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The Regional Municipality of Durham

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

May 22, 2020

Information Reports

- 2020-INFO-49 Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Durham Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) Update – Project Status Summary
- 2020-INFO-50 Commissioner of Finance – re: Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of May 20th, 2020

Early Release Reports

There are no Early Release Reports

Staff Correspondence

1. Memorandum from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer – re: Durham Home Energy Savings Program (D-HESP)
2. Memorandum from Gioseph Anello, Director (Acting), Waste Management Services and Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – re: Durham/York Energy from Waste Project - Ambient Air Monitoring 2019 Annual Report (Environmental Assessment Condition 11) MECP File #: EA-08-02
3. Memorandum from Gioseph Anello, Director (Acting), Waste Management Services and Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – re: Durham/York Energy from Waste Project Ambient Air Monitoring 2020, First Quarterly Report (Q1) (Environmental Assessment Condition 11) MECP File #: EA-08-02

Durham Municipalities Correspondence

1. City of Pickering – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on May 13, 2020, regarding Commercial Lease Relief for Tenants

Other Municipalities Correspondence/Resolutions

1. City of Kitchener – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on May 11, 2020, regarding Universal Basic Income

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI World Secretariat – re: Mayor Valérie Plante calls on local and subnational government leaders to take action on nature

Advisory Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory Committee Minutes

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised by Wednesday noon the week prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2020-INFO-49
Date: May 22, 2020

Subject:

Durham Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) Update – Project Status Summary

Recommendation:

Receive for Information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the status of the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) Update, including a summary of the initial municipal stakeholder feedback, and results from the Phase 1 online engagement survey.

2. Background

- 2.1 On October 23, 2019, Council approved the contract award for consulting services for the RCP Update to WSP Canada Group Ltd ([2019-P-43](#)). The RCP Update was launched in December 2019, and is being undertaken in three phases, as summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: RCP Update Project Phases

RCP Update	Timeframe	Project Phase Objectives
Phase 1	Winter/Spring 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Background review of Regional and local area municipal cycling, and active transportation policies. Document key best practices and approaches. Engage with Regional staff and municipal stakeholders. Map existing and proposed cycling routes and facilities. Obtain public feedback on the components of the existing and future cycling network. Document Phase 1 outcomes.
Phase 2	Summer/Fall 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesize stakeholder data from survey, interviews and other data sources. Update the Region's cycling network. Develop strategies to guide implementation. Identify bicycle infrastructure improvements with a focus on Regional corridors. Develop Cycling Implementation Plan. Develop Cycling Financial Plan. Municipal and stakeholder outreach to review and confirm the network and strategies. Public consultation sessions online and at community events (subject to COVID-19 restrictions). Document Phase 2 outcomes.
Phase 3	Winter 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Combine information from Phases One and Two together to develop the draft RCP Update. Present draft RCP Update to Committee of the Whole. Finalize RCP Update.

3. Phase One Summary

- 3.1 A best practice review of cycling plans and active transportation master plans (ATMPs) from nine comparable municipalities was completed to understand elements that have led them to successfully implement cycling infrastructure. A survey of municipal staff was also completed.
- 3.2 On March 26, 2020, the project team hosted an online workshop. Over 30 stakeholders attended with representation from all area municipalities, local conservation authorities (TRCA, CLOCA), school boards, and other key partners (Parks Canada, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, Metrolinx, MTO). Durham Regional staff (Works, Health, Finance, DRPS) also participated.

- 3.3 The workshop obtained feedback on the vision and objectives of the RCP Update and identified some major challenges, barriers and opportunities to achieve a safe, connected and implementable cycling network. Some of workshop take-aways included the following:
- a. There is a need to develop an integrated, accessible, connected and safe active transportation network;
 - b. There is a need to enhance cycling connectivity and address areas of conflict, by leveraging work completed by area municipalities;
 - c. Emphasis should be placed on achieving active transportation connection(s) between municipalities;
 - d. There are opportunities for significant regional and provincial trails and route systems; and
 - e. There is a need for a systematic approach for addressing intersection treatments, data collection, cost-sharing among upper and lower tier municipalities, funding sources, and micro-mobility.
- 3.4 On March 26, 2020, an online engagement survey was launched using a dedicated [project webpage](#). The online engagement survey enabled participants to:
- a. Rank a preliminary list of cycling priorities;
 - b. Use an interactive map to identify barriers and opportunities to cycling, highlight popular routes and destinations, and insert other suggestions to improve the cycling network; and
 - c. Rate their level of comfort using various types of cycling infrastructure as well as respond to types of promotional activities and events.

A summary of the project, stakeholder and survey participant feedback is provided within Attachment #1.

- 3.5 To-date, survey participants have shared 677 comments and have recorded 841 favourite routes, barriers, and missing links (e.g. missing signage, connections and unsafe routes). Some findings from the survey are as follows:
- a. The top five cycling priorities are: enhance safety, increase connectivity, focus on user needs, build healthy communities and improve signage;
 - b. Many participants expressed a strong desire for more separated bike lanes, separating cyclists and pedestrians on in-boulevard pathways, keeping vehicles and debris out of bike lanes and urban shoulders, and more signage in highly visible areas;

- c. In terms of rural cycling facilities, participants rated several design options, and the results demonstrate a concern for vehicles parked on shoulders, preferences for wider paved shoulders, and more and visible signage;
 - d. There is support for monitored bike parking at events, and very strong interest in group rides and touring information along tourist routes and the waterfront.
- 3.6 Information collected through the survey will be used to: inform refinements to existing cycling infrastructure; identify new routes and facilities in urban and rural areas; inform cycling education and promotional activities; and, inform a phasing and implementation plan for the proposed network.

Policy and Guidelines Review

- 3.7 The project team is also conducting a review of cycling and active transportation policies, standards and guidelines at the National, Provincial, Regional and local levels that have been developed since 2012. An in-depth evaluation of existing Regional policies and practices will also be undertaken, and areas of improvement will be identified.
- 3.8 The RCP Update will apply the guidelines of Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 18 (OTM Book 18), which is a widely used and accepted resource in the Province of Ontario that helps transportation practitioners provide practical guidance on the planning, design and operation of cycling infrastructure. It is currently being updated to reflect current trends in the design and selection of cycling facilities.

4. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 4.1 The RCP Update is an important Regional plan that will encourage more people to use active and sustainable transportation modes, and will guide the development more cycling infrastructure, policies and programs across the Region.
- 4.2 In keeping with social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19, more opportunities for online engagement will be undertaken for the duration of this project.

5. Attachments

Attachment #1: RCP Update and Survey Results Summary

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development



Durham Region

2020 Regional Cycling Plan Update (RCPU)

Planning & Economic Development Committee
Attachment #1: RCP Update and Survey Results Summary
June 2, 2020



1

2020 Regional Cycling Plan Update Background





Background

- + The Durham Regional Cycling Plan Update (RCPU) was launched in December 2019 and is set to conclude at the end of 2020.
- + The RCPU will allow the Region to:
 - + Address issues raised in the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) related to cycling (e.g., gaps in the cycling network, coordination of funding and implementation of cycling infrastructure etc.)
 - + Provide the Region's key stakeholders and members of the public with an opportunity to ensure we are addressing the needs of residents by making cycling a safe and viable form of transportation.
 - + Ensure that new design standards are incorporated into the new RCP.



2020 RCPU Phasing



WINTER / SPRING 2020

Phase 1

Background Review

Establish an understanding of cycling conditions in the Region and best practices from other municipalities.



SUMMER / FALL 2020

Phase 2

Program Update

Update the Region's cycling network and develop strategies to guide overall implementation of the plan.



WINTER 2020

Phase 3

Finalize the Study

Develop a report to summarize the recommendations and present to Council.



Project Goals

The 2020 RCPU is meant to reflect five regional goals that have emerged since 2012:



Support
strategic
directions at
the regional
level



Integrating new
cycling trends
and lessons
learned



Establishing
support for
coordination
between upper
and lower tier



Alignment with
accepted
design
guidelines and
standards



Establishing public
buy-in to
determine local
priorities and
needs

2

Phase 1 Best Practices Review





Overview of Best Practices Review

- + A best practices review is underway.
- + The purpose of the best practices review is to understand the elements of other cycling and active transportation plans that have led to the successful implementation of cycling infrastructure.
- + Cycling and active transportation plans from nine comparable municipalities have been reviewed, including York Region, Peel Region, City of Edmonton and the City of Surrey.
- + The results of the scan will be summarized in Technical Memo #1, due in early June 2020.

3

Phase 1 Municipal Stakeholder Workshop





Online Workshop Overview

Workshop date: March 26th, 2020

Objectives	Audiences
<p>1</p> <p>Provide introduction to and background on the RCPU project and process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Durham Region+ Local municipalities+ Durham Region Police+ School boards+ Post-secondary institutions+ Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario+ Ministry of Transportation Ontario+ Metrolinx+ Ontario Trails Council+ Transportation Options+ Ontario Cycling Association+ Waterfront Regeneration Trust
<p>2</p> <p>Engage with attendees to review and gather input on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. RCPU vision and objectives;ii. Cycling challenges, barriers and opportunities in Durham Region; andiii. Cycling trends, tools and topics for consideration as part of the RCPU.	<p>32 Attendees</p>



Discussion Summary

Key takeaways include:

- + Develop an integrated, accessible, connected and safe active transportation network;
- + Enhance cycling connectivity and address areas of conflict by leveraging work completed by local municipalities;
- + Achieve active transportation connection(s) between municipalities;
- + Develop opportunities of regional and provincial significant trail and route systems; and
- + Examine topics that address intersection treatments, data collection, cost-sharing among upper and lower tier municipalities, funding sources, and micro-mobility.

4

Phase 1 Online Survey





Online Survey Introduction

- + A survey was launched March 26th using the MetroQuest online survey tool.
- + MetroQuest is an online interactive engagement tool that allows the public to provide input through a series of tailored and targeted activities. The activities included:
 - + Identifying priorities for the RCPU based on new and emerging trends.
 - + Identifying opportunities for network improvements and identifying critical components of the cycling network.
 - + Identifying design preferences related to cycling infrastructure.



MetroQuest Engagement Tool

WELCOME

Getting Started

Durham Regional Cycling Plan Update 2020

We are updating our Regional Cycling Plan to reflect new trends, build upon existing facilities and identify new programs for cyclists of all ages and abilities. We want your input to help shape the plan!

Begin



Disclaimer: Personal information captured in this survey is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purposes of this study. Your responses will not be distributed to any external sources and will only be used by the study team.



2

3

4

5

RANKING

MAPPING

SETTING PREFERENCES

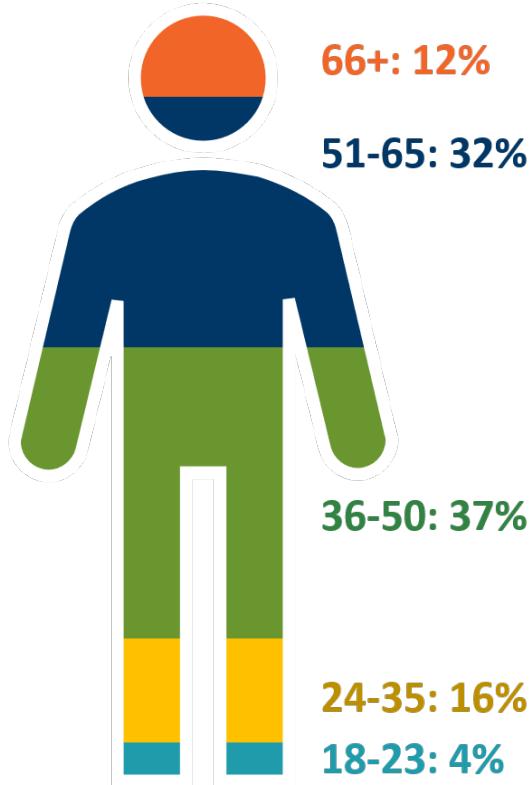
WRAP-UP





Participant Demographic Overview

Age



Cycling Purpose:



68%
recreation



18%
errands



10%
commute to
work



4%
commute to
school

Information will be used to generate a “profile” for those who provided their input and to better understand how best to reach out to a wider range of individuals going forward.



Participant Overview Continued



place
of
residence:

- + 15% Ajax
- + 1% Brock
- + 13% Clarington
- + 25% Oshawa
- + 6% Pickering
- + 4% Scugog
- + 3% Uxbridge
- + 27% Whitby
- + 7% Outside Durham Region

cycling
frequency:



- 51% a few times / week
- 20% a few times / month
- 16% everyday
- 12% a few times / year
- 2% never



Survey Results - Markers

Participants used markers to identify locations on the map based on their personal experience. The information gathered through this exercise will be used to inform the identification of the priority cycling network including route alignment and more complex areas for improvement.

169

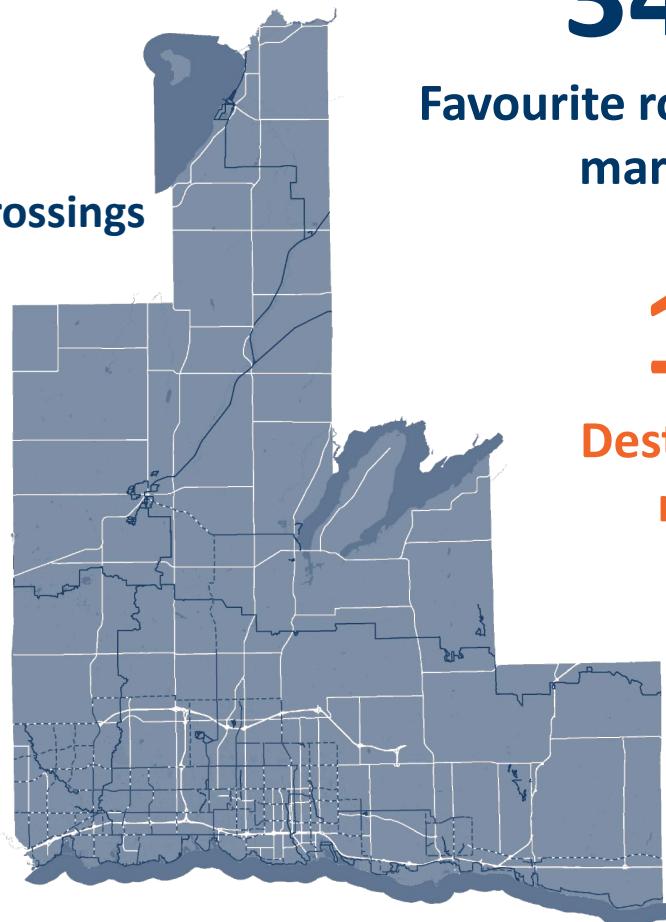
Barrier markers

- + Dangerous highway crossings
- + Unsafe intersections
- + Poor road conditions

282

Missing link markers

- + Missing signage
- + Missing connections to existing routes
- + Unsafe routes



346

Favourite route markers

- + Routes that are safe, comfortable, and connected
- + Waterfront Trail
- + Paved / designated biking areas

133

Destination markers

- + The waterfront
- + Community centres & schools
- + Restaurants
- + Active destinations

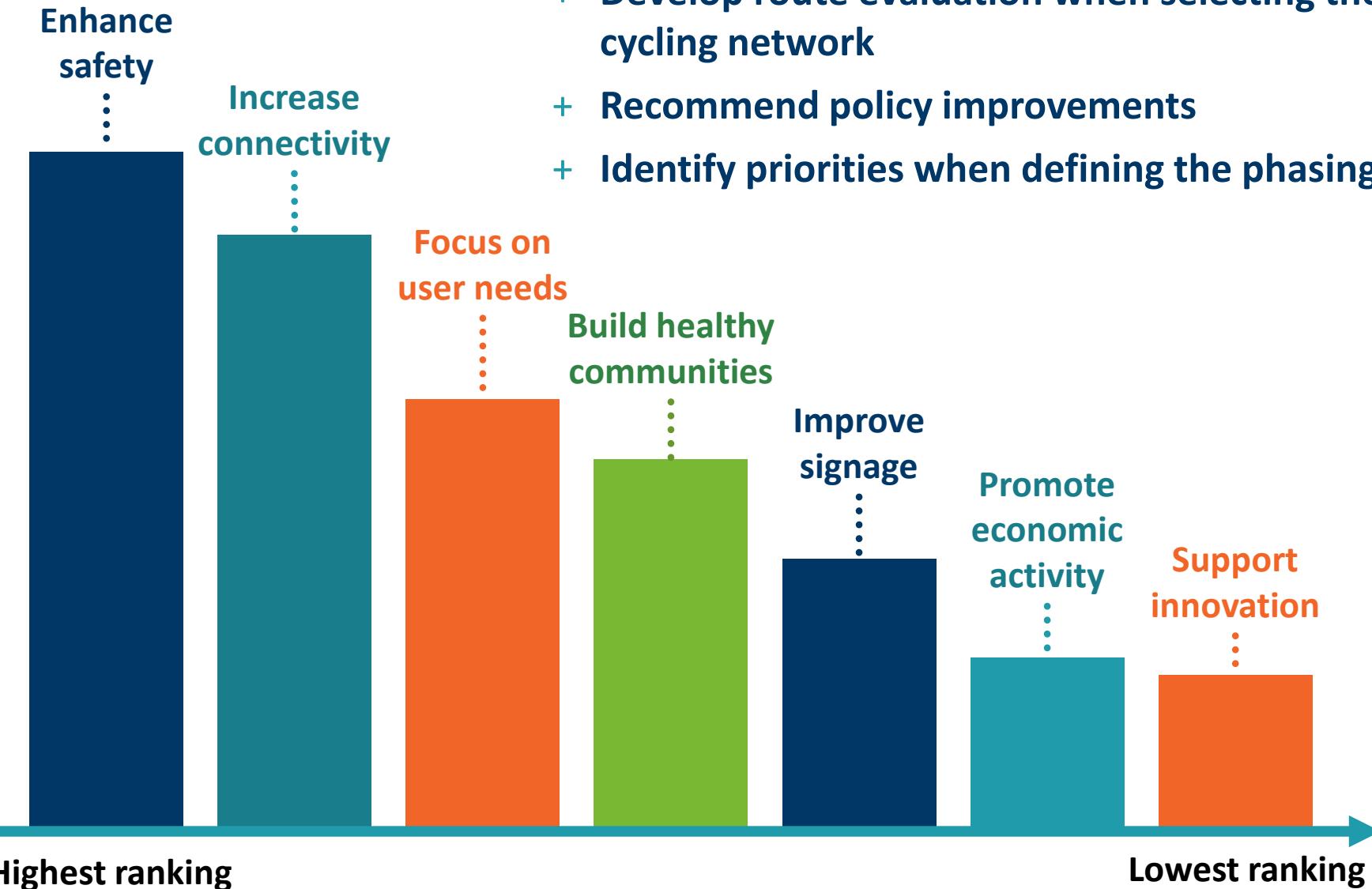
118

Other comment markers

- + Construction / projects underway
- + High traffic volume areas
- + Route suggestions



Survey Results - Priorities





Survey Results – Rural Facility Preferences

Facilities in Rural Areas – Average Rating

			
Signed bicycle route	Paved shoulder	Buffered paved shoulder	Off-road trail
Neutral	Like	Like	Strongly like

Comments included:

- + Concern regarding vehicles parking on the shoulder
- + Separate cyclists and pedestrians on off-road multi-use trails
- + Preference for wider paved shoulders
- + Design for & place signs in high visibility areas

81
comments



Survey Results – Cycling Events and Promotion

Events & Promotions – Average Rating

“How-to” Classes	Group Rides	Bike Valet	Cycling Events	Touring Routes
Neutral	Like	Like	Strongly Like	Strongly Like

49
comments

Comments included:

- + Interest in taking bike repair ‘how to’ classes
- + Desire for more affordable cycling events
- + Touring routes along tourist areas & waterfront



Online Survey

Information collected through the survey will be used to:

- + Refine existing cycling infrastructure
- + Identify preferred facilities for new route alternatives in urban and rural areas
- + Inform Durham Region cycling education and promotional activities, and
- + Establish priorities when developing a phasing plan for the proposed network

5

Forthcoming Work





Forthcoming Guidelines

- + The RCPU will one of the first plans in the Province to apply the updated Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 18 guidelines.
 - + OTM Book 18 is a widely used and accepted resource by transportation planners and practitioners across the Province of Ontario
 - + It provides guidance on the planning design and operation of cycling facilities
 - + It is being updated to reflect new trends and changes to cycling facilities including both the design and selection process



6

Conclusion and Next Steps





Conclusion and Next Steps

- + The RCPU is an important Regional sustainable plan to encourage more people to use active transportation modes and to assist and guide the development of more cycling infrastructure, policies and programs across Durham.
- + Phase 2 work has already begun.
- + The project team has modified its community outreach and engagement approach to include online engagement tools and platforms in order to engage a large and diverse audience while social distancing is still in effect. Once restrictions are limited, there will need to be additional considerations for in-person events.



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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2020-INFO-50
Date: May 22, 2020

Subject:

Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of May 20th, 2020

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The Regional Finance Department monitors economic conditions on an ongoing basis and prepares periodic summary reports to Regional Council. The economy is undergoing a time of significant uncertainty with economic conditions and policies changing on a daily basis. The following summarizes the changes that have occurred over the period of May 14 - 20, 2020.

2. Federal Government

2.1 On May 19, the federal government announced an expansion of the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). The CEBA provides partially forgivable loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible small businesses. The program was originally established for small businesses with 2019 payrolls between \$50,000 and \$1.0 million. The eligibility to small businesses has now increased to payrolls between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million.

2.2 On May 15, the federal government also announced an extension and expansion of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). The program will be extended for another 12 weeks to August 29, 2020 and will include such institutions as registered Canadian amateur athletic associations and journalism organizations. The program will also be extended to non-public colleges and schools, including institutions that offer specialized services, such as arts schools, driving schools, language schools or flight schools.

2.3 In addition to program extensions, the government announced a 30-day extension of the border closure between Canada and the United States. The Canada-U.S border will now be closed to non-essential travel until at least June 21.

- 2.4 On May 20, the government announced the opening of the application process for the previously announced Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF). The program will be delivered by a subsidiary of the Canada Development Investment Corporation and will be open to large for-profit businesses (excluding the financial sector) as well as certain not-for-profit businesses, such as airports, with annual revenues generally in the order of \$300 million or higher. In order to qualify, eligible businesses must be seeking financing of \$60 million or more, have significant operations or workforce in Canada, and not be involved in active insolvency proceedings.
- 2.5 On May 14, the federal government announced a \$469.4 million investment to support Canada's fish harvesters that do not qualify for previously announced support programs. The measures include a \$267.6 million Fish Harvester Benefit which provides support to eligible recipients by covering 75 per cent of fishing income losses beyond a 25 per cent income decline threshold. Also included is a \$201.8 million Fish Harvester Grant that provides non-repayable support of up to \$10,000 to eligible self-employed fish harvesters.
- 2.6 On May 16, the federal government announced an additional \$41 million in funding to the Canadian Red Cross for immediate COVID-19 needs, such as supporting isolation sites and procuring and deploying emergency health supplies. The government will also provide the Canadian Red Cross with up to \$59 million to support additional COVID-19 related relief and recovery efforts, as well as for future floods and wildfires.
- 2.7 Also, on May 16, the federal government announced a 1.9 per cent indexing of annual Canada Child Benefit limits for 2020-21. The nontaxable benefit amount is determined by family income with the maximum benefit in 2020-21 of \$6,765 per child under age 6, and \$5,708 per child aged 6 through 17.
- 2.8 In support of the academic research community whose work has been suspended by COVID-19, the federal government is providing \$450 million to help universities and health research institutes maintain essential research activity and retain staff. The supports are in line with the CEWS in that it will cover 75% of wages up to \$847 per week.

3. Ontario Government

- 3.1 The Ontario government has announced further measures to ease restrictions and restart the economy. Beginning on May 19, Ontario will enter Phase 1 of its economic reopening plan with some retailers, seasonal businesses and health and community service providers permitted to open or expand their services while following strict social distancing protocols. The order only applies to retailers with street-front entrances and does not include enclosed areas such as shopping malls.
- 3.2 Also included in Phase 1 is the reopening of some outdoor recreational amenities, including outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, off-leash dog areas, and outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in parks and recreational areas.

- 3.3 During Phase 1, all provincial emergency orders will remain in place. On May 19, the provincial government extended all emergency orders until May 29, including the closure of bars and restaurants for dine-in service, long-term care staff redeployment measures, and social gathering restrictions of more than five people.
- 3.4 The government also announced that Ontario public schools would remain closed for the remainder of the school year and that plans for an adapted 2020-21 school year, including a bolstered online learning platform, would be released in June. The gradual reopening of childcare, EarlyON centres, and summer day camps is scheduled for Phase 2 of the provincial reopening plan.

4. Financial Markets

- 4.1 Equities markets in the United States pulled back last week with the S&P 500 index ending the week of May 15 down 2.26 per cent. This was the worst weekly performance for the S&P 500 since the week of March 20. The S&P 500 Index ended the week approximately 15.5 per cent below its most recent highs experienced in mid-February, prior to the implementation of COVID-19 economic restrictions.
- 4.2 The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 2.65 per cent for the week of May 15, while the Nasdaq Composite fell 1.7 per cent. Both indices experienced their worst weekly losses since the week of April 3. The Dow Jones ended the week down over 19 per cent from its pre-pandemic high in February, while the Nasdaq ended down 8.37 from its pre-pandemic high.
- 4.3 Equities markets in Canada followed the losses in the United States with the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) losing 2.2 per cent for the week ending May 15. The TSX ended the week down approximately 18 per cent from its pre-pandemic high in February.
- 4.4 Despite the setback from last week, U.S equities experienced large gains on May 18, with the S&P 500 gaining 3.2 per cent. This pushed the index to its highest level in ten weeks. The rise was largely due to renewed optimism regarding a COVID-19 vaccine as U.S drug maker Moderna reported positive results from its first vaccine test on a group of eight individuals.
- 4.5 The price of oil continues to rise with the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude ending the week of May 15 at US\$29.43 per barrel. The price of WTI crude was up over 19 per cent for the week, marking a third straight week of positive gains. On May 18, the price of WTI crude rose to its highest level in two months after an 8.12 per cent gain to close at US\$31.82 per barrel.
- 4.6 Alberta's Western Canadian Select (WCS) oil remains above US\$20 per barrel despite a decline of over 10 per cent on May 19. The price of WCS crude opened at US\$23.07 on May 20.

- 4.7 Despite the recent rise, the dramatic oil price decline in April had a significant impact on Canada's inflation rate. According to Statistics Canada, the inflation rate in April, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined by 0.2 per cent on a year-over-year basis. This is the first time Canada has seen deflation since September 2009. The decline is due in large part to the 39.3 per cent drop in gasoline prices, which is the largest price decline on record. Excluding energy prices from the CPI would result in an inflation rate of 1.6 per cent for April.

5. Canadian Economy

- 5.1 As the economy continues to adjust to the global pandemic, social distancing restrictions are having a significant impact on the Canadian real estate industry. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, national home sales in April fell 56.8 per cent from March, while new listings were down 55.7 per cent. On a year-over-year basis, actual sales were down 57.6 per cent, marking the lowest April sales figures since 1984.
- 5.2 The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) saw a steeper decline relative to the national average as GTA home sales fell 66.2 per cent in April. Despite the large declines in sales, the national average home sale price declined only 1.3 per cent on a year-over-year basis.
- 5.3 Although the biggest declines in economic activity are occurring in the service producing sector, Statistics Canada reported a 9.2 per cent decline in the value of manufacturing sales for the month of March. This is the largest percentage decline since the 2008 financial crisis. Manufacturing sales in Ontario declined to their lowest levels since 2014 with a 14.3 per cent drop in March.
- 5.4 The decline in manufacturing sales resulted in a 10.3 per cent increase in the inventory to sales ratio, from 1.56 in February to 1.72 in March. This is the largest monthly increase since the 2008 financial crisis. The inventory to sales ratio measures how long it would take, in months, to exhaust inventories if sales activity remained at their current levels. According to Statistics Canada, approximately 78 per cent of manufacturing establishments reported that their activities were impacted by COVID-19 in March.
- 5.5 The global pandemic is also impacting Canadian financial investments both domestically and abroad. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian investors sold \$29.3 billion of U.S shares from their investment holdings in March. This represents the largest divestment of U.S securities ever recorded since data compilation began. Canadian investors also sold off \$11.5 billion worth of foreign bonds in March, while foreign investors sold off \$6.1 billion worth of Canadian securities.

- 5.6 While the Canadian economy has experienced considerable declines in activity, the Bank of Canada continues to operate various asset purchase programs and facilities to mitigate economic impacts and to ensure adequate liquidity in the financial system. These programs, however, have caused the Bank of Canada's balance sheet to triple from \$119 billion on March 4 to \$392 billion on May 6. This is a much faster and larger increase than what occurred during the past recession when the Bank of Canada's balance increased 50 per cent from September 2008 to March 2009.

6. United States Economy

- 6.1 The global pandemic continues to weaken the American economy as retail sales in April declined a record 16.4 per cent from March. Sales for clothing and electronics were hit particularly hard with declines of 78.8 and 60.6 per cent respectively. Although grocery store sales saw a 28.6 per cent gain in March, grocery sales fell 13.2 per cent in April.
- 6.2 According to the United States Federal Reserve, U.S industrial production declined 11.2 per cent in April, which represents the biggest drop in the 101-year history of the index. Manufacturing output declined 13.7 per cent while capacity utilization for the industrial sector declined 8.3 percentage points to 64.9 per cent in April. This marks the lowest capacity utilization rate since 2009.
- 6.3 The U.S labour market continues to suffer with another 2.98 million Americans filing first time claims for unemployment insurance for the week ending May 9. Although there remains a large number of Americans making first time claims, this is the sixth consecutive week that the numbers have declined. There were 195,000 fewer initial claims, for the week ending May 9, than during the prior week. The number of continuing claims rose by 456,000 to a record 22.83 million, suggesting that the majority of displaced Americans have not returned to work.
- 6.4 According to the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey conducted by the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of job separations (quits, layoffs, and discharges) increased by 8.9 million in March to a series high of 14.5 million. The survey also indicated that, for the first time in two years, the number of unemployed persons exceeded the number of job vacancies.
- 6.5 Residential construction is also on the decline in the U.S as housing starts declined a record 30.2 per cent in April while permits for future home construction declined 20.8 per cent in April.

7. Global Economy

- 7.1 The Chinese economy continues to show signs of recovery as the country reported a 3.9 per cent year-over-year increase in industrial production for April. Chinese fixed asset investment has declined 10.3 per cent year to date, improving from the 16.1 per cent decline over the first quarter. Retail sales also fell 7.5 per cent in April compared to 15.8 per cent in March.

- 7.2 As India continues to struggle with the economic implications of the country's lockdown, the World Bank has offered support by approving an additional US\$1 billion to help provide social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households. The Bank will immediately provide US\$750 million to scale-up cash transfers and food benefits, while providing the remaining US\$250 million in 2021 to extend cash and in-kind benefits based on local needs.
- 7.3 According to United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics (ONS), U.K. jobless claims rose by 856,500 in April, representing a monthly increase of 69.1%. This is the biggest monthly increase since records began in the 1970's and brings the total number of people claiming unemployment benefits to 2.097 million.
- 7.4 While Germany has begun to ease economic restrictions, the restrictions caused German GDP to decline 2.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, or 8.6 per cent on an annualized basis. This marks the steepest quarterly GDP decline since 2009 during the financial crisis.
- 7.5 As many European countries continue to experience significant economic declines, Germany and France have proposed a €500 billion (US\$543 billion) recovery fund for European economies hit by the pandemic. Under the proposal, the European Commission would borrow the necessary funds and the funds would be channeled to the hardest hit regions via the European Union budget. The proposal was made on May 18 and there is no indication of when, or if, it will be approved.
- 7.6 Nearly all countries within the G7 Group of Nations have reported their first quarter GDP estimates for 2020. The high variance among the estimates illustrates the variability in the impact of the virus, the scale of economic restrictions, and the timing of when the virus began spreading. Table 1 provides the first quarter GDP estimates as reported by each country within the G7. Canada is the only country yet to release its estimates with the release scheduled for May 29.

Table 1: Annualized Q1 GDP Estimates for G7 Nations

	GDP Growth (%) Q1 2020
Japan	-3.4%
USA	-4.8%
U.K	-7.7%
Germany	-8.6%
Italy	-17.7%
France	-21.4%

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The economy is experiencing increasing volatility with uncertainty around the spread of COVID-19. Economic conditions are changing on a daily basis as policy makers continue to navigate this uncharted territory.

- 8.2 The Regional Finance Department will continue to monitor economic conditions and provide timely updates as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by M.E. Simpson for N. Taylor

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer



Interoffice Memorandum

**The Regional
Municipality of Durham**

**Office of the Chief
Administrative Officer**

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Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative
Officer

DATE: May 15, 2020
TO: Members of Durham Regional Council
FROM: Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
RE: Durham Home Energy Savings Program (D-HESP)

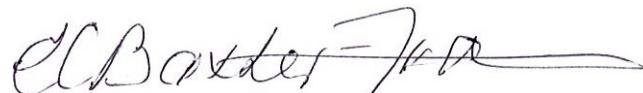
As work progresses on the design of a Durham Home Energy Savings Program (D-HESP), please note the following for your information:

- On April 24, 2019 Durham Regional Council endorsed the [Durham Community Energy Plan \(DCEP\)](#), including endorsement of the Low Carbon Pathway to accelerate the Region's transition to a clean economy. A key program within the DECP is the Durham Deep Retrofit Program to transform existing buildings.
- Regional staff have developed a proposed residential energy retrofit program to support implementation of the Durham Community Energy Plan Low Carbon Pathway. The goals of such a program include:
 - reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,
 - conserving energy,
 - reducing home utility costs,
 - increasing property values,
 - improving comfort and quality of life for homeowners, and
 - creating workforce and economic development opportunities for local skilled trades.
- In February 2020, Regional staff in the CAO's office [secured a \\$60,000 grant from The Atmospheric Fund \(TAF\)](#) to support a program design phase, including convening key stakeholders from local area municipalities, energy utilities, and post-secondary institutions. Over the past five months, staff have worked with a Retrofit Program Steering Committee to undertake research and analysis to develop a proposed program design.
- The program design includes partnership with local electricity utilities to deliver a region-wide home energy literacy campaign, supported by an interactive website with tools to support homeowners with energy

efficiency retrofits. The website will be complemented by a home energy coaching service that will support homeowners across the Region through the completion a home energy retrofit project.

- In partnership with OPUC, the proposed program includes an innovative on-bill financing program for home energy retrofits in the City of Oshawa. Once launched, this financing service would be the first of its kind in the residential market in Ontario, although successful examples exist in California and BC. Elexicon is interested in this component of the program and may consider including such an offering in the future.
- CAO's office staff are preparing a funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM's) Community Efficiency Financing Program to support program start-up and an initial four years of operation. FCM's submission deadline is June 30, 2020.
- In support of the funding application, staff are soliciting letters of support from key partners, including the City of Oshawa. A report to Oshawa City Council seeking authorization to provide a letter of support is scheduled for their May 25 meeting
- Staff will bring forward a report to the June Regional Council meeting to provide full details of the proposed program design.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



May 15, 2020

Lisa Trevisan, Director, Central Region
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Place Nouveau
5775 Yonge Street, Floor 8
North York, Ontario M2M 4J1

Dear Ms. Trevisan:

**RE: Durham/York Energy from Waste Project - Ambient Air Monitoring 2019 Annual Report
(Environmental Assessment Condition 11)
MECP File #: EA-08-02**

In accordance with the approved Ambient Air Monitoring and Reporting Plan and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) Ambient Air Monitoring Guideline, the Regional Municipalities of Durham and York (Regions) submit the Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Report for calendar year 2019.

The report has been prepared by RWDI Air Inc. who was awarded the ambient air monitoring and reporting contract for the Regions. The Regions are available to discuss the report at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director (Acting), Waste Management Services

The Regional Municipality of Durham
905-668-7711 extension 3445
Gioseph.Anello@durham.ca

Original signed by:

Laura McDowell, P.Eng.
Director, Environmental Promotion
and Protection
The Regional Municipality of York
905-830-4444 extension 75077
Laura.McDowell@york.ca

- c. H. Malcolmson, Director, Environmental Permissions, MECP
- A. Cross, Director, Environmental Assessment, MECP
- C. Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office, MECP
- P. Dunn, Senior Environmental Officer, York Durham District Office, MECP
- J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator (Acting), York Durham District Office, MECP
- P. Martin, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides, and Environmental Planning, MECP
- T. Bell, Environmental Resource Planner & EA Coordinator, Air, Pesticides, and Environmental Planning, MECP
- G. Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Coordination, MECP
- A. Huxter, Environmental Specialist, Covanta Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
- C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
- R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosure

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact The Regional Municipality of Durham at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



May 15, 2020

Lisa Trevisan, Director, Central Region
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Place Nouveau
5775 Yonge Street, Floor 8
North York, Ontario M2M 4J1

Dear Ms. Trevisan:

RE: Durham/York Energy from Waste Project
Ambient Air Monitoring 2020, First Quarterly Report (Q1)
(Environmental Assessment Condition 11)
MECP File #: EA-08-02

In accordance with the approved Ambient Air Monitoring and Reporting Plan and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) Ambient Air Monitoring Guideline, the Regional Municipalities of Durham and York (Regions) submit the First Quarterly (Q1) Ambient Air Monitoring Report for calendar year 2020, covering the period from January to March 2019.

The report has been prepared by RWDI Air Inc. who was awarded the ambient air monitoring and reporting contract for the Regions. The Regions are available to discuss the report at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director (Acting), Waste Management Services

The Regional Municipality of Durham
905-668-7711 extension 3445
Gioseph.Anello@durham.ca

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- A. Huxter, Environmental Specialist, Covanta Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
- C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
- R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosure

Sent by Email

May 15, 2020

Jennifer O'Connell
Member of Parliament for Pickering-Uxbridge
jennifer.oconnell.c1@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Commercial Lease Relief for Tenants
File: A-1400-001-19

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a meeting held on May 13, 2020 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, small businesses across the country are the backbone of our communities and they are now facing significant challenges due to the COVID-19 epidemic;

WHEREAS, some small business have leveraged their personal assets and houses to secure a lease;

WHEREAS, businesses that are closed due to the virus and are not open for business are still responsible for their rent, taxes, utilities, insurance and other services such as phones, internet and other monthly costs including, in some instances, employees' benefits;

WHEREAS, there is much uncertainty as to when businesses can open and how long it will take them to start up their business so they can recover and get enough money to pay these accumulated debts;

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada is delivering \$900 million in emergency relief and the Provincial Government Is committing \$241 million to small businesses and their landlords through a new program called the Ontario Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistant Program (OCECRA), to assist Canadians and businesses from the financial impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, this program has been developed to share the costs between small business tenants and landlords who would each be asked to pay 25% of the tenants total rent under a lease agreement, and the Provincial and Federal Government would cost share the remaining 50%;

WHEREAS, this loan would be contingent on the signing of a rent forgiveness agreement between impacted tenants and landlords which would reduce the rental cost of small business tenants for the months of April to June 2020 by at least 75%;

WHEREAS, this program is contingent on a moratorium on evictions for three months;

WHEREAS, this program is only available to landlords who hold a commercial mortgage on the rental property which disadvantages those landlords that would like to participate in the program and who do not have a mortgage;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Federal and Provincial Governments include those landlords who do not hold a commercial mortgage to be eligible to participate in this business saving program;

And further, that the Provincial Government under the Commercial Tenancies Act prohibit any commercial evictions until at least August 31, 2020 where a tenant has been closed down or cannot operate their business due to the COVID virus.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:rp

Copy: The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Pickering—Uxbridge
Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham

Chief Administrative Officer



JEFF BUNN
Manager, Council & Committee Services & Deputy City Clerk
Finance & Corporate Services Department
Kitchener City Hall, 2nd Floor
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
Phone: 519.741.2200 x 7278 Fax: 519.741.2705
jeff.bunn@kitchener.ca
TTY: 519-741-2385

May 15, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

This is to advise that City Council, at a special electronic meeting held on May 11, 2020, passed the following resolution regarding universal basic income:

"WHEREAS The World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the growing number of cases of the coronavirus illness around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread; and,

WHEREAS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of Ontario and the City of Kitchener have declared a state of emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has approved the Early Economic Support Plan, which provides financial and economic support measures to help reduce the financial strain on citizens and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS Statistics Canada has reported that the unemployment rate has risen to 7.8 per cent, with 1,011,000 jobs lost in March 2020, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the employment of 3.1 million Canadians; and,

WHEREAS the Federal government has announced \$82 billion in relief funding for the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, utilizing tax deferrals, subsidies, loans, and credits to support citizens, businesses, and industries; and,

WHEREAS according to a 2018 Parliamentary Budget Office report, a Canada-wide basic income of the type previously piloted in Ontario would have an annual net cost of \$44 billion; and,

WHEREAS a universal basic income would likely have many positive effects, including reducing poverty, reducing strain on health care and social assistance systems, supporting businesses and the economy, reducing crime, as well as reducing administrative complexity and creating efficiencies for those in need of financial and economic support measures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Kitchener urges the Ontario Provincial government to pursue a partnership with the Federal government for the establishment of a universal basic income;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Region of Waterloo; all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario; and, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities."

Yours truly,



J. Bunn
Manager, Council & Committee Services/
Deputy City Clerk

- c. Honourable, Doug Ford, Premier
- Honourable Amy Fee, M.P.P.
- Honourable Belinda Karahalios, M.P.P.
- Honourable Catherine Fife, M.P.P.
- Honourable Laura Mae Lindo, M.P.P.
- Honourable Mike Harris, M.P.P.
- Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services
- Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Kris Fletcher, Regional Clerk, Region of Waterloo
- Bill Karsten, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Ashley Sage, Clerk, Township of North Dumfries
- Danielle Manton, City Clerk, City of Cambridge
- Dawn Mittelholtz, Director of Information and Legislative Services / Municipal Clerk, Township of Wilmot
- Grace Kosch, Clerk, Township of Wellesley
- Olga Smith, City Clerk, City of Waterloo
- Val Hummel, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of Woolwich
- All Ontario Municipalities

From: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability <secretary.general.office@iclei.org>
Sent: May 20, 2020 9:20 AM
To: chair <chair@durham.ca>
Cc: Ian McVey <Ian.McVey@durham.ca>
Subject: Mayor Valérie Plante calls on local and subnational government leaders to take action on nature

Dear ICLEI Member:

As we commemorate the International Day for Biodiversity (22 May) and World Environment Day (5 June) this year, the COVID-19 pandemic provides a sobering opportunity to reflect on our relationship with nature. Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal and ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity, has penned a compelling letter, calling on mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments from around the world to jointly take action to halt and reverse the trends of biodiversity loss, especially as they develop their post-COVID-19 recovery plans. She outlines numerous ways that leaders can take strong, decisive action to create healthy, vibrant cities, where people and nature can thrive.

Please see the attached letter.

For the French version, [click here](#).
For the Spanish version, [click here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Gino Van Begin

Secretary General
ICLEI World Secretariat
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
D-53113 Bonn
Germany
Tel +49 (0)228 976299 00
Fax +49 (0)228 976299 01
Email: secretary.general@iclei.org
Twitter: @ICLEI, @ICLEI_SG
Website: www.iclei.org

18 May 2020

John Henry
Regional Chair
Regional Municipality of Durham, ON
Canada

Dear John Henry

The International Day for Biodiversity will be celebrated on the 22nd of May and World Environment Day on the 5th of June, 2020. This, at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic provides a sobering opportunity to reflect on our relationship with nature.

Nature provides us with essential life-supporting services such as food, clean water, medication and habitats. Healthy and diverse ecosystems contribute to making cities more resilient and better able to cope with extreme events and other impacts related to climate change. Countless studies have also demonstrated that interacting with nature positively impacts our mental and physical health and well-being, helping to alleviate stress and anxiety, especially prevalent at this time.

As mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments, we have a unique opportunity and an important responsibility to protect our biodiversity and ecosystems in ways that will restore humanity's relationship with nature. Together, we can have a global impact.

Cities and regions are critical to addressing biodiversity loss and reconnecting people with nature

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), biodiversity continues to decline in every region of the world, significantly reducing nature's capacity to contribute to people's well-being. This alarming trend endangers economies, livelihoods, food security, human health and quality of life of people everywhere.

It is well documented that cities, large and small, are ideally placed to significantly contribute to curbing biodiversity loss and reversing the unsustainable use of nature by proactively bringing nature back into our rapidly urbanizing world. By planning our cities *with* nature – through nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and green open spaces – we can dramatically improve the quality of life for all.

Join me in committing to take action

We have a special opportunity to act in the coming year. First, as we develop our post-COVID-19 recovery plans. Second, as we prepare for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). On that occasion, the world is expected to adopt a new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We need to ensure that cities and regions are written into this new global agreement and demonstrate the full potential and impact of cities acting together for nature.

ICLEI, as designated focal point of the Global Task Force (GTF) of Local and Regional Governments for Biodiversity, is bringing together, with key partners, all relevant networks and associations to call for a dedicated, stepped-up Decision and renewed Plan of Action for local and subnational biodiversity action. The contents of this call in the attached document (Annex 1) should be taken up in a dedicated Decision and should also be mainstreamed into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

.../2



biodiversity@iclei.org

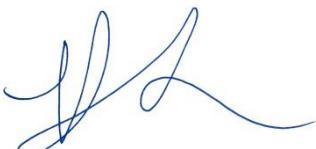
To make a significant impact, we need to mobilize without delay

I encourage you to:

- **Take action** in your city or region to address biodiversity challenges and integrate nature-based solutions in your development approach, including as you prepare your post-COVID recovery plans.
- **Join** the global *CitiesWithNature* initiative, which offers a unique platform for all cities to share ambitions, projects and actions and to learn from and inspire each other towards further action. Joining *CitiesWithNature* is free and easy, and by doing so, you will also be contributing to our goal of making this the world's largest collective commitment by our urban community to act *for and with* nature for the benefit of people and our planet.
- **Liaise with** the National Focal Points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in your country, to make them aware of your track record and engagement on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and on your perspectives for the Post-2020 framework. **Call on** them to support a dedicated new Decision on local and subnational action for biodiversity.
- **Work with** me and others to empower your community and raise awareness about the value of biodiversity and nature's contribution to human health and well-being. **Celebrate** special days to raise awareness, such as International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) and World Environment Day (June 5).
- **Participate and follow** the outcomes of key events and make your voice heard. Follow [@CitiesWNature](#) and [@ICLEICBC](#) on Twitter for information about key events and their outcomes.
- **Mobilize in the lead-up to COP 15**, including the planned 7th Global Summit of Local and Subnational Governments.

Ultimately, we need to halt and reverse the trends of biodiversity loss and take the path of *Living in Harmony with Nature*. Together, let's take strong action to create vibrant cities, where people and biodiversity can thrive.

I thank you in advance for your support and, most importantly, your decisive action, and I wish you all strength and wisdom in dealing with the considerable challenges that lie ahead.



Valérie Plante

Mayor of Montréal

ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity

Useful links:

biodiversity@iclei.org

[CitiesWithNature](#)

[National Focal Points of the CBD](#)

[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

[World Environment Day](#)



biodiversity@iclei.org

ANNEX 1

CALL FROM SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR A STEPPED-UP DEDICATED DECISION AND RENEWED PLAN OF ACTION TOWARDS THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Draft subject to further consultation, 15 May 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.) This document provides an overview of what has been achieved at the global, national and subnational levels since 2008 in strengthening the role and contributions by the subnational and local levels of government towards the achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It focuses specifically on reviewing the successes, achievements and gaps of Decision X/22 of the CBD adopted at Conference of Parties (COP) 10, on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (the PoA). The current PoA concludes this year and the review makes a strong case, based on the successes and lessons from the past decade, for renewing the PoA with a stepped up and more ambitious plan, under the new global biodiversity framework.
- 2.) Nature is declining at an alarming rate, and we've seen that the current global response is insufficient. The difficulty to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors and across all levels of government, is one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the current CBD Strategic Plan. While this Plan was intended to be more focused on the Parties to the CBD - the countries - the next global biodiversity framework is intended to be inclusive and participatory, actively engaging all stakeholders and all levels of governments. Cities are engines of innovative solutions, while subnational governments can ensure both vertical and horizontal integration of biodiversity policies. Local and subnational governments can take direct action to restore ecosystems and reverse extinction trends, while tackling a wide range of sustainable development issues.
- 3.) Urgent action is needed at all levels of government and with all other actors to halt the current trajectory of biodiversity loss and achieve the transformative action called for by scientists, governments and other stakeholders. A renewed and significantly stepped-up PoA will institutionalize the need for collaboration between all levels of government, to ensure we are capable of realizing the level of ambition we foresee in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GFB).

2. The current Plan of Action 2011 to 2020

- 4.) Decision X/22 and its 10-year (2011-2020) "[Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity](#)" was the first-ever long-term Decision by a Rio Convention to recognize and support the role of subnational and local governments as key implementing partners to the Parties. It provided guidelines outlining how national governments could assist local and subnational governments in implementing the CBD, preparing action plans and ultimately assist their national governments in achieving the goals of the Convention. More recently, the 14th meeting of the Parties adopted an unprecedented number of decisions -seven in total- that relate to further involvement of all levels of government. The call for a comprehensive and participatory process to prepare the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework also recognized the critical importance of local and subnational governments and it is time to manifest this approach beyond 2020.

5.) The response to the process of recognizing subnational and local governments includes the implementation and strengthening of initiatives, projects, programs. Further evidence lies in the advocacy work done by networks, consultative bodies and alliances, such as the [Group of Leading Subnational Governments to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) (GoLS) led by the Governor of Aichi, that gather global leaders, from local and subnational governments, willing to rise to the challenge of halting biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. Among the networks that have taken on the advocacy work are [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Cities Biodiversity Center](#) (CBD) and [Regions4 Sustainable Development](#), both organizations head the Advisory Committees, resulting from Decision X/22, on Cities and Subnational Governments, respectively, and actively contribute to the dialogue with the Parties to the Convention and its Secretariat on behalf of local and subnational leaders. Furthermore, the [European Committee of the Regions](#) is a consultative body of both local and subnational governments leading the discussions at a European level. The robust examples of what has been achieved are testimony that both constituencies and its platforms are ready to play a stronger involvement in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, provided that it allows for the manifestation of their potential as fundamental partners of the Parties in its implementation.

3. Main components of a new dedicated and stepped-up decision that builds on a renewed Plan of Action toward 2030

6.) Now more than ever, the whole of government must take decisive action, individually and collectively, to bring about the transformative change needed to bend the curve in biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. To fully support Parties in the development, adoption as a policy instrument, and implementation of an effective, participatory and bold new global biodiversity framework, local and subnational governments are calling for:

- (i) the inclusion, as appropriate, of subnational and local government in 2030 and 2050 goals and 2030 action targets;
- (ii) resource mobilization for increased investment in biodiversity action at subnational and local levels;
- (iii) mainstreaming of biodiversity at subnational and local levels;
- (iv) capacity-building for subnational and local governments;
- (v) tailoring CEPA initiatives and instruments to the subnational and local contexts (communicating, educating and raising public awareness);
- (vi) monitoring, evaluation and feedback by subnational and local governments; and
- (vii) support for networks and alliances to accelerate biodiversity action by subnational and local governments.

For each, the following sections present supportive elements and principles for the Parties' consideration.

a) Inclusion, as appropriate, of subnational and local governments in 2030 and 2050 goals and 2030 action targets

7.) Subnational and local governments are part and parcel of Government and accountable to national governments to varying degrees. They are essential partners in supporting the implementation of the CBD, yet they are an underused ally and resource for achieving global biodiversity goals. They are currently undertaking meaningful action on both direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and seeking to work with nature to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to contribute to

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Determined Contributions (NDCs). Local action and management at ecosystem and landscape levels lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and equity. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must create enabling conditions in which the subnational and local governments' role is recognized and their contribution valued and optimized if it is to achieve transformative outcomes at the global scale. It is therefore necessary to formally recognize the role of subnational and local governments in the 2030 and 2050 outcome-oriented goals and action-oriented targets. To this end, they should, whenever realistic and feasible, include a clear reference to active participation by subnational and local governments. To meet such targets and goals, subnational and local governments are not only important implementers of action plans and strategies developed at national level, but also critical innovators in developing solutions on the ground, at the subnational and local level. They work not only through their mandated authority but also through extensive voluntary contributions, creating important partnerships that mobilize the business sector, civil society organisations, IPLC, youth and women. Making the most of what subnational and local governments have to offer will mean recognizing the full range of the roles that they can play. It would, therefore, be necessary to include, as appropriate, local and/or subnational contributions into designing, committing to and implementing NBSAPs and other implementation support mechanisms. To promote multilevel governance, UN organizations and associated global actors should invite representatives of the subnational and local government constituency to serve formally and participate fully in institutional structures and instruments where appropriate. This will ensure that subnational and local positions and contributions are fully realized and enabled, as has happened in the case of the CBD's Informal Advisory Group on the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Advisory Committee on Programme of Work for the Global Initiative for Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

b) Resource mobilization for increased investment in biodiversity action at subnational and local levels

8.) Subnational and local governments face numerous obstacles in accessing the existing international and regional resource opportunities, and in attracting public and private financing for biodiversity. It is, therefore, necessary to address such obstacles and barriers in the post-2020 biodiversity policy framework by creating enabling conditions for greater investments in biodiversity action by subnational and local governments. Meanwhile, subnational and local governments should be able to reprioritize their own resources - i.e. within their budget - as well as to mobilize new resources from the private sector. It is imperative that no global crisis is addressed at the cost of leaving nature behind: Now more than ever, nature-based solutions must be part of the solution to global crises. It is vital the contribution by subnational and local governments in addressing these crises, is well understood and adequately resourced, and investment into nature-based solutions increased.

c) Mainstreaming of biodiversity at subnational and local level

9.) To make further progress in mainstreaming biodiversity - under the Long-Term Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) recommended by the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming - it is imperative to reinforce the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across the whole of government, and its policies, including land-use planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, fiscal policies, budgets and accounts. Secondly, to identify the efforts that subnational and local governments specifically need to undertake, together with the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other major groups and stakeholders to support biodiversity mainstreaming across jurisdictional, cross-cutting and sectoral policies. Thirdly, to ensure an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social, economic and health benefits of nature at the

subnational and local levels, to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities; enhance social cohesion; lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments; and promote sustainable consumption and production, within planetary boundaries, for urban lifestyles.

d) Capacity building for subnational and local governments

10.) Subnational and local governments should be equipped with adequate human, financial and technical means, commensurate to their responsibility and jurisdictions, so that actions taken at the subnational and local levels can contribute effectively to the implementation of NBSAPs. Specific consideration should also be given to strengthening subnational and local governments' capacity to implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) and green and blue infrastructure; and to take actions that improve the quality of life and resilience of their communities, by adopting systemic and ecosystem approaches to challenges that communities face daily such as shelter, food, water, energy, pollution, transport, health care, decent employment opportunities and enhancement of livelihood options. These are all interlinked and fundamentally connected in nature. It is therefore necessary to identify and recognize these needs resulting in a more efficient biodiversity action.

e) Subnational and local government-tailored CEPA (communicating, educating and raising public awareness) and local action

11.) The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be supported by a coherent, comprehensive and innovative communication strategy. Building on lessons learnt from the implementation of the Strategy Plan 2011-2020, subnational and local governments should explicitly be part of the post-2020 communication strategy. They are better placed to raise public awareness on the need for immediate biodiversity action, as well as take action across the whole of society, as they are the closest public authority to citizens and are also the best informed of the specific context they operate in. Their direct connection to communities and circumstances provides them with unique insight and legitimacy when communicating necessary changes in lifestyle and production patterns, while reconnecting nature and people in and around our cities and regions. In the forthcoming Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, with around 75% of our planets' resources being used in and around cities, and urban populations set to rise to almost 70% by 2050, subnational and local governments' will inevitably play an important role in restoring vital ecosystems that provide food and energy, water and biodiversity to support life.

f) Monitoring, evaluation and feedback by subnational and local governments

12.) To assess the implementation of measures included in the NBSAPs, each country needs to collect data from the subnational and local levels. It is therefore necessary that Parties support subnational and local governments to improve decision-making through better access to biodiversity data; and develop a monitoring system that facilitates data collection by subnational and local governments that will then be aggregated at national level for reporting and evaluation. Monitoring would benefit from integrating input by subnational and local governments into setting targets in NBSAPs, and other frameworks such as National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sendai risk frameworks, UN Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative Framework, and health and well-being indices. In the post-Covid world, integration and measurement across biodiversity, climate, sustainability, economic, health and well-being agendas will be increasingly necessary. This in turn would help provide feedback on progress towards attaining biodiversity goals and targets, including on the actions taken, their effectiveness, and resulting changes in biological, social and economic conditions that contribute to the attainment of SDGs and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature platform

provides an online mechanism, which is endorsed by the CBD Secretariat, where subnational and local governments can make their commitments and set targets as the basis for enabling ongoing monitoring and reporting that can feed into national monitoring and reporting systems.

g) Support for networks and alliances to accelerate biodiversity action by SNGs

13.) Parties should facilitate the international cooperation among subnational and local governments, as well as their membership in alliances or networks with nearby authorities or with authorities under the same national legislation as a measure to address lack of economic and financial resource – realizing e.g. economies of scale with expertise-pooling or pool implementation of NBSs; to address knowledge gaps or the need for capacity-building. To this end, it is necessary to address the digital gap to allow increased connectivity and use of online platforms to make it easier for subnational and local governments to work together also online. Recognition should also be given to the value of peer-to-peer exchanges and the pioneering work that ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the European Committee of Regions, Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have played supporting and strengthening subnational and local governments.

4. Concluding remarks

This document is the product of ongoing engagement and collaborative effort between ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainable Development and its Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), the European Committee of Regions (CoR), the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Government of Quebec), and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS). It was prepared as input into the [Edinburgh Process for Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities on the development of the Post 2020 GBF](#). The Edinburgh Process will be delivered through online consultations taking place over May and June 2020. The online consultations will be supported by a series of online information sessions (5 – 8 May 2020) and thematic webinars (dates tbc). The Edinburgh Process is part of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity Open-Ended Working Group for the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as a partner event. The process will virtually bring together delegates from across the globe and is being hosted by the Government of Scotland. ICLEI is one of the co-organizers of this consultation process. The process aims to consult the local and subnational government constituency on the Zero Draft Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), recommendations for a renewed and stepped-up dedicated Decision and Plan of Action on local and subnational governments, and the Edinburgh Declaration, as joint outputs from the Edinburgh Process that will feed into the CBD consultation processes.