



Memorandum

TO: Regional Council
FROM: Valerie Shuttleworth, Chief Planner
DATE: March 26, 2015
RE: **2015 Co-ordinated Review of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan***

The Province has initiated the 2015 co-ordinated review of four provincial Plans

On February 27, 2015, the Province announced and formally initiated the co-ordinated review of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and Niagara Escarpment Plan*. In recognition of their many complementary policy goals, the Province is co-ordinating the review of all four Plans to ensure a consistent and integrated approach that reinforces common policy goals.

The review will consist of two formal stages of consultation:

Stage 1 of the Provincial Review Process

- The Province has released a discussion document – *Our Region, Our Community, Our Home* – to help inform and guide discussions and comment submissions
- Comments may be submitted to the Province via the Environmental Registry, by e-mail or regular mail or in person at Town Hall Meetings being held throughout the GTHA
- Submissions to Stage 1 of the provincial review process will inform the development of potential amendments to the Plans
- The Province has provided a 90 day window for input (to May 28, 2015)

Stage 2 of the Provincial Review Process

- The second stage of public consultation will focus on obtaining feedback on any proposed amendments to the Plans
- Timing and additional details of the second stage of consultation has yet to be announced by the Province

In anticipation of the provincial review, the Region conducted proactive consultation and provided preliminary input (in 2014) to the Province regarding the review of the *Greenbelt Plan* and the *ORMCP*

In April 2014, staff presented a report entitled “*Preliminary Input – Upcoming Reviews of the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*” to Regional Council. The report outlined the process that the Region undertook in preparing for the anticipated 2015 Provincial review, including consultation with local municipal staff and key stakeholders. Through that report, the Region formally requested the Province co-ordinate the review of the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* with the review of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and to ensure that all future 10-year reviews are undertaken in the same manner. In the April 2014 report, Council also recommended that the Province undertake a comprehensive consultation process, comparable to that undertaken in the early 2000s, prior to the initial release of the Plans.

As directed by Council at the same meeting, Regional staff hosted three Public Open Houses in June 2014 in three different locations across the Region in order to gather public input on the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* to be used to inform the Regional position on the provincial review of these Plans. Feedback received at the public open houses will be incorporated into the Region’s submission to the 2015 co-ordinated review.

The *Growth Plan* has been consolidated with the *Greenbelt Plan* and *ORMCP* as part of the 2015 Provincial Review

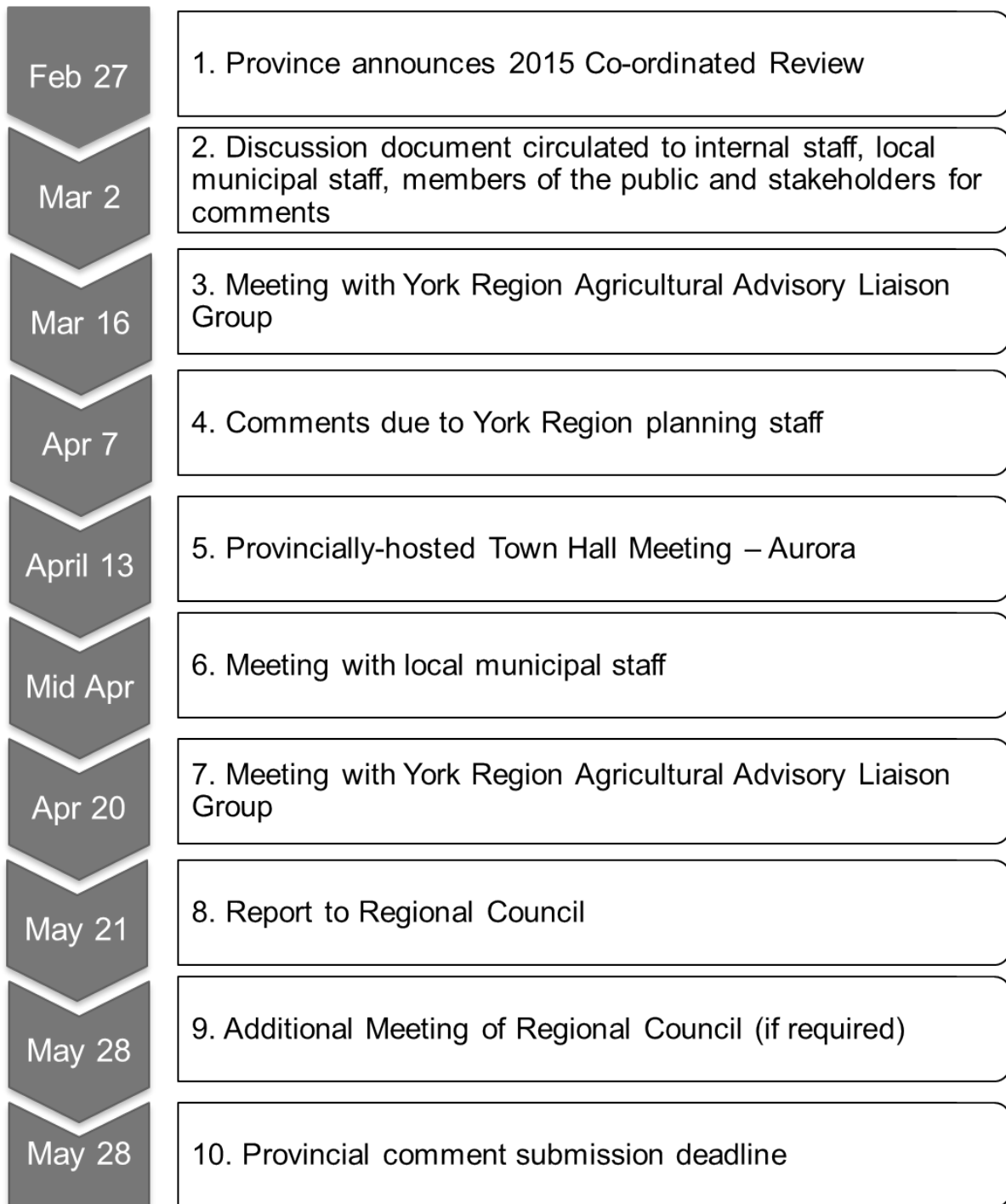
The Region’s proactive consultation undertaken in 2014 did not include consultation on the *Growth Plan*. The Province has since consolidated the *Growth Plan* as part of the current co-ordinated provincial plan review. Input on the *Growth Plan* will generally be solicited via regional and local municipal staff as the plan is primarily a growth management tool that provides direction to municipalities as they undertake municipal comprehensive reviews.

The Province looks to upper tier municipalities for a comprehensive and coordinated review

The 10-year review of the *Greenbelt Plan* (and *ORMCP*) can only consider modifications to the urban boundaries within the Greenbelt if the upper-tier municipality provides a comprehensive justification or growth management study. With respect to the *Growth Plan*, where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the upper-tier municipality (in consultation with the lower-tier municipalities), will allocate the provincial growth forecasts through intensification and density targets for urban growth centres where applicable.

The Region is committed to conducting a balanced and inclusive review process that captures the input and experiences of our diverse community members who are affected by these policy documents. Staff have requested input from regional staff and external stakeholders including local municipalities and residents.

The following timeline depicts key dates in the Region's process:



Internal:

- The Provincial discussion document, *Our Region, Our Community, Our Home*, was circulated on March 2, 2015 to internal staff for comment.
- The document can be found at www.ontario.ca/landuseplanningreview

Local Municipal:

- Staff have reached out to local municipal planners to receive their comments on the *Greenbelt Plan*, *ORMCP* and *Growth Plan* to further inform the Regional position
- Staff will be scheduling a meeting with local municipal counterparts in April to discuss co-ordinating input to the provincial review process
- Regional staff representatives will attend the provincially-hosted Town Hall Meeting in Aurora (April 13)

Public:

- Information about how to participate in the Provincial review was e-mailed directly to members of the public and stakeholders (approx. 150) who expressed interest to Regional staff about being informed about the review process
- Updates on any additional opportunities to provide input to the Regional review process will continue to be circulated in a timely manner via direct e-mail

Regional Council:

- Staff will present a report with recommendations to Regional Council on May 21, 2015
- A meeting of Regional Council is possible for May 28, 2015 if additional input is required

A report outlining the final submission to the Province will be presented to Regional Council on May 21, 2015

A comprehensive report with recommendations will be presented directly to Regional Council on May 21, 2015. In order to enable staff the opportunity to conduct a fulsome review of the three Plans affecting York Region in the limited time available, the report will not go before Committee of the Whole.

Staff are proposing that the report and submission to the Province include:

- The Regional response to the 2015 co-ordinated review provincial discussion document questions;
- All input received to date, to be forwarded to the Province as input received; and
- Additional Regional comments on the Plans, formulated through the consultation undertaken to date, which may include comments on the following areas:

- **Greenbelt Plan/Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**
 - Locating strategic employment lands
 - Boundary adjustments and/or removal of lands
 - Locating community facilities
 - Agricultural viability
 - Infrastructure and servicing
 - Sunset clauses on legacy development applications

- **Growth Plan**
 - Improved implementation coordination with other Ministries
 - Name the whitebelt lands (i.e. future growth)
 - Ensure definitions are consistent with PPS 2014
 - Strengthen housing policies

For questions regarding the review of these Plans, please contact Sandra Malcic, Manager, Policy and Environment at sandra.malcic@york.ca or ext. 75274.

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