

April 26, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Subject: FW: Request to delegate for April 29th 2021 Planning and Growth Management Committee

Attachments: Rahul Mehta_request-for-delegation.pdf

From: Rahul Mehta [REDACTED]
Sent: April 26, 2021 3:58 PM
To: ZZG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>; Jurrius, Stephanie <stephanie.jurrius@peelregion.ca>
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Subject: Request to delegate for April 29th 2021 Planning and Growth Management Committee

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 RECOMMENDED _____
 DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Good afternoon,

I am requesting to delegate at the April 29th Planning and Growth Management Committee regarding Item 5.1 Peel 2041 Work Plan and Timeline Update and 5.2 Land Needs Assessment and Intensification Analysis. Kindly confirm if I am able to delegate (form attached).

I have included comments that I ask be included in the agenda as well with two links to pertinent articles discussing the future path we (and Council) wishes to take for Peel Region. I recommend all members to consider these articles for the agenda items in question.

Dear members of Council,

I am requesting that Peel Region pause their Official Plan Review (OPR) until the pandemic is resolved, at this week's meeting. The Agenda items related to this request are 5.1 (Peel 2041+ Work Plan and Timeline Update) and 5.2 (Land Needs Assessment and Intensification Analysis). The region of Halton voted unanimously to pause their planning on Feb 17th, 2021 and I believe we must follow suit. Halton (April 21st) and Hamilton (March 29th) have also passed motions to put an OPTION on the table for a fixed urban boundary. **We must not lock in sprawl until 2051.** "Land use planning is the key lever in locking in or locking out greenhouse emissions" according to Yuill Herbert, a leading energy consultant for over 60 Canadian municipalities. Constituents cannot be properly consulted given COVID restrictions. Many residents are stressed, lacking the time or do not have internet access or the expertise to use Zoom software in order to delegate. Critical decisions which will impact Peel Region for the next 30 years should not be made now while in-person consultation is impossible and so many of us are utterly overwhelmed. Councils around the Golden Horseshoe are passing or considering similar motions and as it started in Halton, we hope it can continue in Peel and beyond. We need to preserve our existing farmland. Already, 175 acres are lost per day in Ontario. Farmland is a diminishing non-renewable resource. Yet the 'market lens' continues prioritizes low density growth on farmland, relentlessly. The best option for our region is to **freeze** the urban boundary and direct new development within existing built-up areas. Low density residential development is everywhere, while affordable medium density development is all but absent. Going from one extreme (single detached homes) to another (tall "luxury condos") is neither sustainable nor a desirable form for a healthy community. The costs to service this type of development is also an economic disaster... Our current infrastructure deficit will only grow as we continue to build out into greenfields, building new roads and water infrastructure that taxpayers cannot

support. As well, stormwater run-off from impermeable surfaces will only increase as the effects of climate change continue to grow.

Transportation emissions from these developments will prevent us from reaching our climate targets and should not be considered. We have enough land within the current urban boundary to develop complete, self-sustaining communities for future growth until 2031 and should have the flexibility to plan for 2041 using the guiding principles of the Places to Grow Act. We need to ask how we move more **people** and **goods**, not more cars and large trucks - there are many ways to move, and we are choosing the most polluting and expensive options. It's time we demanded more affordable and sustainable communities, which protect our precious farmland, green space, air and water! We're in a climate emergency - let's act like it. For more background on Peel Region and the crossroads in growth and planning they are currently grappling with, please read this 2-part deep dive by the incredible team at The Pointer - Brampton: Part 1: <https://thepointer.com/article/2021-04-15/part-1-the-gta-west-highway-is-a-reckoning-on-what-the-rest-of-peel-wants-to-be> Part 2: <https://thepointer.com/article/2021-04-22/part-2-scrapping-the-gta-west-highway-could-open-peel-to-a-world-of-possibilities>

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Sincerely,

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Rahul Mehta