

October 24, 2019 Council Education Session: Summary of Keynote Futurists Presentations

Nik Badminton: The Exponential Technology Revolution

Key Messages:

We are experiencing the 4th industrial revolution and change is accelerating. This change is inevitable and in some cases mandatory. Those that embrace and adapt to the change will benefit the greatest.

Emerging Global Society Themes Presented:

- **Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)** is at the heart of the exponential technology revolution
- **Climate Change** and **Renewable Energy** (e.g. solar, wind, battery, geothermal, etc.)
- **Sustainable Mobility** (shift to electric vehicles, autonomous drivers, active transportation, drone delivery of products)
- **Sustainable City / Neighbourhood Development** – Pattern, Design and New Construction (super blocks, space for people to come together, modular/micro apartments, employment spaces with collaboration space and work at home programs)
- **Food Systems** (local agriculture, vertical farming, roof top gardens)
- **Engaging Citizens (HEART – H**uman-centric design, **E**ntrepreneurial spirit, **A**sset development for the greater good, **R**enewable, repeatable, replicable, **T**echnology enabled connections)
- **Open Government** (open data)
- **Emotional Infrastructure** – happiness in cities is equated with trust (see *Charles Montgomery's book, Happy City*)

Joe Berridge: Perfect Region

Key Messages:

There are a number of drivers of the contemporary city. Overall, York Region is doing well on fostering these drivers. The 905 (York and Peel in particular) are rising as Toronto declines in overall dominance. Vision should focus on how to capitalize off of this dynamic (e.g. university attraction, office/finance attraction). When looking to foster the drivers of the contemporary city, the Region should focus on 4-5 big priority ideas.

Emerging Community Themes Presented:

- **Population – York Region is growing fast** – will be bigger than the Ottawa Census Metropolitan Area by 2041 – bigger than LA by 2051 – fewer places are becoming more important

Attachment 1

- **Connectivity** – The financial industry is critical and there has been decentralization in other major cities – York should position itself to benefit when this happens in Toronto
- **Mobility** – Airports are critical and Toronto appears to be relatively underserved – York should maximize benefits of proximity to Pickering Airport – other advances in mobility (ride share, ride hail, autonomous vehicles, Lyft/Uber, pilot projects) are also important – be willing to try pilots
- **Education (Universities & Colleges)** – York University in Markham Centre is a great first step (Niagara University was also recognized during questions) – keep pushing – more is better, lots of examples of international innovation hubs (brains need a place to thrive) – education and health infrastructure are exports
- **Culture and Social Meeting Places (Downtowns)** – do better on capitalizing on existing cultural infrastructure (e.g. McMichael Art Gallery, Georgina Island, Main Streets) – upscale farmers markets (like St Jacobs) to create food tourism, create destinations to go to – these qualities of a community are drivers for economic development
- **Immigration – A major driver of success** – York is doing well. Immigration will be increasingly mandatory as the population continues to age
- **Peace, Order and Good Government** is a mandatory backbone to great cities and region's

Recommendation: The Office of Getting Things Done – to focus on 4-5 top priorities of Council – the other stuff will follow. At this office, reprioritize “Policy, Plans, Projects” to “Projects, Plans, Policy”