



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 31, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Coordinated Provincial Plan Review (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan) - Comments on Greenbelt Plan Minor Boundary Changes (PED15078(c))
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 11, 12, 14 and 15
PREPARED BY:	Joanne Hickey-Evans Manager of Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform (905) 546-2424 Ext.1282
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director, Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

None

Information:

On January 11, 2017, the Province released, for public comment, proposed minor changes to the Greenbelt Plan boundaries. Revisions to the text of the Plan will be introduced at a later date. The public comment period on the mapping changes concludes on February 27, 2017.

Background

Through the Co-ordinated Provincial Plan Review, the Province is undertaking a review of:

- The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (“Growth Plan”);
- The Greenbelt Plan;
- The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; and,
- The Niagara Escarpment Plan.

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Throughout the process, consultation has been undertaken with municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and landowners to discuss various aspects of the Plan Review.

One of the components of the Review is the evaluation of the Greenbelt Plan boundaries.

Throughout the course of the review, the City of Hamilton has provided specific comments on potential Greenbelt Plan boundary changes, including both additions and deletions.

- June 2015 (PED15078) and December 2015 (PED15078(a))

City Council made the following recommendations:

- (i) add the lands south of Twenty Mile Creek, east of Miles Road, north of Airport Road, and west of Trinity Church Road (approximately 430 ha) to the Greenbelt Plan (see Appendix “A”);
- (ii) remove the Lower Stoney Creek lands (104 ha) and the lands north of Parkside Drive, east of Centre Road in Waterdown (28 ha) from the Greenbelt Plan (see Appendix “B”); and,
- (iii) add Coldwater Creek as an urban river valley.

In addition, there was a specific recommendation for the Province to work with City staff to review the natural heritage system to reflect the City’s Core Areas.

- September 2016 (PED15078(b))

The Province released its draft Greenbelt Plan boundary changes for comment in May 2016, which included the following proposed boundary changes:

- (i) the addition of the Book Road lands (450 ha) and only a portion of the Miles road area (330 ha), not the full 430 ha which had been requested by City Council (see Appendix “A”);
- (ii) the addition of Fifty Creek as an urban river valley; and,
- (iii) removal of a few parcels of land in Lower Stoney Creek (30 ha) in the Fifty Road – Barton Street area that were already in the urban boundary, which is considered a technical amendment (see Appendix “B”).

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The removal of the lands in Lower Stoney Creek and Waterdown, as well as the westerly portion of the Miles Road area and Coldwater Creek, as requested by the City, were not included in the May 2016 Greenbelt Plan revisions.

In September, 2016, City Council supported the additions to the Greenbelt Plan for Book Road and the Miles Road Area. However, Council also reiterated their previous positions to:

- (i) remove the Waterdown and Lower Stoney Creek lands from the Greenbelt Plan Area; and,
- (ii) add more lands to the Miles Road/Nebo Road area, as well as the Coldwater Creek urban river valley.

In addition, both City Planning staff and the Niagara Conservation Authority staff met with provincial staff to discuss the natural heritage feature (woodland) in the area of the Airport with the view to deleting it. No other areas were discussed.

- January 2017

Staff reviewed the proposed Greenbelt Plan minor boundary changes which were released on January 11, 2017 and note that there are no additional changes for the Hamilton area from the draft Greenbelt Plan revisions that were released in May 2016.

Summary

In summary the proposed boundary changes to the Greenbelt Plan for the Hamilton area are:

- (i) Additions (Appendix "A"):
 - 1. Book Road area;
 - 2. Portion of the Miles/Nebo Road Area; and,
 - 3. Fifty Mile Creek.
- (ii) Deletions (Appendix "B"):
 - 1. Technical removals of small parcels in Stoney Creek which are already within the urban boundary.

There are no additional changes proposed for the City of Hamilton in the January 11, 2017 release.

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The proposed net addition to the Greenbelt Plan is approximately 750 ha plus the lands of the Fifty Creek Urban River Valley.

The Province has requested comments on the proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan Area by February 27, 2017. While no changes are proposed for the Greenbelt Plan Area in Hamilton, if City Council wishes, it could reiterate its recommendations on the requested Greenbelt Plan boundary changes from Council's meeting of September 14, 2016.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Lands Recommended for Addition to Greenbelt Plan by City and Province
- Appendix B: Lands Recommended for Removal from Greenbelt Plan by City and Province

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