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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor's Office

Re: Interchange at Highway 404 and St. John's Sideroad

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: October 1, 2024

Whereas the York Region Transportation Master Plan, approved by York Region Council in September of 2022 identified a need for an interchange to be built at Highway 404 and St. John's Sideroad by 2051; and

Whereas the Region will be updating the 2022 Transportation Master Plan every 5 years during its planning horizon, with the next update occurring in 2027; and

Whereas our Official Plan forecasts Aurora's population will be 79,600 residents and 38,300 jobs by 2041 and 85,800 residents and 41,600 jobs by 2051; and

Whereas additionally, neighbouring municipalities of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville are expected to grow cumulatively to over 221,500 people and 86,400 jobs to 2051, with the Region's total population also expected to be over 2 million people and approximately 1 million jobs over the same horizon; and

Whereas the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review and Land Needs Assessment for the 2022 Regional Official Plan identified Aurora as having the greatest share of Major Office jobs over the planning horizon of any Northern Six York Region municipalities; and

Whereas Aurora's Employment Area along the 404 Corridor is over 2 kilometres long and is anticipated to generate over 6,000 new jobs, yet it currently is forced to rely on only one existing interchange at the south end, along Wellington Street East; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has mandated significant local growth as part of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and has defined Provincial Interests under the Planning Act that include providing employment opportunities and protecting the financial and economic well-being of the Province and its municipalities; and

Whereas the proposed St. John's Sideroad interchange has been built into the planning framework of the Town for nearly two decades, including as a planned element in the 2010 Aurora 2C Secondary Plan, the 2010 Official Plan, and the Town's current 2024 Official Plan; and

Whereas Council recently endorsed the Municipal Housing Target pledge of 8,000 residential units by 2031; and

Whereas traffic congestion is a growing concern for all Aurora residents and has an impact, socially, environmentally and economically, on the Town, neighbouring municipalities, and the Region at large;

1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That staff provide the Region with Traffic and Household data and projections that supports the need for the interchange at St. John's and Highway 404; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora meet with the Region of York to express the need for the interchange at Highway 404 and St. John's to be constructed prior to 2035 and indicate to them that our preference would be that the interchange be built in the short term.