

Bill 23 Transition Update

November 20, 2024



Region of Waterloo

Today's Presentation

- Bill 23 overview
- Changing roles and responsibilities
- Continued Regional responsibilities
- Supporting a seamless transition
- Next Steps



Bill 23 Overview

- Transfer of planning approval authority from the Region to Area Municipalities is anticipated on January 1st, 2025
- Cities and townships will be responsible for long-term land use planning and development application approval processes moving forward
- The Region will continue to play an important role in commenting on the provision of critical community infrastructure and services
- A transition team composed of Municipal planning staff across Waterloo Region is working together to ensure we are collectively prepared for a seamless transition

Changing Roles and Responsibilities

The Region will:

- be an “upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities”
- transition from approval authority to a commenting agency
- no longer be the approval authority of Area Municipalities' official plans/official plan amendments or for plans of subdivision and condominium
- no longer have a Regional Official Plan (ROP) – the ROP will be an Official Plan for the Area Municipalities
- have limited ability to appeal to or seek party status at the Ontario Land Tribunal
- have the ability, through an agreement, to provide advice and assistance to the Area Municipalities in respect of land use planning matters

Regional Responsibilities

The Region's commenting will focus on key infrastructure and service delivery that is delivered to the community:

- Regional Infrastructure
- the Region's role in Public Health & Paramedic Services
- Regional Transit (ION and GRT)
- Region of Waterloo International Airport
- Regional Waste Management
- the Region's role in affordable housing
- responsibilities associated with a specific mandate prescribed by legislation, such as source water protection
- other Regional services that have a land component

Collaborative Transition Planning

- The Region and Area Municipalities continue to work collaboratively together on Bill 23 transition
- Key discussions to provide clarity on roles and support a smooth transition
- File and data transfer
- Discussions are on-going on how to best optimize a collaborative, coordinated framework to support growth

Internal Transition Planning

- Continued cross-departmental engagement and input into the transition process
- Updates to development-related process and service delivery
- Creation of an implementation manual for Regional staff, providing consistent and transparent application review



Next Steps

- Transition planning continues internally and with Area Municipal staff to clearly document roles and responsibilities in the new system and new ways of working
- Continued updates to Council

