



Region of Durham

Ajax • Brock • Clarington • Oshawa
Pickering • Scugog • Uxbridge • Whitby





Priorities for Federal Investment

The Region of Durham welcomes partnership with the Government of Canada, to successfully implement Durham's strategic priorities for the benefit of our residents and businesses.

This document identifies Durham's top priorities requiring decisive action and allocation-based financial support from the federal government. Durham Region requests that the federal government:

1. Commit to the advancement of an airport and related industrial development on the federal lands in Pickering, enabling the vision of a Toronto East Aerotropolis.
2. Invest in the implementation of the original route planned for the Lakeshore GO East extension, which runs north of the 401, to ensure the transit expansion meets the needs of the community and local business.
3. Partner with the Province of Ontario to ensure timely intake and approval of projects to build Durham's Integrated Rapid Transit Network.
4. Participate in the implementation of Regional programs to support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
5. Fund our partners through the Connect To Innovate program to provide all Durham residents with broadband access.
6. Invest in the modernization and expansion of public works projects so that Durham has the critical infrastructure to continue to build communities supported by safe and reliable systems and services.
7. Support the long-term vision of the Region to use pre-sorting and anaerobic digestion to assist with waste management diversion.
8. Partner with the Province to provide Early Learning and Child Care funding beyond 2020 and amend the Co-Investment Fund-Repair and Renewal Stream to allow greater access by all community housing providers.

The Region of Durham

Durham Region is fast growing and dynamic region located east of Toronto, in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area of Ontario. We are home to a highly skilled workforce, quality education and health care institutions, a growing technology sector and a unique rural / urban landscape.

Many of our communities appear in national 'top 10 lists' of best places to live or start a business. We have an exceptional quality of life with communities that maintain the balance between urban amenities and green space.

Our focus is on innovative projects and improvements to support the continued growth and prosperity of the Region.



Toronto East Aerotropolis

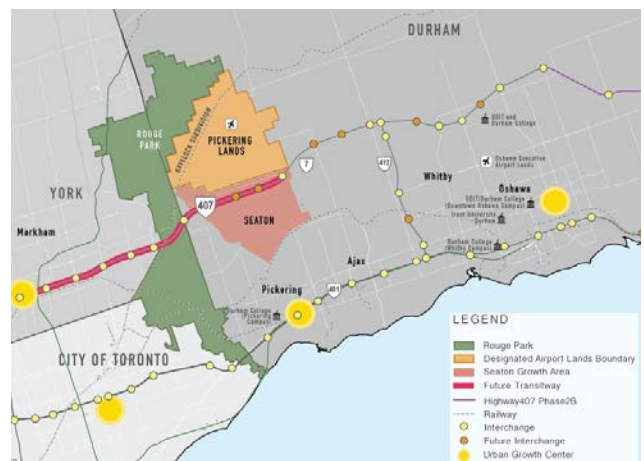
Durham Region’s top priority for the Government of Canada is to support the development of an airport on the federal lands in Pickering and enable the vision for a Toronto East Aerotropolis. The approximate 8,700 acres of land is sufficient to accommodate aerospace-related economic development, including transportation and logistics facilities, and indoor, year-round agriculture. The attraction of aviation and related companies to an Aerotropolis will create thousands of jobs and strengthen business development in the Region.

Now is the time to move forward.

- The Transport Canada Aviation Sector Analysis is ready for release in 2019.
- Pearson International Airport will reach capacity by the early 2040s.
- Toronto East Aerotropolis’ contemporary vision includes a focus on innovation, investment and employment within a model of sustainable airport operations.
- The potential impact is far greater than a typical airport: driving and attracting new technologies, reducing environmental impacts, designing integrated transportation connections and developing unique community partnerships.
- This is an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen Canada’s position in advanced manufacturing and employment in emerging sectors.

The airport will:

- Create thousands of jobs closer to home, a top priority for residents;
- Spark growth in the innovation corridor;
- Strengthen Canada’s global competitiveness; and
- Capitalize on the investment in Highway 407 corridor.



We recommend that the federal government move now to support the development of the Toronto East Aerotropolis, allowing Durham to become the next economic engine of Canada.

Lakeshore GO East Extension

Metrolinx and the Province committed to extend GO train service through Oshawa to Bowmanville along the CP rail line, with stops at Thornton Corners, Downtown Oshawa, Courtice and Bowmanville. The extension is supported by an approved environmental assessment, detailed planning, land acquisition and infrastructure improvements along the planned route. In 2019, Metrolinx advised that due to cost escalation, they are now considering 3 additional route options for the Lakeshore GO East extension.



The Region, along with the local area municipalities, post secondary education institutions, local businesses and commuters, advise Metrolinx to continue with the original route option (option #1; shown in blue above) to:

- Support the goal of land use intensification and long-range transit integration
- Provide the best opportunity to realize investment from private sector
- Aid communities in revitalization of the downtown
- Allow residents to use public transit or active transportation to move between their homes and future GO stations

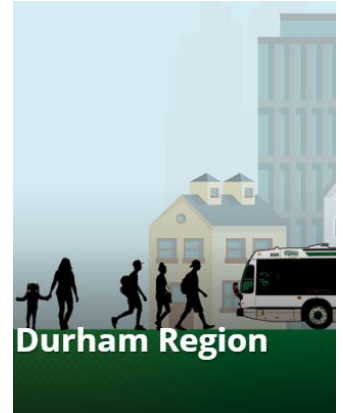
Lakeshore GO East Extension Option #1 will Transform Durham

- Accessible, convenient transit is critical for Durham to manage a rapidly growing population, alleviate traffic congestion and reduce GHG emissions.
- Route option #1 is the only option that promotes business attraction and transit oriented development, support climate change efforts and build healthy communities.

We recommend that the federal government invest in implementing route option #1 for the Lakeshore GO East extension to ensure the transit expansion meets the needs of the community and local business.

Integrated Rapid Transit Network

The Region of Durham is developing infrastructure to continue to attract employment and residential growth. Forming a truly integrated network, the rapid transit lines will enable fast and reliable mobility for residents and visitors as they travel between east GTA growth centres of Downtown Oshawa, Pickering City Centre and Scarborough Town Centre, connecting transportation, business and education hubs and contributing to the GTA's economic prosperity.



Durham Region Transit (DRT) priority infrastructure projects will require support from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding with additional costs borne by the Region. The federal government has already committed \$95 million towards transit in Durham. Receipt of ICIP funding is crucial for Durham to move these important transit infrastructure projects forward to meet the needs of our growing community.

Simcoe Street Rapid Transit

- Infrastructure would upgrade this critical north-south travel corridor and link growth at Highway 407, Ontario Tech University, Durham College, Downtown Oshawa and the extension of the Lakeshore GO East rail line.

Hwy 2 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Completion

- Dedicated bus lanes spanning across Durham Region and into Scarborough.
- An initial business case, funded by Metrolinx, estimated that BRT implementation from Oshawa to Scarborough Centre could result in \$686 million in economic benefits.

New DRT bus facility and amenities

- DRT growth requires additional capacity for indoor bus storage / maintenance.
- Region is aiming to build phase one of a modular facility to add capacity.

We recommend that the federal government partner with the Province of Ontario to ensure timely intake and approval of projects under ICIP to build Durham's Integrated Rapid Transit Network.

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

Conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are integral to the Region. The Region's Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) Plan ensures that energy conservation remains central to the organization's culture and best-practice decision-making. The activities in the CDM plan have resulted in significant improvements to behavioural and organizational processes and achieved an estimated \$18 million in cumulative cost avoidance (including electricity).

In addition, Durham Region has ambitious targets to reduce community GHG emissions levels by 80% by 2050.

Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP)

The DCEP plan was approved by Council in 2019 as a guide to the development, storage, transmission and use of energy. By pursuing a low carbon pathway, Durham will accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy while simultaneously achieving multiple economic development, employment, environmental and social benefits.



Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan (DCCAP)

The climate is changing globally and here in Durham. The DCCAP is Durham's response to the risks posed to our infrastructure, health and welfare, and economy due to climate change. It was recognized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as the best municipal climate plan in Canada.

The DCCAP outlines 18 programs which cross seven sectors. Regional staff are currently designing the first five programs to be implemented under the plan.



We recommend that the federal government partner directly with the Region to implement programs to support climate adaptation and mitigation.

Broadband Access

Broadband (high speed Internet) provides connectivity in a world that is increasingly moving online. Access to broadband is associated with quality of life and the economic competitiveness of communities.

There are service gaps in Durham's rural areas and upgrading or installing broadband infrastructure is cost prohibitive to businesses, preventing them from taking advantage of innovative technology and increasing their economic vitality. In particular, Durham's rural communities need access to broadband due to the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in farming.

Connecting our Communities, A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region has been endorsed by Council.

The Region's priorities, outlined in the Broadband Strategy, are to:

- i) create an environment of coordination and collaboration;
- ii) address service gaps; and
- iii) support improved affordability.



Implementation of the Region's Broadband Strategy

- A Broadband Specialist will lead the implementation of the Strategy.
- The Region will partner with Internet Service Providers to support the provision of broadband services in the Region.
- The Region will support partners to attract funding from the federal Connect To Innovate program.



We recommend that the federal government provide funding to our partners via the Connect To Innovate program thereby advancing the Region's Broadband Strategy and bringing broadband access to all Durham residents.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Expansion

Several modernization and expansion projects will be necessary over the next 10 years to ensure the Region's infrastructure continues to meet the needs of the growing community. In addition to the projects below, Durham's population growth is putting pressure on the aging road infrastructure which requires rehabilitation efforts and would benefit from federal support.



Facilities Expansion (~\$92M)

- Public Works Depot expansion and modernization to support the maintenance and operations to the Region's public works infrastructure.
- Waste Management Facility refurbishment and expansion.

Water Supply (~\$68M)

- Liberty St. Reservoir to support existing system and growth in Bowmanville.
- Alternative water supply source in Township of Scugog to restore confidence in drinking water source.
- Ajax, Oshawa, Port Perry and Beaverton water main installation and replacement.



Sanitary Sewage (~\$338M)

- Significant upgrades to equipment and facilities in the Water Pollution Control Plants in Clarington, Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering are required.
- Investments in sanitary sewers in Courtice and Pickering are required for further land development.

We recommend that the federal government invest in the modernization and expansion of Public Works projects to support the rapid employment and residential growth over the next decade.

Resource Recovery

The Region collects and processes municipal solid waste from Pickering, Ajax, Clarington, Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge and processes waste from Whitby and Oshawa who do their own collection. Waste volumes are expected to grow as the Region increases housing density.

The long-term vision for organic waste management includes the receipt and transfer of municipal solid wastes and organics, mixed waste pre-sorting and anaerobic digestion.

This innovative waste management solution has the potential to:

- Increase waste diversion towards the Region's target of 70%.
- Defer the need for future expansion of the Durham York Energy Centre so that current capacity will continue to meet future needs.
- Attract additional partnerships and climate change funding.

Supporting Durham's Sustainability Efforts

- Durham's waste disposal needs are growing.
- Biofuel for organic waste and offsetting fuel use is a significant program outlined in the Durham Community Energy Plan.
- The proposed mixed-waste pre-sorting and anaerobic digestion facility would recover resources and be a sustainable infrastructure project for a healthy community.



We recommend that the federal government support the long-term vision of Durham Region to increase waste diversion with a Waste Transfer Station and Pre-Sort and Organics Management (Anaerobic Digestion) Facility.

Increased Access to Social Services

Durham's population is growing, raising demands on social services provided by the Region. The Region envisions federal partnerships to support increased access to early learning and child care and affordable housing to support all of our residents.



Childcare: Ontario has the lowest rate of women in the workforce, related to high costs and limited spots for child care. Families in Durham have benefited from the Federal Early Learning and Childcare Funding, which has provided more than \$3.5 million annually to increase access to quality child care. This funding was planned as a 10-year commitment but installments beyond 2020 are contingent on the continued to support by the provincial and federal governments.

Growing Region = Growing Needs

- Changes in funding may prevent the Region from moving any, of the more than 5,500 children, off the child care fee subsidy wait list.
- In 2018, there were over 6,500 households on the Durham Access to Social Housing waitlist for Rent geared to Income housing with wait times for some individuals anticipated to be 14 years.

Housing: Durham Region has a significant shortage of affordable rental housing options. The federal government's investment into community housing to preserve 2018 baseline funding is applauded and the Region would welcome any funding that incentivizes the development of below market rental housing. Further, amendments to reduce restrictions to the Co-investment Fund-Repair and Renewal Stream would provide desperately needed funding to preserve the existing community housing stock.

We recommend that the federal government partner with the Province to provide Early Learning and Child Care funding beyond 2020 and amend the Co-Investment Fund-Repair and Renewal Stream to allow greater access by all community housing providers.

Durham's Strategic Priorities

Each of the priority projects outlined in this document are part of Durham Region's Strategic Plan 2015-2019. The Strategic Plan sets priorities and focuses our efforts to strengthen operations. It has provided the shared vision, mission, and common goals while enabling staff to adjust the organization's response to a changing environment.



Durham Region is updating our Strategic Plan. It is a process of reflection, discussion and community building that allows us to focus on what matters most. To shape our narrative about why Durham Region is the place to be, we are engaging Regional Council, area municipalities, staff, residents, key partners, clients and other stakeholders.

We are also developing a Community Safety and Well-Being plan which will address the strengths and the areas for growth in Durham. This collaborative effort will build on the effectiveness of Durham Connect, the community situation table which brings together policing and community agencies to collectively support residents at risk.



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