

From: IRENE FORD
Sent: June 29, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>
Subject: Communication - June 20 Official Plan

Please submit the attached document as my communication for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you to York Region Council member who have listened and outright opposed the Official Plan due to the multiple governance issues that have been raised, which have resulted in special interests being incorporated at the expense of our most vulnerable and public goods. I hope other members will reconsider, not support any further motions and not force staff to submit a plan that is not in provincial conformity.

Please also include this report from Vaughan's Integrity Commissioner which highlights concerns with use of Member's Resolution/Motions with regard to land use planning as well as regional governance gaps.

There is nothing in the Code that requires a Regional Member to vote on a regional matter in accordance with a Vaughan Council decision and there is no requirement for Regional Members to defer to representatives from a local municipality on any given issue even if this has been an accepted practice in the past.

In the Collingwood Judicial Inquiry Report, Justice Marrocco recommended that the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001 be amended:

The Province of Ontario should amend the Municipal Act to define the roles and responsibilities of individual Council members. It should be made clear that only Council as a whole, not a single Council member, has the authority to direct staff to carry out a particular function, or act on any other matter, unless specifically authorized by Council.

Neither the current nor the recommended amendments to the Municipal Act defines the role of a municipal councillor versus the role of a regional or district councillor. This legislative and governance gap facilitates uncertainty both for the Member and for the public. The desire of Members to navigate the dilemma of seeking to consolidate the public interest of the City of Vaughan and that of the Region is a political and policy matter and not reviewable under the Code.

Top 10 Reasons to NOT Support York Region's Sprawling, Climate Change Driving, Unaffordable 2051 Official Plan

1) **Attack on the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine**

Includes endorsement of precedent setting decisions that will undermine the very purposes and intent of ORM Regulations, Plan and Greenbelt Plan to protect vulnerable hydrological and ecological areas from development. Protection intended to be upheld and maintained to protect source water, our drinking water, and provide storm water protection for millions of people in the greater golden horseshoe (not just York Region), a finite amount of prime farmland and finite endangered species habitat unique to Ontario¹.

2) **Consists of Motions brought forward by Mayor Lovatt, Mayor Hackson and Regional Councillor Jackson that were Supported by Council against Staff Recommendation, in the absence of Public Support (beyond landowners) and will Public Goods**

It is the cumulation of motions brought forward by Council members² that have not been supported or recommended by professional publicly paid planning staff or the public. The end result is extensive urban boundary expansions, that choose sprawl over intensification. The ROP will undermine York Region's public goods; natural heritage and agriculture system, food security and our ability to mitigate and adapt to the worst impacts of climate change.

3) **Significant Uncertainty Surrounding W/W Infrastructure**

Incredible uncertainty surrounding future water/wastewater infrastructure in Upper York that compounds the existing inability to service already approved growth, let alone new growth. The ROP relies on the approval of the UYSS, presently on hold, will require not one but two expansions, both subject to expensive EAs subject to provincial approvals that are beyond control of the Region. It also relies on the Duffins W/W Treatment Plant

¹ Opposition to ROPA7 was unified from staff, TRCA, NGOs, ENGOs and the public but Council supported it anyways. Staff have clearly and repeated informed Council that developing in the ORM protected country side is not in provincial conformity. <https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=25376>

² In October 2020 a series of employment conversion recommendations see here. A total of 350.5 Ha of employment lands converted against the recommendations of Vaughan one of which was for 293 Ha at King Vaughan Rd and Highway 400 where Highway 413 will end, Conversion Request V7

<https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=f6f722fc-373d-4f20-9ae2-0317696b7de0&Agenda=PostMinutes&lang=English&Item=9&Tab=attachments> and <https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=a73f3102-3d5b-4191-8d9a-ed1b20fdf955&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=17&Tab=attachments>

Fall 2021 extensive land expansion into East Gwillimbury and Oak Ridges Moraine land grabs:

<https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=f643d823-720a-41d6-a4bf-a957fa7aa724&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=12&Tab=attachments>

May, 2022 Regional Councillor Jackson brings motions forward at the 11th hour that were not presented on the agenda but suddenly appear during the meeting for members of the public watching:

<https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=25a64e5b-dc88-4f4e-b3b4-dfc31a3e08f6&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>

being upgraded in Durham. There is no coordination amongst various levels of government³.

4) **Exposure to Unacceptable Risk both Legally and Financially**

York Region residents, businesses and staff will be exposed to unacceptable risk. Staff will continually adjusting the capital budget because the planned growth is unrealistic. York Region could *once again* jeopardize its AAA rating. There may be pressure and a legal obligation to develop all of this land even if York Region cannot afford to do so or a future Council does not support the development. Residents are already fighting and debating approvals from the 1994 ROP on the Greenbelt and ORM, are we leaving future generations to fight irresponsible decisions in 28 years?

5) **Transportation Plan is Inadequate**

There is not enough transit, active transportation or connectivity and therefore the plan does not do enough to offer options that will reduce car dependency. It still includes the controversial Highway 413. Population planned or anticipated in MTSA as well as TOC is not reflected in the ROP

6) **Climate Change and Affordable Housing Are Not Treated with Urgency⁴**

York Region's Climate Change Action Plan and Affordability Strategy are not yet approved, remain in draft form.

7) **Housing types and mix will not improve and compound existing labour shortages**

A portion of the workforce will be segregated from being able to live and work in York Region because greenfield housing and the infrastructure it requires will create expensive housing that's unattainable for most of the population. This will amplify existing labour shortages and negatively impact York Region's Economy. The reason why York Region did not win the Amazon bid several years ago was because of a lack of housing types and affordability, so York Region is likely to lose out on future opportunities for the same reasons.

8) **Destabilize Employment Areas⁵**

Community areas have been rezoned from employment in provincially significant employment zones, mostly in Vaughan surrounding two existing large railyards and have the potential to create land use conflicts with sensitive users.

9) **Council Knows Better⁶**

This Council ought to know better, with few exceptions, they have all been there for multiple terms and fully understand the consequences of their action or inaction. The MCR process will occur again in 5 years, in the face of such great uncertainty there is no

³ <https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=f643d823-720a-41d6-a4bf-a957fa7aa724&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=11&Tab=attachments>

⁴ <https://cela.ca/blog-vulnerable-communities-and-climate-change/>

⁵ This is why staff did not support the conversion requests in 1 above.

⁶ https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2012/07/06/york_region_putting_development_money Ahead_of_good_planning_critics_say.html?rf

justifiable reason to support such an extensive urban boundary expansion. A 60% intensification target would have saved 1600Ha of farmland.

10) Fails to Improve Existing or Future Residents Lives, Especially Our Most Vulnerable⁷

The political discussion failed to be about how to make people's lives better and became about whose land and where.