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August 23, 2024

Rebecca Whelan
Deputy Clerk/Information Management Coordinator
County of Dufferin
30 Centre Street
Orangeville, ON, L9W 2X1
Email: rwhelan@dufferincounty.ca

**Re: County of Dufferin Official Plan Amendment 4
Phase 3 of Municipal Comprehensive Review
MMAH File No.: 22-OP-230826**

Dear Rebecca Whelan,

The review of the adopted County of Dufferin Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 4 by Ontario One Window ministries is now complete. The enclosed draft decision with proposed modifications is based on an analysis of the adopted OPA 4 for consistency with the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), conformity with A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 (APTG), as well as compliance with the *Planning Act*.

A rationale for each proposed modification is included in Appendix 1 to this letter, with references to the relevant provincial policies or legislation.

Please contact Ministry staff to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposed modifications at your earliest convenience. We are happy to answer any questions and receive your input. We are seeking municipal feedback and an indication of comfort with the proposed modifications by September 6, 2024. Ministry staff would be pleased to meet virtually with you to discuss this further.

For further information, please contact Erick Boyd, Manager, Community Planning and Development, Municipal Services Office - West at Erick.Boyd@ontario.ca or 226-688-9058.

Sincerely,

Ian Kerr, Regional Director
Municipal Services Office - West

C. Silva Yousif – Senior Planner, County of Dufferin.

Appendix 1

Rationale for Proposed Modifications to Official Plan Amendment 4 to the County of Dufferin Official Plan

Modification 1 – This modification corrects a typographical error in the proposed planning horizon for County of Dufferin Official Plan by deleting the 2036 horizon and replacing it with 2051 as required by A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (APTG).

Modifications 2 and 3 – These modifications remove duplicate policies in sections 3.5.1.2 and 3.5.1.3 of the proposed updated official plan.

Modification 4 – This modification clarifies the provincial requirements for converting lands designated as “Employment Lands” to another designation as per PPS 1.3.2.4 and 1.3.2.5, APTG 2.2.5. 9 and 2.2.5.10.

Modification 5 – This modification aligns the consultation related polies in the county’s Official Plan with Bill 185 changes to the Planning Act by clarifying that a pre-application consultation meeting cannot be mandated by the county and is at the discretion of the applicant.

Modification 6 – This modification removes the proposed section 4.4.4, which prohibits the development of petroleum resources, and replaces it with the current in-effect Official Plan policies to maintain consistency with PPS 2.4.2.1 and 2.4.2.2.

Modification 7 – This modification clarifies that in addition to natural heritage features identified in the County’s Official Plan schedules, additional natural heritage features may also be identified when evaluating development applications.

Modification 8 - This modification clarifies that Habitat of Threatened or Endangered Species and species at Risk are currently the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Modification 9 – This modification clarifies that Certificate of Approvals (CofAs) are currently known as Environmental Compliance Approvals.

Modification 10 – This modification strengthens the county’s overarching infrastructure, and servicing policies by directing that the county strategically locate infrastructure and public service facilities to support the delivery of emergency management services and the protection of public health and safety, as per PPS 1.6.4.

Modification 11 – This incorporates the development and use of transit into the county’s overarching transportation and infrastructure objectives as per the intent of PPS 1.6.7.4, and APTG 3.2.2.2b and 3.2.3.2f, g).

Modification 12 – This modification establishes that in addition to economic development, mobility is also one of the functions of having a transportation system as per PPS 1.6.7.1 and Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe – Section 5.3.

Modification 13 – This modification clarifies that an approval from MECP is required for communal servicing under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act. It also recommends consultation with MECP when communal systems are proposed.

Modification 14 – This modification ensures that the county’s policy regarding individual on-site services comply with the requirements of PPS 1.6.6.4.

Modification 15 – This modification expands the county’s active transportation policies to include consideration for provincial active transportation networks as outlined in the Province-Wide Cycling Network.

Modification 16 – This modification expands the scope of the county’s Indigenous engagement to include not only adjacent Indigenous communities, but also Indigenous communities whose Treaty Rights and or claims include lands within the County of Dufferin which is in keeping with the broader intent of PPS 1.2.2.

Modifications 17 – 21: These modifications align the consultation related polices in the county’s Official Plan with Bill 185 changes to the Planning Act by clarifying that a pre-application consultation meeting cannot be mandated by the county and is at the discretion of the applicant.

Modification 22 - This modification ensures that definitions in OPA 4 are updated to reflect the 2020 version of the PPS.