

## Appendix A to CAO2021-010

Excerpts from A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019  
(and Amendment 1, 2020)

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### 2.2.1 Managing Growth

5. The Minister will establish a methodology for assessing land needs to implement this Plan, including relevant assumptions and other direction as required. This methodology will be used by upper-and single-tier municipalities to assess the quantity of land required to accommodate forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan.

### 2.2.8 Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

1. *Settlement area* boundaries will be delineated in official plans.
2. A *settlement area* boundary expansion may only occur through a *municipal comprehensive review* where it is demonstrated that:
  - a) based on the minimum intensification and density targets in this Plan and a land needs assessment undertaken in accordance with policy 2.2.1.5, sufficient opportunities to accommodate forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan are not available through *intensification* and in the *designated greenfield area*:
    - i. within the upper-or single-tier municipality, and
    - ii. within the applicable lower-tier municipality;
  - b) the proposed expansion will make available sufficient lands not exceeding the horizon of this Plan, based on the analysis provided for in policy 2.2.8.2 a), while minimizing land consumption; and
  - c) the timing of the proposed expansion and the phasing of development within the *designated greenfield area* will not adversely affect the achievement of the minimum intensification and density targets in this Plan, as well as the other policies of this Plan.
3. Where the need for a *settlement area* boundary expansion has been justified in accordance with policy 2.2.8.2, the feasibility of the proposed expansion will be determined and the most appropriate location for the proposed expansion will be identified based on the comprehensive application of all of the policies in this Plan, including the following:
  - a) there is sufficient capacity in existing or planned *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*;
  - b) the *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* needed would be financially viable over the full life cycle of these assets;

- c) the proposed expansion would be informed by applicable water and wastewater master plans or equivalent and *stormwater master plans* or equivalent, as appropriate;
- d) the proposed expansion, including the associated water, wastewater and stormwater servicing, would be planned and demonstrated to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate any potential negative impacts on watershed conditions and the *water resource system*, including the *quality and quantity of water*;
- e) *key hydrologic areas* and the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* should be avoided where possible;
- f) *prime agricultural areas* should be avoided where possible. To support the *Agricultural System*, alternative locations across the upper-or single-tier municipality will be evaluated, prioritized and determined based on avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impact on the *Agricultural System* and in accordance with the following:
  - i. expansion into *specialty crop areas* is prohibited;
  - ii. reasonable alternatives that avoid *prime agricultural areas* are evaluated; and
  - iii. where *prime agricultural areas* cannot be avoided, lower priority agricultural lands are used;
- g) the *settlement area* to be expanded is in compliance with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
- h) any adverse impacts on the *agri-food network*, including agricultural operations, from expanding *settlement areas* would be avoided, or if avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated as determined through an *agricultural impact assessment*;
- i) the policies of Sections 2 (Wise Use and Management of Resources) and 3 (Protecting Public Health and Safety) of the PPS are applied;
- j) the proposed expansion would meet any applicable requirements of the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation, Niagara Escarpment, and Lake Simcoe Protection Plans and any applicable source protection plan; and
- k) within the Protected Countryside in the *Greenbelt Area*:
  - i. the *settlement area* to be expanded is identified in the Greenbelt Plan as a Town/Village;
  - ii. the proposed expansion would be modest in size, representing no more than a 5 per cent increase in the geographic size of the *settlement area* based on the *settlement area* boundary delineated in the applicable official plan as of July 1, 2017, up to a maximum size of 10 hectares, and residential *development* would not be permitted on more than 50 per cent of the lands that would be added to the *settlement area*;
  - iii. the proposed expansion would support the achievement of *complete communities* or the local agricultural economy;

- iv. the proposed uses cannot be reasonably accommodated within the existing *settlement area* boundary;
- v. the proposed expansion would be serviced by existing *municipal water and wastewater systems* without impacting future *intensification* opportunities in the existing *settlement area*; and
- vi. expansion into the Natural Heritage System that has been identified in the Greenbelt Plan is prohibited.

4. Notwithstanding policy 2.2.8.2, municipalities may adjust *settlement area* boundaries outside of a *municipal comprehensive review*, provided:

- a) there would be no net increase in land within *settlement areas*;
- b) the adjustment would support the municipality's ability to meet the intensification and density targets established pursuant to this Plan;
- c) the location of any lands added to a *settlement area* will satisfy the applicable requirements of policy 2.2.8.3;
- d) the affected *settlement areas* are not *rural settlements* or in the *Greenbelt Area*; and
- e) the *settlement area* to which lands would be added is serviced by *municipal water and wastewater systems* and there is sufficient reserve *infrastructure* capacity to service the lands.

5. Notwithstanding policies 2.2.8.2 and 5.2.4.3, a *settlement area* boundary expansion may occur in advance of a *municipal comprehensive review*, provided:

- a) the lands that are added will be planned to achieve at least the minimum density target in policy 2.2.7.2 or 2.2.5.13, as appropriate;
- b) the location of any lands added to a *settlement area* will satisfy the applicable requirements of policy 2.2.8.3;
- c) the affected *settlement area* is not a *rural settlement* or in the *Greenbelt Area*;
- d) the *settlement area* is serviced by *municipal water and wastewater systems* and there is sufficient reserve *infrastructure* capacity to service the lands; and
- e) the additional lands and associated forecasted growth will be fully accounted for in the land needs assessment associated with the next *municipal comprehensive review*.

6. For a *settlement area* boundary expansion undertaken in accordance with policy 2.2.8.5, the amount of land to be added to the *settlement area* will be no larger than 40 hectares.

#### **5.2.4 Growth Forecasts**

2. All upper-and single-tier municipalities will, at a minimum, through a *municipal comprehensive review*, apply the forecasts in Schedule 3 or such higher forecasts as are established by the applicable upper-or single-tier municipality

through its *municipal comprehensive review* for planning and managing growth to the horizon of this Plan.

3. The population and employment forecasts and plan horizon contained in the applicable upper- or single-tier official plan that is approved and in effect as of August 28, 2020 will apply to all planning matters in that municipality, including lower-tier planning matters where applicable, until the upper- or single-tier municipality has applied the forecasts in Schedule 3 in accordance with policy 5.2.4.2 and those forecasts are approved and in effect in the upper- or single-tier official plan.

## **7 Definitions**

### **Municipal Comprehensive Review**

A new official plan, or an official plan amendment, initiated by an upper-or single-tier municipality under section 26 of the Planning Act that comprehensively applies the policies and schedules of this Plan.