

GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023 – Regulatory Recommendations

On March 21, 2024 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council approve the recommendations in Table 2 of this report as well the recommendations below, in response to the regulatory framework for the new Station Contribution Fee, under the *GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023*, requesting the Province:
 - a. Clarify that a Station Contribution Fee can be levied on either a municipal-wide or area-specific basis, specifically:
 - i. that the decision to levy the charge on a municipal-wide, or area-specific, basis, be at the sole discretion of municipal council;
 - ii. any associated mapping, in support of the benefitting area, being at the discretion of the municipal council and as part of the background study process.
 - b. Align eligible capital costs with the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, and specifically include land and all studies-related costs.
 - c. Clarify that municipalities be given latitude in developing the associated rate structure, including the ability to employ a differentiated rate.
 - d. Clarify development cost offsets, that municipalities levying the new fee will be required to provide developers, need not be commensurate/equal to additional costs associated with the new fee, specifically:
 - i. that in a two-tier jurisdiction, where the upper-tier municipality levies the fee, a local municipal offset would satisfy this requirement;
 - ii. that the methodology for calculating municipal offsets, and which offsets are to be used, form part of the associated background study and be at the sole discretion of a municipal council.
 - e. Allow a municipal council to determine additional exemptions in consultation with the development industry (and other interested stakeholders), and form part of the background study and bylaw;
 - i. that any revenue reductions, resulting from any exemptions, can be funded by future development.\

2. Outside of the regulatory framework, the Province be requested to clarify:
 - a. how a municipality is prescribed to be eligible to levy the fee and that, once prescribed, there is no ability for developers to 'opt out' of participation;
 - b. that the new Station Contribution Fee does not represent a shift in funding responsibilities for new GO Transit Stations, from the Province to developers and municipalities.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Transportation, local Members of Provincial Parliament, and the local municipalities.