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File: P-2199

May 18, 2022

The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Attention:

**Regional Council** 

Re:

Comments on the 2021 Draft York Region Official Plan

**Yonge Steeles Landowners Group** 

City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York

## Dear Members of Council:

KLM Planning Partners Inc. is the planning consultant for the Yonge Steeles Landowners Group Inc. ("YSLOG"), which is a collective of landowners within the Yonge Steeles Corridor Secondary Plan area generally bounded by Yonge Street to the east, Steeles Avenue West to the south, Hilda Avenue to the west, and the CN Rail corridor to the north in the City of Vaughan. These landowners are also appellants and/or parties to the appeals of the Yonge Steeles Corridor Secondary Plan (the "YSCSP").

This letter is provided to reiterate feedback with respect to the policies of the 2021 Draft York Region Official Plan, as previously provided in our letter submission dated April 11, 2022 (appended for convenience).

We respectfully request that prior to final adoption of the 2021 Draft Regional Official Plan, that it be amended to address the outstanding matters identified in the appended letter. It is our opinion that inclusion of the suggested policy revisions would result in a regional planning framework with an appropriate degree of flexibility, anticipating that each municipality's approach to update of their respective local Official Plans will differ due to a host of factors.

Please consider this to be our formal request to be notified of all future Public Hearings, Open Houses, Committee and Council meetings and decisions relating to this matter. As always, we

would be pleased to meet with staff to discuss our concerns. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

## KLM PLANNING PARTNERS INC.

Ryan Mino-Leahan, B.U.R.Pl, MCIP, RPP

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cc: Ira Kagan, Kagan Shastri LLP

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April 11, 2022

The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Attention:

Paul Freemen

Re:

Comments on the 2021 Draft York Region Official Plan

**Yonge Steeles Landowners Group** 

City of Vaughan,

**Regional Municipality of York** 

## Dear Mr. Freeman:

KLM Planning Partners Inc. is the planning consultant for the Yonge Steeles Landowners Group Inc. ("YSLOG"), which is a collective of landowners within the Yonge Steeles Corridor Secondary Plan area generally bounded by Yonge Street to the east, Steeles Avenue West to the south, Hilda Avenue to the west, and the CN Rail corridor to the north in the City of Vaughan. These landowners are also appellants and/or parties to the appeals of the Yonge Steeles Corridor Secondary Plan (the "YSCSP").

This letter provides feedback with respect to the policies of the 2021 Draft York Region Official Plan, in a policy/response format. Please note the bolding has been added to the draft policies in some instances to add emphasis where an alteration is proposed.

Policy	Suggestion and Comment
2.3.12 That school boards shall plan and	Add "d. designed in a compact form
design schools as part of complete	integrated within multi-storey, mixed use
communities and to facilitate safe school	buildings, where appropriate".
travelling by: a. centrally locating schools in	
communities and adjacent to parks, where	This addition would encourage urban format
appropriate; b. incorporating pedestrian-	schools as may be appropriate Regional
friendly site design; and c. incorporating	Centres or MTSA areas where the highest
active transportation and transit linkages.	levels of intensification are envisaged.

2.3.13 i. create well-defined, centrally-located Add next sentence "These spaces and/or public spaces that support physical activity facilities should take the form of publicly and social interactions. owned land, stratified public ownership, or with right of use established by means of public easements (i.e. Privately Owned Publicly-accessible Space) as appropriate". This addition would encourage municipalities to use a broad range of tools and solutions to secure public open space and facilities, particularly in urbanized settings such as Regional Centres or MTSA's. 2.3.2.3 That a minimum 35% of new housing This policy has significant implications, at the in Regional Centres and major transit station Regional, Municipal, and private levels. The areas be affordable in each local municipality. word "minimum" should be replaced by "targeted" to allow for flexibility for municipalities given strategy details require further development at the municipal level. 4.4.19 That all new buildings in strategic Suggesting "all new buildings" be replaced by growth areas shall front the major street. "new developments" as current wording Reverse lotting on the street is not permitted could suggest internal buildings in larger multi and site design shall orient the main building building developments will not conform. entrance(s) to face the public street(s) and provide a pedestrian friendly urban form where appropriate, as determined by the local municipality. Surface parking between the main building entrance and the major street shall not be permitted. 4.4.23 That secondary plans or equivalent The word "minimum" should be replaced by comprehensive planning studies "targeted" to allow for flexibility for strategic growth areas specify that a municipalities given strategy details require minimum of 35% of new housing units within further development at the municipal level. Regional Centres and MTSAs be affordable, offering a range of compact housing forms and tenures, and intrinsically affordable units for low and moderate income households. The word "minimum" should be replaced by 4.4.24 That local municipalities shall prepare an implementation strategy to address the "targeted" to allow for flexibility for requirement that a minimum 35% of new

housing units in Regional Centres and MTSAs be affordable

municipalities given strategy details require further development at the municipal level.

4.4.26 That **secondary plans** or other equivalent comprehensive planning studies and/or development contemplated within strategic growth areas address the following minimum criteria, **as appropriate**, to the satisfaction of the Region:

a. minimum density requirements and targets established by the Region; b. minimum and **maximum** height and densities established by local municipalities;

4.4.2.9 That local municipalities shall establish policies in their official plan, other implementation documents and appropriate zoning, for major transit station areas shown on Map 1B and Appendix 2 that address the following:

land use designations with minimum and maximum heights and densities that will achieve the minimum density target in each MTSA j. affordable housing targets with a minimum requirement that 35% of new housing units in major transit station areas be affordable, to offer a range of compact housing forms and tenures, and intrinsically affordable units for low- and moderate-income households; and k. policies that implementation support inclusionary zoning.

While it is agreed minimum heights and densities are critical in Regional Centres and MTSA's for the purpose of compliance with Provincial policy, the word "maximum" as it relates to heights and densities should be removed to ensure that appropriate opportunities for growth are not limited by general Official Plan policies. Where appropriate, maximum heights and densities may be identified through the rezoning process following a qualitative review of the subject site and surrounding context

As previously detailed, the word "maximum" as it relates to heights and densities should be removed, and the word "minimum" should be replaced by "targeted".

We respectfully request that prior to final adoption of the 2021 Draft Regional Official Plan, that it be amended to address these outstanding matters. It is our opinion that inclusion of the above policy revisions would result in a regional planning framework with an appropriate degree of flexibility anticipating that each municipality's approach to update of their respective local Official Plans will differ due to a host of factors.

Please consider this to be our formal request to be notified of all future Public Hearings, Open Houses, Committee and Council meetings and decisions relating to this matter. As always, we would be pleased to meet with staff to discuss our concerns. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the above, please do not hesitate to contact us. Yours truly,

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