

Clause 12 in Report No. 18 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on November 19, 2015.

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Open Data Program Update

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated October 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides a summary of progress on York Region's Open Data program and outlines the plan to move forward. Attachment 1 provides an update on data released to date and data identified for release through to 2018.

3. Background

Open Data releases government data for public use

Open data is the release of easy to access government data by anyone for use in new and innovative ways. Making government data available enables the public sector, private sector businesses and non-government organizations (NGOs) to add value to data, rather than duplicating it, thereby reducing costs.

Open data increases transparency, promotes understanding of government and fosters greater trust by proactively making data broadly available to everyone. It helps to raise the profile of regional government as a self-serve trusted source of data.

Council approved York Region's Open Data program in 2013

Council approved an Open Data program for York Region and York Region's Open data principles on September 26, 2013.

125 datasets have been released with over 10,000 downloads

In York Region, open data can be accessed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week from www.york.ca/opendata. This site provides program information, the open data license agreement and a link to the catalogue of published open data.

There are now 125 datasets released including core mapping datasets (roads, addresses and parcels). Also available are public health inspection results, transit routes and schedules, population estimates and the Region's Operating Budget. Attachment 1 provides a complete list of the data released to date and data identified for release through 2018.

Data has been downloaded over 10,000 times. The most downloaded data are roads, parcels, address points and contour mapping data. Table 1 lists the number of downloads from the Open Data site by year.

Table 1
Number of Downloads from Open Data Site 2012 - Present

Year	Downloads
Mid-October - end 2012	784
2013	3325
2014	4413
2015 to October 15, 2015	3740

A publication process for release is in place to protect privacy

Datasets to be published on the Open Data site are reviewed for privacy, confidentiality and intellectual property restrictions. A team of representatives from all Regional departments reviews each candidate dataset to determine if the value of releasing the data warrants the publication effort, recommends communications required and facilitates the review process within each department.

The value to release data is determined by the known or expected use of the data including formal requests for the data and/or the elimination of staff effort for repetitive data delivery. Data descriptions are prepared and published with the data, helping users understand the data being released and reducing the likelihood of misinterpretation.

4. Analysis and Options

York Region's open data has been used by the PanAm and ParaPanAm Games and others

York Region's open data was used extensively by the PanAm and ParaPanAm games. It was essential for the creation of map packages provided to athletes, officials and volunteers. It also supported interactive mapping applications such as the Torch Relay map which received over 10,000 daily visits from the public.

York Region's Open Data site helped PanAm's organizers meet tight deadlines, saving staff time associated with data use agreements and data delivery. PanAm organizers commented "York Region's Open Data site was well organized and maintained, and unique in providing high value foundational data such as parcels, address points and roads."

A new start-up company, MapYourProperty (MYP) uses more than 70 percent of York Region's open data including property lines, addresses and contours. MYP combines York Region's data with planning data from the Ministry of Natural Resources and City of Toronto into one application for condominium and home developers, engineering and planning consultants as well as real estate law firms across the GTA. MapYourProperty's tool, created with this open data, streamlines the review of regulatory information for the planning and development community.

York Region data is used in popular websites, navigation systems and mobile apps for responsive public service

York Region's open data is available to the public through popular websites and GPS navigation systems. York Region's road network, solid waste facilities and other map layers are regularly used as a source to update Google Maps. York Region's transit routes, schedules and vehicle locations are integrated into Google Map's transit directions and trip planning used by the public.

TomTom, an international company which produces data and applications for navigation and routing, uses York Region data on a regular basis to research and resolve addressing and other issues reported by users. In 2014, TomTom added approximately 490 kilometers of roads to their data using York Region open data.

TomTom's data improvements were incorporated into RouteMatch, a third party application used by York Region's Mobility Plus program for trip planning. These data improvements resulted in reduced distance travel time for Mobility Plus trips.

Open Data has provided YorkSafe's food premise inspection results to Yelp, a local business search tool which publishes crowd-sourced reviews. York Region is working with Yelp and popular review companies to make it easier for the public to access inspection results. Including public health inspection results in Yelp and other popular review sites, as available in the United States, provides the opportunity to extend the public reach of inspection results to Yelp's larger audience, and improve the compliance of food establishments with safe food-handling practices.

The Provincial and Federal Governments are moving ahead with Open Government and Open Data Directives

The Provincial and Federal governments are moving ahead with open data directives as part of overall Open Government Action Plans. The Province's new draft Open Data Directive instructs Ontario Ministries and Provincial agencies to make data public, unless it is exempted for privacy, legal, security or commercially sensitive reasons.

The Federal government's Open Data directive came into effect in October 2014 with the goal that: "Canadians are able to find and use Government of Canada information and data to support accountability, to facilitate value-added analysis, to drive socio-economic benefits through reuse, and to support meaningful engagement with their government."

York Region has been invited to participate on the annual Go Open Event

Go Open, now in its fourth year, has been an annual community-driven event that brings together government, non-profits, businesses and academics to build awareness of open data in Ontario. York Region has been invited to participate with ventureLAB, Seneca College, York University, City of Markham, Town of Newmarket, the Province of Ontario and local libraries to host the 2016 event in York Region. Go Open 2016 provides the opportunity to build engagement with the public, focus on the economic benefits and innovative uses of open data and foster partnerships between the Region's technology and business communities.

A five year plan identifies each department's datasets for release

York Region's Open Data release plan, reviewed annually, has been updated through consultations with each department. The focus is to release datasets of known or demonstrated value with immediate priority given to those already available to the public. The Open Data release plan, (attachment 1) identified data to be released from 2013 to Q3 2015 and what is to be released for the remainder of 2015 to 2018.

Link to key Council-approved plans

Vision 2051 addresses open data in the Open and Responsive Government section: “Facilitating information sharing and open data so the broader community can benefit and add value to data collected and maintained by government without restrictions on how it is used.”

In the Council approved 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan, releasing additional data on the Open Data site supports the Key Regional Performance Measure: “Increase number of datasets available” under the Strategic Priority Area of “providing responsive and efficient public service”.

5. Financial Implications

The Open Data program is funded under the Geographic Information Services Branch in the approved 2015 Corporate Services operating budget.

6. Local Municipal Impact

York Region works collaboratively with local municipalities who report value in the ready access to York Region’s data through the Open Data site. York Region staff support local municipalities that are interested in open data by sharing best practices and lessons learned.

7. Conclusion

The Open Data program makes York Region’s data easily available to the public, other government agencies and the private sector. It helps raise the profile of regional government as a self-serve trusted source of data. The over 10,000 downloads since the Open Data site was launched indicates the community finds the self-service approach to accessing data useful. Additional datasets will be reviewed and released to popular sites and applications used by the public.

For more information on this report, please contact John Houweling, Director, Geographic Information Services at Ext. 71529.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Open Data Program Update

October 27, 2015

Attachment (1)

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Datasets Released to Date	
Community & Health Services	2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Statistic Tables (multiple)
	Beach Water Testing Results
	YorkSafe Food Establishment Inspection Results
	Beach Water Testing Results
	YorkSafe Personal Service Setting Inspections (Salons and Aesthetics)
	YorkSafe Recreational Water Inspections (Pools, Splash Pads and Spas)
	York Region Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Sites
Corporate Services	Municipal Boundaries
	Hospital Locations
	Address Points
	Roads
	Parcels (property lines)
	Benchmarks, Vertical Control
	Building Footprints
	2009 Colour Shaded Relief
	2011 Contours - 1 meter and 5 meter
	Regional Official Plan Table 1 – Population Forecast by Local Municipality
	Regional Official Plan Table 1 – Employment Forecast by Local Municipality
	Open Data Release Listing
	Population and Household Estimate by Local Municipality
	York Region Business Directory (multiple years)
York Region Public Events Listing	
Environmental Services	Broader Public Sector Energy Reporting 397-11 (multiple years)
	Regional Forest Boundaries
	Solid Waste Sites
	Wellhead Protection Areas
	Vulnerability Scores - Clean Water Act
Finance	York Region 10 year Capital Plan
	York Region 2015-2018 Operating Budget
	York Region Operating Revenue
Transportation Services	York Region Transit/VIVA Scheduled General Transit Feed Specification - stops, routes, trips and other schedule data(GTFS)
	York Region Transit/VIVA Real-Time Vehicle Location Feed (GTFS)
	York Region Transit/VIVA Real-Time Service Alerts Feed (GTFS)
	York Region Transit/VIVA Real-Time Trip Update Feed (GTFS)
Year 2 - 2015 Datasets Proposed for Release	
Environmental Services	Capital Projects Planned
	Waste Management Services
	Urban Tree Inventory
	Current Environmental Assessments
Transportation Services	Regional Roads
	Quarterly Transit Ridership data
	Red Light Camera Locations
Year 3 - 2016 Datasets Proposed for Release	
Community & Health Services	YorkSafe Day Nurseries Inspections (Child Care Centres)
	YorkSafe Small Drinking Water Inspections
	Breastfeeding Clinic Locations
	Prenatal Class Locations

	Dental Screening Program locations
	Sexual Health Clinic Locations
	Needle Exchange Locations
Corporate Services	Freedom of Information Requests Annual report
	Regional Council and Chair Public Contact Information
	Regional Official Plan 2010 - Greenlands
	Regional Official Plan 2010 - Urban Boundary Layer
	Regional Official Plan 2015 - Urban Boundary Layer
	Regional Official Plan 2015 - Greenlands
	External Job Postings
Environmental Services	Capital Projects Under Construction
	Forested Areas
	Waste Management Participation Rates (e.g. Recycling, Green Bin)
	Drinking Water Report data
	Rain Gauge Locations
	Sewer Bylaw Surcharge Agreement Holders
	Water Transmission Mains
Finance	Total Investment Portfolio Returns
	Historical / Actual Assessment Growth Information
	Capital Plan Financing Sources (Revenue Sources)

Year 4 - 2017 Datasets Proposed for Release

Community & Health Services	Live Births
	Teen Pregnancies (subject to release guidelines)
	Extreme Heat Alert
	Number of Census Families, Lone-Parent Families, Persons Not in Census Families by Census Tract
	Number of Low Income Census families, Lone-Parent Families, Persons Not in Census Families
	Number of Low Income Persons in All Low Income Families and Non-Family Persons by Age Groups (Under 17 yrs., 17-64 yrs. and 65 and Over)
	Average Score in Each of the Five Developmental Domains Assessed by the Early Development Instrument Neighborhood
	Meeting of "Few/No" Developmental Expectations By Subdomain in Each of the Five Developmental Domains Assessed by the Early Development Instrument Neighborhoods
	"Scoring Low" in Each of the Five Developmental Domains Assessed by the Early Development Instrument Neighborhood as Well as in One or More Developmental Domain
Corporate Services	York.ca User Statistics
Environmental Services	Aquifer High Vulnerability
	Intake Protection Zones
Finance	Statement of Financial Position
	Statement of Cash Flows
	Statement of Change in Net Debt
	Statement of operations
Transportation Services	Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts (AADT)
	Current and Upcoming Construction
	Current Environmental Assessments
	Planned Road Closures
	Speed Zones (trfSpeed Zone)

Year 5 - 2018 Datasets Proposed for Release

Community & Health Services	Sources of Income by Family Type
	Sources of Income of Senior Individuals
	Cancer, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Stroke, Hypertension, Falls, Motor Vehicle collisions: Hospitalizations, Emergency Room Visits and Mortality Rates
	Mood Disorder/Depression: Hospitalizations and Emergency Room Visits
Corporate Services	Social Media Analytics
	HR recruitment statistics (TBD)
Environmental Services	Environmental Compliance Approvals & Permits to Take Water
Finance	Historical/Current tax ratios for various property classes
	Finance Department Key Performance Indicators
Transportation Services	Number of Lanes on Regional Roads

Year 2 = 2015 Year 3 = 2016 Year 4 = 2017 Year 5 = 2018