

May 7, 2020

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RE: Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area (ERO # 019-1503)

Please accept this letter in response to the Environmental Registry of Ontario – ERO #019-1503 Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area. The Town of Caledon is appreciative of the opportunity to provide initial comments on the above ERO posting. Additional comments may be provided after May 26, 2020, as a result of the presentation of this initiative to Town of Caledon Council.

Town staff are supportive of early identification and protection of infrastructure corridors. We anticipate these efforts will provide greater certainty for the Town and stakeholders to make more informed land use planning decisions. The Town is supportive of the narrowed area of interest to designate the future electricity infrastructure corridor, which appears to overlap with the Ministry of Transportation's 2019 GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment Study Area within Caledon. The ERO posting identifies that there are two areas retained that are important to accommodate transmission infrastructure connection points, but as these areas appear outside of Caledon there are no apparent concerns regarding these additional areas. Further there are no concerns with removing areas that are only relevant to transportation infrastructure. Staff would recommend that other necessary utilities be considered along the corridor, including high speed fibre for internet connections.

There are several Town of Caledon planning initiatives along the proposed corridor that should be noted relative to this study:

1. A Provincially Significant Employment Zone (Zone 15) was recently identified in Bolton, extending to the west of the settlement boundary and further south. Staff are waiting on further direction and policy from the Province to guide future development of this land. The identified corridor runs through this area.
2. Mayfield West Phase 2 Stage 1 was approved, however development of a portion of this future community is in abeyance due to the ongoing GTA West Transportation Corridor EA Study.
3. Mayfield West Phase 2 Stage 2 planning is underway, with an anticipated approved date in 2022. This area is in close proximity to the proposed GTA West and IESO corridor.

4. The Region of Peel is in the process of a municipal comprehensive review and has identified a settlement area boundary expansion (SABE) focused study area for consideration. This focused study area covers much of the southern area of Caledon and will be narrowed down to identify future expansion lands to accommodate a significant amount of population and employment growth. This study will have impacts on the timing and amount of future hydro needs, but the expansion location will impact the corridor location, and vice versa.
5. The Coleraine Drive interchange along the preferred GTA West Corridor alignment is currently being reviewed and the location of this may change, which may also result in refining the highway alignment. More details on this can be obtained from the MTO project team.
6. The Brampton-Caledon Flying Club is in close proximity to the corridor. The Airport should be engaged through this study to mitigate and reduce any potential impacts on their operations and future plans while setting out the electricity corridor.

The proposed guiding principles for corridor identification are generally reasonable as this study moves forward however, the Town seeks clarification regarding the fifth principle - provide flexibility for the future. More specifically, how will this study address climate change mitigation and support a clean low-carbon energy future? Further, it is important that this study align with the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA Study, particularly with regards to timing. It should be noted that a significant amount of development land in Caledon is already on hold due to the Environmental Assessment, including lands that have been designated for development, and have landowners waiting to begin construction. Again, please note that additional comments may be forthcoming following the Town Council meeting on May 26, 2020. Should there be a need for any mapping or boundaries these can be shared with the Province and IESO upon request.

If you have any comments or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Peggy Tollett
General Manager
Community Services

c: Carey Herd, CAO, Town of Caledon
Erin Britnell, Manager of Information Technology, Town of Caledon
Sylvia Kirkwood, Manager of Policy and Sustainability, Town of Caledon