

Summary of Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) Engagement

What We Heard

The Region has engaged with the public, Regional and Local Councils, Local Municipalities, Indigenous communities, Conservation Authorities, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), and other stakeholders to inform the draft ROP. Several key themes are evident from the engagement process to date.

Key feedback from commentors:

- Want compact, walkable communities that offer employment opportunities, community facilities, services, stores and places for social connection.
- Identified affordable housing and diverse housing options as some of the most important components for building complete communities, but many residents identify they struggle with housing affordability in the current housing market.
- Want their communities to produce fewer emissions and are aware of the impacts of a changing climate on York Region.
- Identified the protection of forests, parks, trails and green spaces across communities and protecting agricultural lands from development as key priorities.
- Identified transit as the top regional service that will be relied on most in the future and support continued investment in public transit infrastructure.

Engagement with the Public and External Agencies

Through the MCR process, a series of campaigns, activities and survey questions were launched to engage the public and businesses to gather their feedback on how to plan for the future. Online and in-person engagement included a variety of methods including an in-person open house for Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs), public information centres (PICs), online surveys, newsletters, walking tours, open houses, focus groups and community agency forum. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to Public Health Measures put in place in early 2020, in-person public events and meetings have been restricted. As a result, public engagement shifted to online and other methods including mailouts, emails, and phone calls to reach stakeholders. Online engagement such as virtual public information sessions for employment conversions, natural heritage system and agricultural system planning, and growth management and housing were held to reach stakeholders. Participation through online engagement has been greater than past in-person events given the ease for participants to access the events remotely. For example, over 90 people participated in the Planning for Growth and Housing webinar versus approximately 10-20 people typically attending comparable in person events.

Proactive engagement with Local Municipalities and Conservation Authorities

The Region has been proactive in involving local partners in the development and review of the draft ROP; working closely and regularly with Local Municipalities and Conservation Authorities with the goal of early alignment, having regard for implementation of Regional policies at the local level and promoting collaboration across jurisdictions. To achieve this goal we have:

- Group discussions at Local Municipal Working Group (LMWG) sessions
- Hosted over 21 LMWG sessions including discussions on policy directions
- Received and addressed fulsome staff level feedback
- Hosted more than 30 1:1 meetings with Local Municipalities and Conservation Authorities on various MCR related topics
- Held numerous presentations to local councils on forecast and land needs assessment

Staff will continue to work extensively with our local partners as the Region enters the draft to adoption phase of the MCR.

Collaboration with the development industry and BILD

The Region has worked with the development industry through site specific and landowner meetings(including but not limited to 60+ site specific meetings regarding employment conversions), and regular updates to Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) forums such as:

- BILD York Chapter Meetings
- BILD MCR Advisory Committee Meetings
- BILD Land Needs Assessment and Forecast Technical Working Group Meetings

Through these forums, the Region has provided regular updates on MCR progress, consulted on the land needs assessment results and assumptions, the preliminary forecast, planning for employment, MTSAs, housing and market demand in York Region. Engaging with the development industry and BILD will continue from draft to final ROP adoption.

Indigenous Engagement

Early in the MCR process, staff informed 13 Indigenous communities with a historical interest or treaty rights in the Region of the process and opportunities to be involved in the MCR. Staff continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities through engagement on the MCR process. This engagement expands on previous efforts undertaken as part of updates to the Archaeological Management Plan (ROPA 6) and joint consultation in 2015 for the MCR and Markham's Future Urban Area. Indigenous community engagement for the MCR is being coordinated with the Water and Wastewater Plan and Transportation Master Plan updates. The MCR includes three phases of engagement to share information throughout ROP policy development and to provide opportunities to listen and gather feedback from Indigenous communities.

These three phases include:

1. Information Sharing – providing project notices and information to Indigenous communities on the Region’s MCR updates.
2. Listening and Understanding – meeting in-person and virtually with Indigenous communities to listen and understand what policy areas they are interested in and applying that feedback where applicable through ROP updates. Providing additional updates throughout the MCR process to offer further opportunities for listening and discussion.
3. Gathering Feedback (next step) – providing communities with the draft ROP and offering opportunities to have discussions on areas of interest to gather further feedback.

To date, Regional staff have sent three communications to provide updates on the MCR process and have met with four communities upon request.

Key next steps include providing communities with opportunities to discuss the draft ROP to gather further feedback.

Regular Updates to Committees of Council

Staff provided regular updates to Committees of Council. Since Q4 of 2019, updates have been provided through:

- Planning Advisory Committee Meetings
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee Meetings
- Accessibility Advisory Committee Meetings
- Housing Task Force Meetings

Engaging Regional Council

Council engagement has been an integral part of the development of the draft ROP. Since 2019, staff have provided extensive updates to Regional Council through more than 25 MCR related reports, including the consultation reports outlined in Table 1. These reports have been supported by various council presentations and council education sessions outlined in Table 2.

Table 1: Consultation Council Reports

Date	Report Title	Purpose
June 2021	Regional Official Plan Update Policy Directions Report Attachment 3	This report provides an update on continued consultation and engagement for the MCR. Attachment 3 provides a summary of public and stakeholder consultation undertaken through the MCR during October 2019 to May 2021.
October 2019	An Update on Public Consultations for the Municipal Comprehensive Review Attachment 1	This report provides an update on the public consultations held during 2018 and 2019 for the MCR and ROP update, provides a review of long range community aspirations articulated in Vision 2051 and outlines the next phases of consultation.
January 2018	Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan Update and Vision 2051 – Consultation Plan	This report provides Council with a consultation plan for the MCR and ROP update and provides a review of long range community aspirations currently articulated in Vision 2051.
April 2015	York Region Official Plan Review Phase 1 Consultation Update and Policy Areas for Review	This report provides Council with a summary of Phase 1 consultation and policy areas identified for further review and update.
January 2015	Official Plan Review Consultation and Engagement Work Plan	This report introduces the work plan components of the Official Plan Review consultation and engagement.

Table 2: Summary of Presentations to Support the Draft ROP Update

Date	Presentation Title	Purpose
September 2021	Alternate 2051 Forecast and Land Needs Assessment Scenarios in Response to Consultation	This special meeting of Council provides an overview of the Alternate 2051 Forecast and Land Needs Assessment Scenarios in Response to Consultation Report which summarizes input received through consultation, presents a high-level overview of the impacts of alternative scenarios, and recommends a growth scenario for inclusion in the draft ROP.
March 2021	Proposed 2051 Forecast and Land Needs Assessment	This special meeting of Council provides an overview of the results of the Provincially mandated Proposed 2051 Forecast and Land Needs Assessment Report . Proposed population and employment forecasts by local municipality are presented for consultation as part of the MCR.
January 2021	2051 Forecast and Land Needs Assessment and Integrated Growth Management – Education Session	Regional Council convened in private session, pursuant to subsection 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, for the purpose of educating its Members on the 2051 Forecast Land Needs Assessment and Integrated Growth Management.

Date	Presentation Title	Purpose
January 2021	Regional Official Plan Update: Housing Challenges and Opportunities	This presentation provides an overview of the Regional Official Plan Update Housing Challenges and Opportunities Report which outlines affordable housing challenges and makes recommendations to support future work on expanding housing options.
October 2020	Planning for Employment and Employment Conversions	This presentation provides an overview of the Proposed Employment Area Mapping and Employment Conversions Report which sets out recommendations on 70 site-specific requests for employment area conversion and proposes employment area mapping.
September 2020	Planning and Economic Development Update	This presentation provides an overview of the ROP update including a framework for Planning for Density in New Communities Report on the New Community Area and Designated Greenfield Area densities
September 2020	Planning for Employment and Employment Conversions	This special meeting of Council on Employment Conversions considered 14 deputations and 24 communications. Three additional employment conversions were also recommended.
March 2020	Council Education Session – Municipal Comprehensive Review – Land Needs Assessment; Municipal Comprehensive Review – Planning for Employment	Part 1 of this Council Education Session presentation outlines the prescribed Lands Needs Assessment methodology, forecasting, and aligning growth and infrastructure. Part 2 outlines planning for employment and requests to convert employment lands.
June 2019	Growth and Infrastructure Alignment	This presentation provides an overview of the Growth and Infrastructure Alignment Report which outlines principles for the purposes of informing York Region's 2041 growth forecast as part of the MCR.
May 2019	Planning for Employment and Growth and Development Review 2018	This presentation provides an overview of the Growth and Development Review 2018 report and the Planning for Employment Background Report which provides background analysis and forms the basis for consultation on a proposed employment framework as part of the MCR to update the ROP.
April 2019	Planning for Intensification Background Report	This presentation provides an overview of the Planning for Intensification Background Report which informs the Region's Intensification Strategy as part of the MCR to update the ROP. The presentation outlines the consultation approach on the proposed Intensification Framework, draft MTSAs and other strategic growth area delineations, and minimum density targets.
June 2017	New Provincial Plans - Update	This presentation provides an overview of the Final Provincial Plans Released May 18th, 2017, compares the Final Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan and

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		ORMCP relative to Council's recommendations, and highlights potential impacts on the MCR.
April 2015	York Region Municipal Comprehensive Review and Official Plan Update	This presentation provides an overview of the Official Plan Review and Update process including a consultation overview, policy areas for review and draft growth management scenarios.
March 2015	Official Plan 5-Year Review	This special meeting of Council was held in accordance with the requirements of Section 26 of the Planning Act, on March 5, 2015, to discuss revisions that may be required to the Regional Official Plan.

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