



New Markham Official Plan

**Development Services Committee
February 22, 2011**



Planning Policy Context

Why is Markham preparing a new Official Plan?



Provincial Legislation & Plans

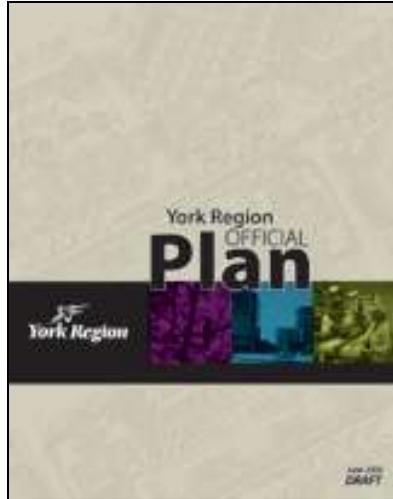
Region of York Official Plan

**Building Markham's Future Together
Town Directions in Community Planning
Endorsed Growth Alternative**

**Official
Plan**

York Region Official Plan (ROP)

How does the ROP affect Markham's Official Plan?



- Growth forecasts and densities
- Intensification and housing targets
- Centres and corridors
- Urban Area expansion
- Regional roads and transit facilities
- Protection of employment lands
- Regional Greenlands System

Integrating Corporate Strategies With the New Official Plan

How should other strategic initiatives be related to the Official Plan?



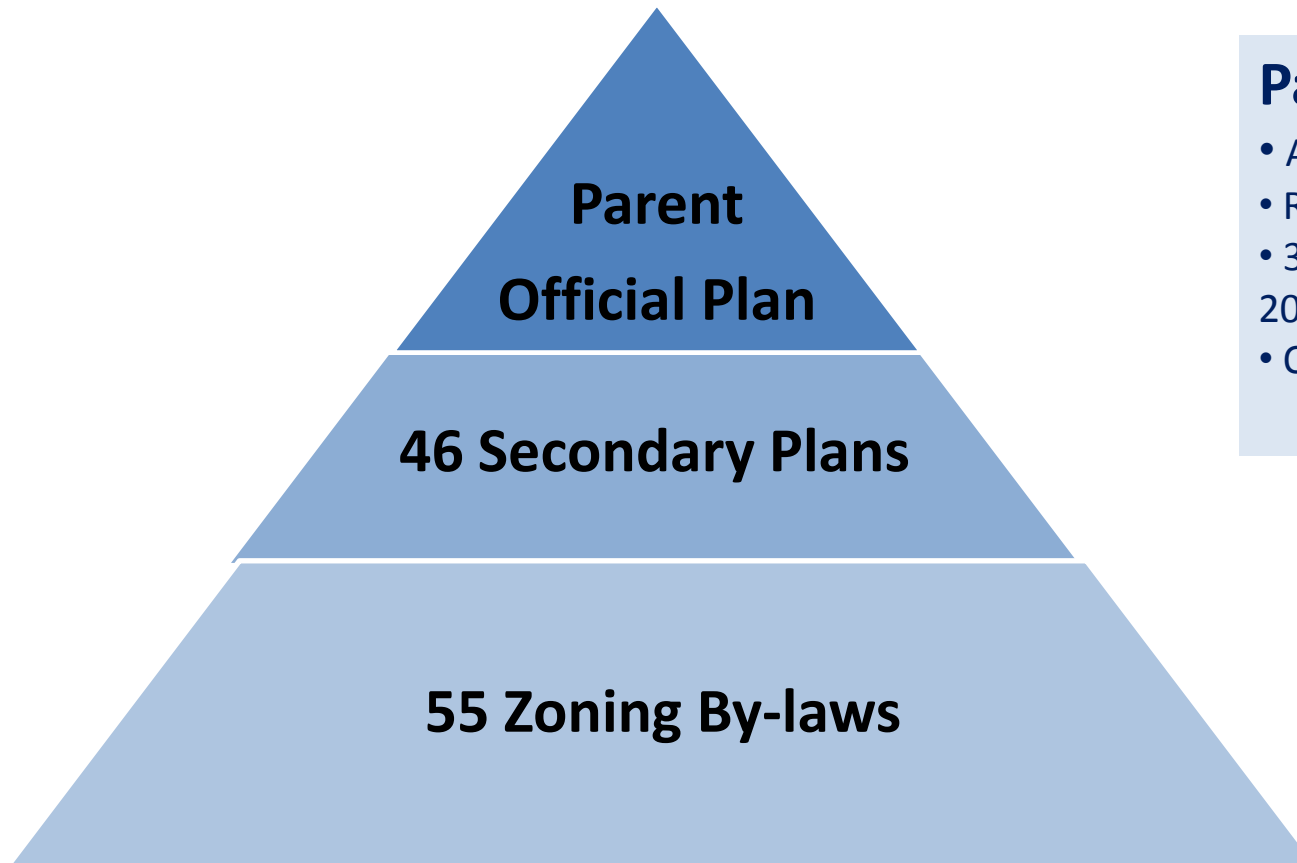
greenprint



- Economic Competitiveness Strategy
- Integrated Leisure Master Plan
- greenprint – Community Sustainability Plan
- Diversity Action Plan
- Markham Transportation Strategic Plan
- Master Servicing Study
- Culture Plan
- Storm Water Management Guidelines
- Financial Strategy
- Climate Action Plan

Current Official Plan

What is the background to Markham's current Official Plan?



Parent Plan:

- Adopted 1976, approved 1978
- Revised 1987, approved 1993
- 300+ amendments (1976 to 2011)
- Office Consolidation (2005)



Basis for a New Official Plan

What policy requirements will be addressed through the new Official Plan?

- ✓ Conform with Provincial Legislation, Plans
- ✓ Conform with Region of York Official Plan
- ✓ Incorporate Council's endorsed growth alternative to 2031
- ✓ Address Markham's preferences in community planning
- ✓ Rationalize existing Secondary Plans
- ✓ Establish a policy context for updating Town zoning by-laws

Policy Directions for a New Official Plan

Building a Sustainable Community

- Align development and transit
- Improve housing choices
- Sustainable design, development, infrastructure
- Compatible form and function of development
- Appropriate mixing of land uses
- Increase live-work opportunities
- Integrating natural and cultural heritage
- Economic well-being



Policy Directions for a New Official Plan

Protection of Environmental and Agricultural Lands

- Protect a Town Greenway System
- Implement senior government Plans (Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine, ROP)
- Protect environmental features and functions
- Incorporate ecological enhancements
- Integrate Rouge Park planning
- Reserve lands for continued farming
- Support agricultural activity
- Facilitate options for urban agriculture





Policy Directions for a New Official Plan

Shifting the Perspective on Transportation

Strategic Vision

- Increase transportation and lifestyle choices
- An equitable and accessible transportation system
- Improve efficiency of existing transportation system
- Secure long term funding sources for rapid transit
- Harness innovation of Markham citizens and workers to play a leadership role



Policies

- Integrate transportation and land use planning
- Transit culture, transit Town
- Transit and pedestrian oriented development
- Walking and cycling network
- Focussed improvements to road network
- Parking management
- Transportation demand management
- Road safety
- Goods movement

Policy Directions for a New Official Plan

Employment and the Economy

- Retain existing and accommodate new employment
 - Protect existing business park lands
 - Add new business park lands
 - Promote intensification
- Focus major office development on rapid transit services
- Retail development in preferred locations and forms
- Attract business activity in key economic sectors
- Main Street revitalization and mixed use

Information,
Entertainment
and Cultural
Industries

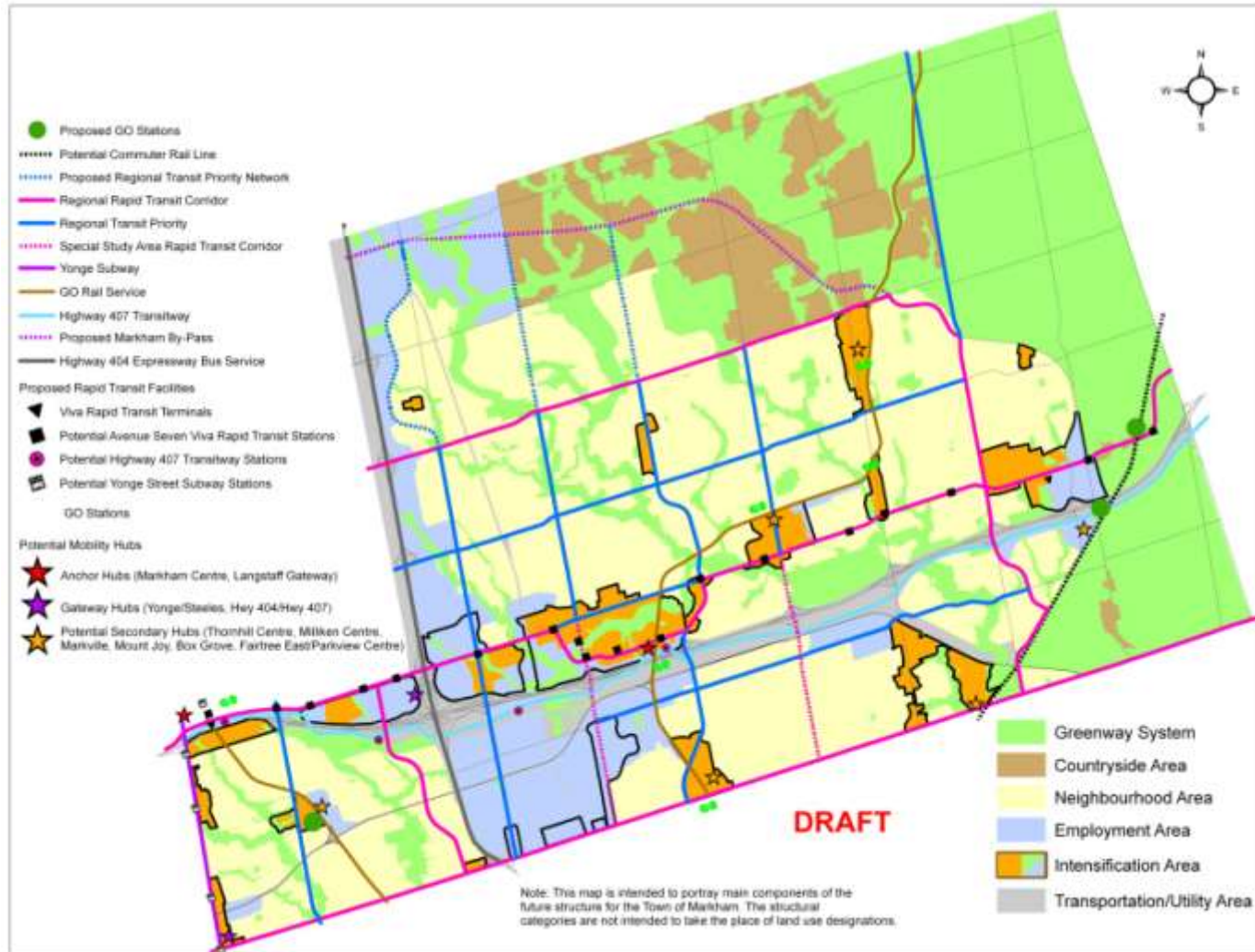
Finance &
Insurance

ICT/Life Science
Convergence

Professional,
Scientific and
Technical Services



Future Town Structure



New Official Plan: Strategic Objectives



- To promote and expand upon Markham's **leadership and innovation** in urban planning, urban design, civil engineering, and development standards and compliance, and the integration of planning and development with all aspects of municipal management and operations.
- To develop sustainable, compact and **complete communities** incorporating healthy active living, excellence in community design, efficient infrastructure, housing choices for all, and facilities and services meeting community needs.
- To **effectively move people and goods** within and beyond the Town by providing residents, employees and businesses with choices and accessibility in travel and movement, with particular attention to the promotion of increased transit ridership and active travel, including cycling and walking.

New Official Plan: Strategic Objectives

- To maintain a **prosperous and competitive economy**, by accommodating a balanced and diverse range of employment opportunities, protecting employment lands, supporting a knowledge-based economy and promoting tourism.
- To establish **an inter-connected Greenway System** within the Town, protecting and enhancing existing natural heritage and hydrologic features and supporting biodiversity.
- To **increase adaptability in the community** through green infrastructure, innovative technology, resource conservation and other sustainable practices to address long term climate change impacts.
- To **sustain a local food system** by protecting agricultural lands, encouraging urban food production and supporting complementary agribusiness activities.

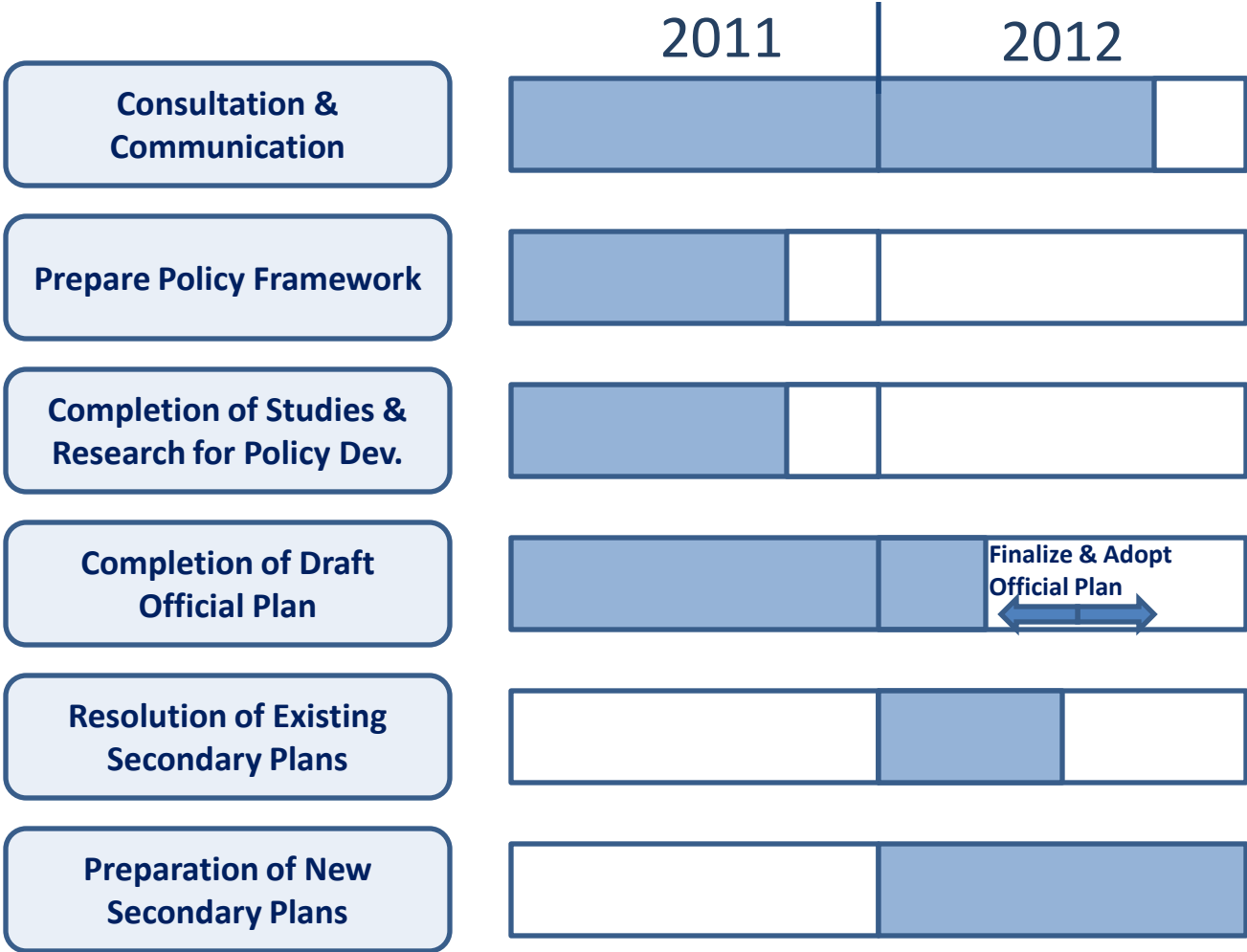


New Official Plan: Strategic Objectives



- To **celebrate the Town's unique character** by protecting cultural and heritage resources, establishing landmarks and creating attractive and engaging public spaces to foster interactions between people and connections to their community.
- To **celebrate cultural diversity** and uniqueness in the Town through planning for the needs of all members of the community.
- To **engage the community** in the continuing process of planning, including the preparation of the Official Plan.
- To **manage growth and development** through monitoring, phasing and the delivery of public infrastructure and community services.

Program for Preparing a New Official Plan



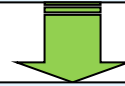
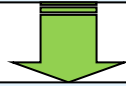
Consultation: Spring 2011



Special Meeting of Council
April 12, 2011



Consultation
with Interested Groups, Agencies,
First Nations and Metis,
Town Departments



Report, June 2011
to Development Services Committee on consultation

