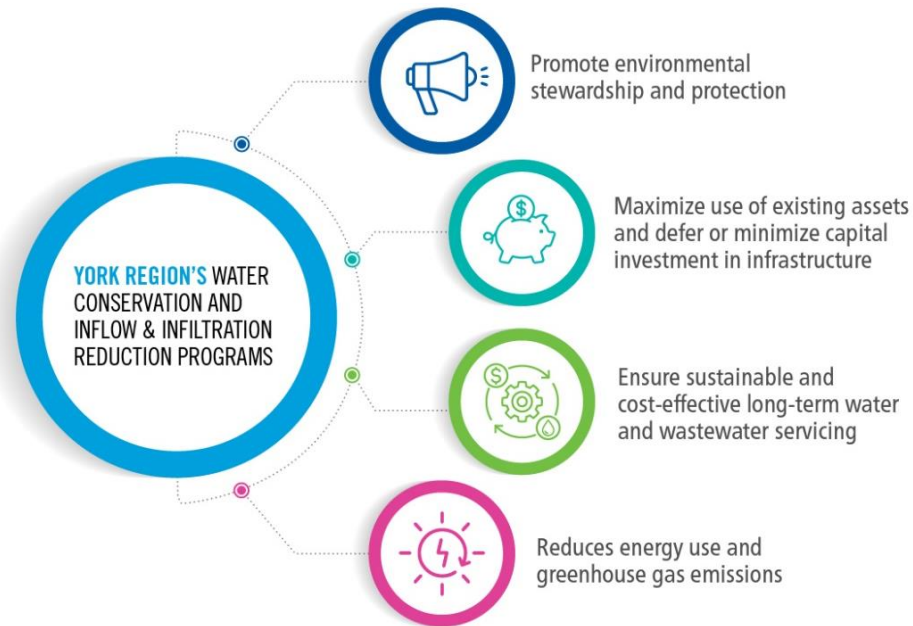
### **The third round of engagement will highlight the draft infrastructure program**

As part of the Master Plan Update process, new infrastructure and associated capital and lifecycle costs required to support growth to 2051 and beyond will be identified. The draft 2051 Water and Wastewater infrastructure plan will be presented at the third and final virtual public open house planned for Q2 2021 and reported to Council in the fall. The open house will touch on the role of non-infrastructure programming in providing safe, clean, sustainable and affordable water and wastewater servicing to residents now and in the future, recognizing the importance of demand management programs such as the Long Term Water Conservation and Inflow & Infiltration Reduction programs and their benefits illustrated in Figure 3.

Further engagement on the draft infrastructure plan will extend to local municipal staff, Indigenous communities, BILD, Regional Servicing Partners and others as needed. Results of the Master Plan Update will be presented to the local municipalities in the latter half of 2021. Regional infrastructure projects identified through the Master Plan Update will form the basis for local municipalities to review and update local infrastructure plans.

All feedback and input received will be considered in the Master Plan Update recommendations and final report.

**Figure 3**  
**Benefits of Water Conservation and Inflow & Infiltration Reduction Programs**



**Master Plan Update will be brought to Council for endorsement in Q1 2022**

The Master Plan Update supports the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review process to update the Region's Official Plan in alignment with the provincial growth target for York Region. It also provides input to the planned Development Charge Bylaw Update in 2022.

The draft infrastructure plan will be shared with Council in the fall of 2021, with completion of the Master Plan Update and Regional Council endorsement expected in Q1 2022.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

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