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Town of Aurora  
**Information Report**  
No. PDS21-136

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**Subject:** York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan and Capacity Assignment Update

**Prepared by:** Matthew Volpintesta, Senior Policy Planner

**Department:** Planning and Development Services

**Date:** November 2, 2021

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**In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming General Committee or Council meeting agenda for discussion.**

## **Executive Summary**

This report provides a general overview of the 2021 Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update. The purpose of the Master Plan Update is a recalibration of the 2016 Master Plan and is guided by principles contained within the “One Water” approach (see attached presentation).

This revised Master Plan builds on extending the growth forecast from 2041 to 2051, and utilizes the Region’s approved draft Land Needs Assessment (March 2021). The update to the Master Plan also considers the Upper York Sewage Solutions Water Reclamation Centre (UYSS) as a key component of long-term servicing. The master plan highlights key infrastructure projects and programs which will help facilitate growth through to 2051.

- The Upper York Sewage Solutions (UYSS) Water Reclamation Centre remains a key component of long-term servicing for the Town of Aurora.
- The York Region Wastewater Act – Bill 306 is proposed to hold any decision in the Environmental Assessment for the UYSS.
- Long term, water supply will continue to be blended Lake Ontario-based surface water and groundwater.

- The current servicing capacity balance for York Region at the end of 2020 was 7,281 persons.
- In September 2021, Regional Council authorized assignment of an additional 333 persons to Aurora upon completion of the Henderson Pumping Station and upgrades to the St John's Pumping Station.

## **Background**

The York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan is a recalibration of the 2016 plan and includes an additional \$1.4 billion in new water and wastewater infrastructure. Building on the infrastructure proposed in 2016, the update growth program totals \$4.3 billion over a 30-year horizon.

### **The Upper York Sewage Solutions (UYSS) Water Reclamation Centre remains a key component of long-term servicing for The Town of Aurora**

The UYSS and Water Reclamation Centre is a vital piece of infrastructure to ensure the future growth in Aurora can be adequately supported. This 2021 Master Plan identifies the UYSS as an essential project to ensure growth can be accommodated as projected. The Region is facing significant delay in implementing the UYSS project while waiting for the Province's completion of the duty to consult process and project approval.

According to the legislated timelines set out in the *Environmental Assessment Act* for Environmental Assessments, the Minister's decision on the Upper York Sewage Solutions project was anticipated in February 2015 and the Water Reclamation Centre was projected to be built and operating by 2019.

A revised schedule for completing the project is dependent on the Province's approval of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment. Once the Environmental Assessment is approved, the Region will hold public information sessions in the communities impacted by construction to discuss timing and details in advance of the work beginning. Further engagement with Indigenous peoples will also take place. With continued delays of the EA approval, completion of the project is not expected before 2029.

### **The York Region Wastewater Act – Bill 306 is proposed to hold any decision in the Environmental Assessment for the UYSS**

In June 2021, the Province introduced Bill 306, York Region Wastewater Act, 2021 with a public commenting period. If this is passed into law by the Provincial, the Minister's

decision on the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment will be suspended and all actions related to the undertaking will be prohibited. The Province also intends to set up an Expert Advisory Panel to provide advice on options to address wastewater servicing capacity needs in York Region.

To date, York Region is still waiting on the Minister's approval while the duty to consult process is completed by the Province with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. The Region continues to volunteer its services in support of this process.

## **Analysis**

### **Long term, water supply will continue to be blended Lake Ontario-based surface water and groundwater**

Long term, flows will continue to be sent to York Durham Sewage System through YDSS Interim Servicing Solutions and Forcemain Twinning projects, near term, and Yonge Street Sewer Twinning project also within the next 10 years. Additional supply from the Aurora East Pumping Station Upgrades and Orchard Heights Reservoir Upgrades will be available for near-term solutions. The Bloomington/Bayview Watermain project is planned for long-term.

### **The current servicing capacity balance for York Region at the end of 2020 was 7,281 persons**

The Town of Aurora's Servicing Capacity at the end of 2020 was approximately 5,900 persons, as compared to the Region's 7,281. The latter figure translates into approximately six years of growth for York Region. The difference between the Town's figure and the Region's is attributable to the approach for used for tracking. Where the Town allocates servicing at the draft plan approval stage, the Region allocates servicing after Registration.

### **In September 2021, Regional Council authorized assignment of an additional 333 persons to Aurora upon completion of the Henderson Pumping Station and upgrades to the St. John's Pumping Station**

In September, Regional Council authorized assignment of an additional 1,000 persons capacity to be equally distributed to Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury upon completion of the Henderson Pumping Station. Previously, it has been identified that the additional 333 persons allocation will be distributed to centres and corridors only, to be confirmed by the Region.

## **Advisory Committee Review**

None

## **Legal Considerations**

In June 2021, the Province introduced Bill 306, York Region Wastewater Act, 2021 that if passed, the Minister's decision on the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment will be suspended and all actions related to the undertaking will be prohibited.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. However, there is a potential financial risk to the Town should its servicing allocation balance be allowed to fully deplete resulting in planned development being impeded thus delaying or eliminating planned growth-related revenues. These revenues may include planning and building application fees, development charges, and additional tax levy revenues

## **Communications Considerations**

There are no communication considerations arising as a result of this report.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

This report supports the Strategic Plan objective of investing in sustainable infrastructure, specifically through the action item of development policies to ensure that growth is phased and coordinated with existing and planned infrastructure.

## **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

1. That Council provide direction.

## **Conclusions**

The 2021 York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan provides an overview of key planning and infrastructure milestones to support future growth in Aurora. 333 persons of additional capacity assignment will be granted to the Town of Aurora based on

planned upgrades to servicing infrastructure. Both the Region and Town staff support the prompt approval of the UYSS Environmental Assessment.

## **Attachments**

1. York Region 2021 Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update

## **Previous Reports**

None

## **Pre-submission Review**

Agenda Management Team review on October 14, 2021

## **Approvals**

**Approved by David Waters, MCIP, RPP, PLE, Director, Planning and Development Services**

**Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer**

# 2021 WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN

Presented to  
**Town of Aurora**

Presented by  
**Wendy Kemp and  
Tracey Carrigan**

November 2, 2021

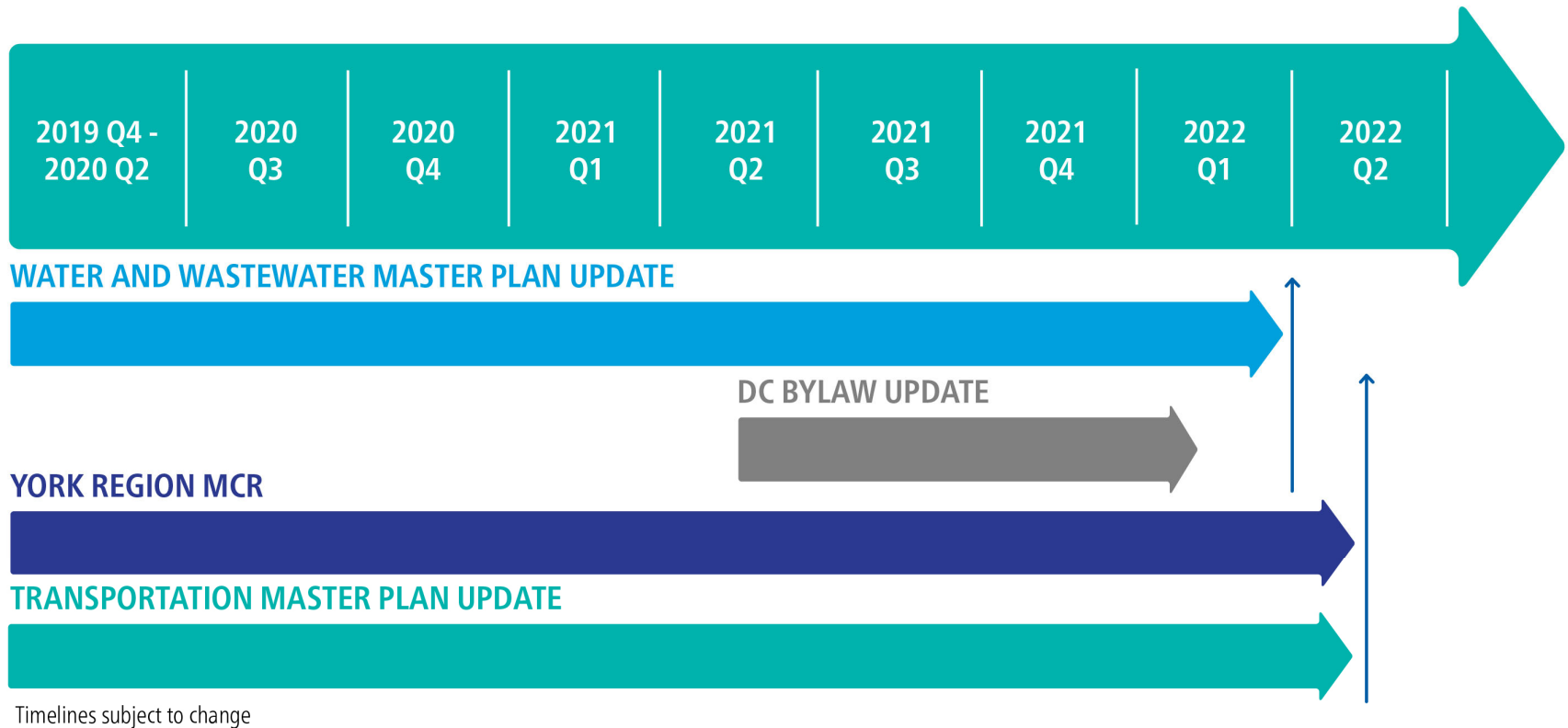


# Agenda

1. Regional Context
2. Building on the 2016 Master Plan
3. Draft Infrastructure Plan
  1. Key Highlights of the New Draft Recommended Plan
  2. Implementing and Monitoring the Plan
4. Consultation and Engagement
5. Finalizing the Plan

Purpose is to present the recommended growth infrastructure program updated through the 2021 Water and Wastewater Master Plan

# Integrated Growth Management



Master Plan updates aligns with ROP and DC Bylaw Updates



# Master Plans Are Updated Regularly to Adapt to Changing Circumstances



- This 2021 Master Plan Update follows a tradition of long-term, sustainable service planning at York Region
- This update is a recalibration of prior plans
- Decisions continued to be guided by One Water principles introduced in 2016 to: innovate, integrate and infrastretch

# New Plan Builds On 2016 Master Plan

- Extended forecast from 2041 to 2051 growth horizon
- Used approved draft Land Needs Assessment (March 2021)
- Considers UYSS Water Reclamation Centre as key component of long-term servicing

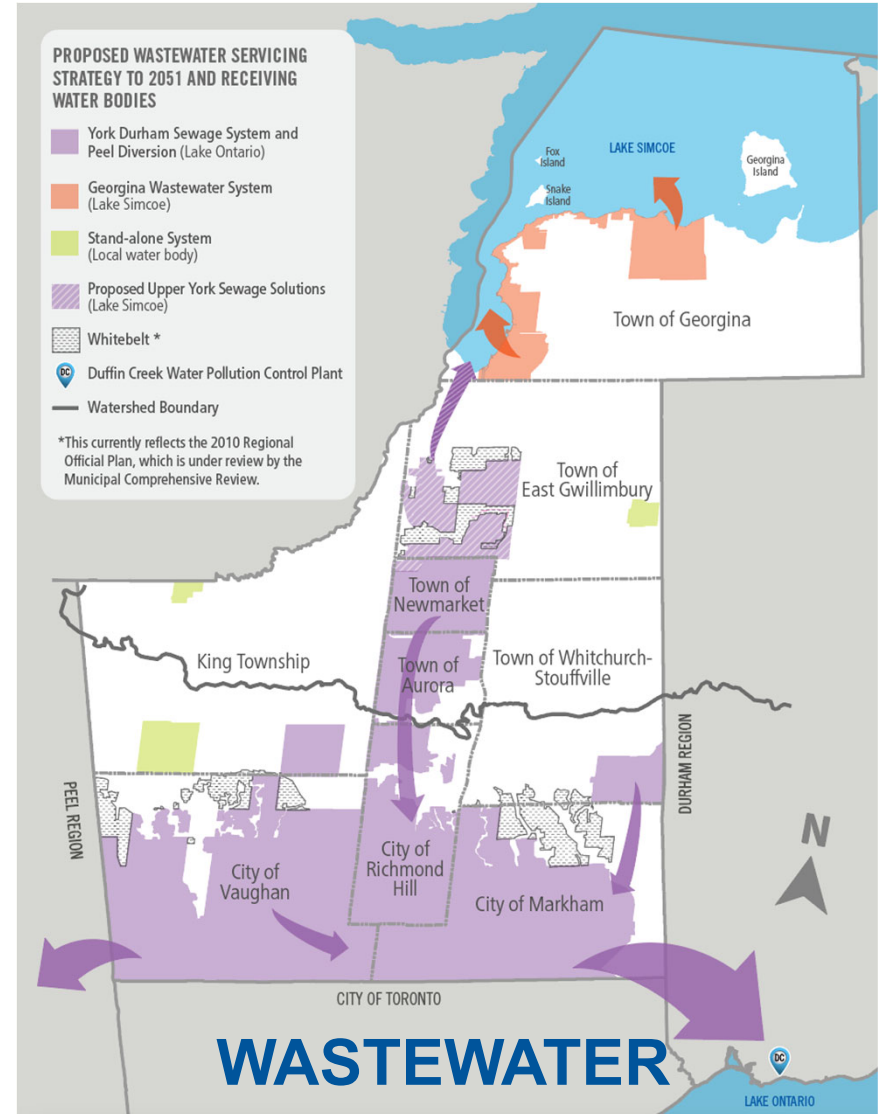
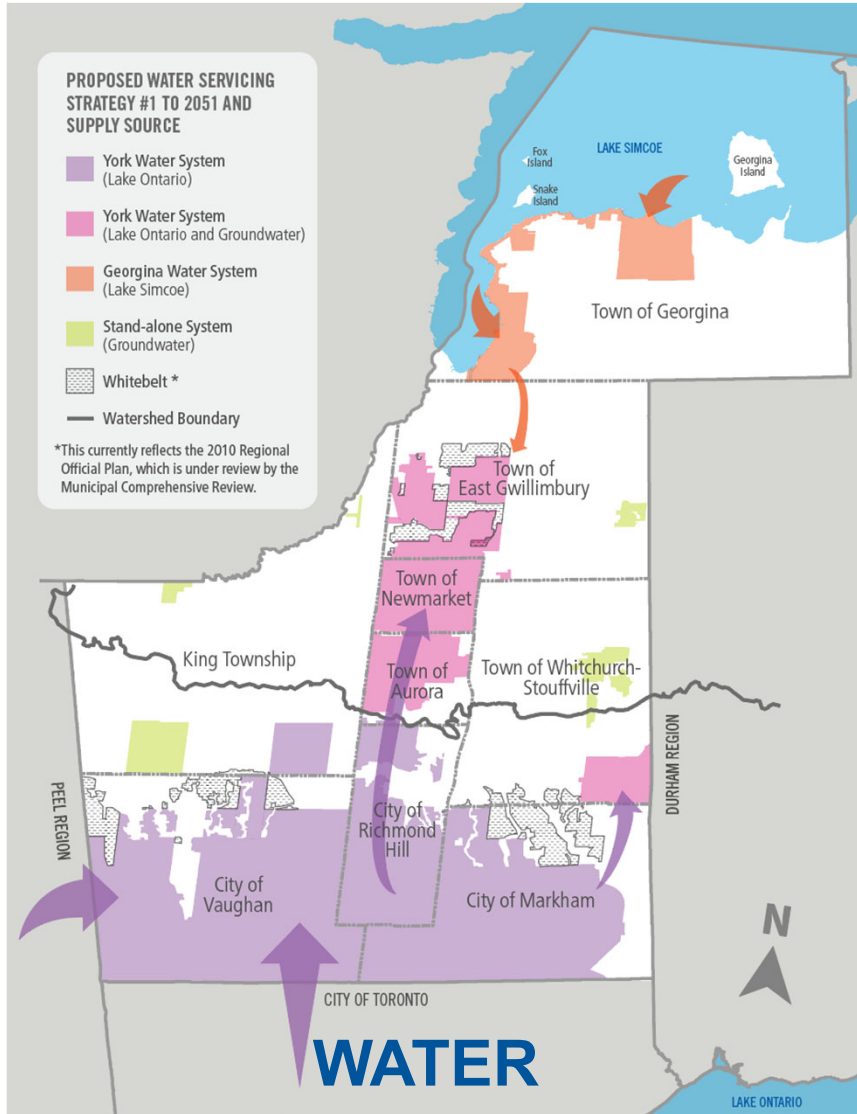
YORK REGION'S **POPULATION** is EXPECTED to GROW from



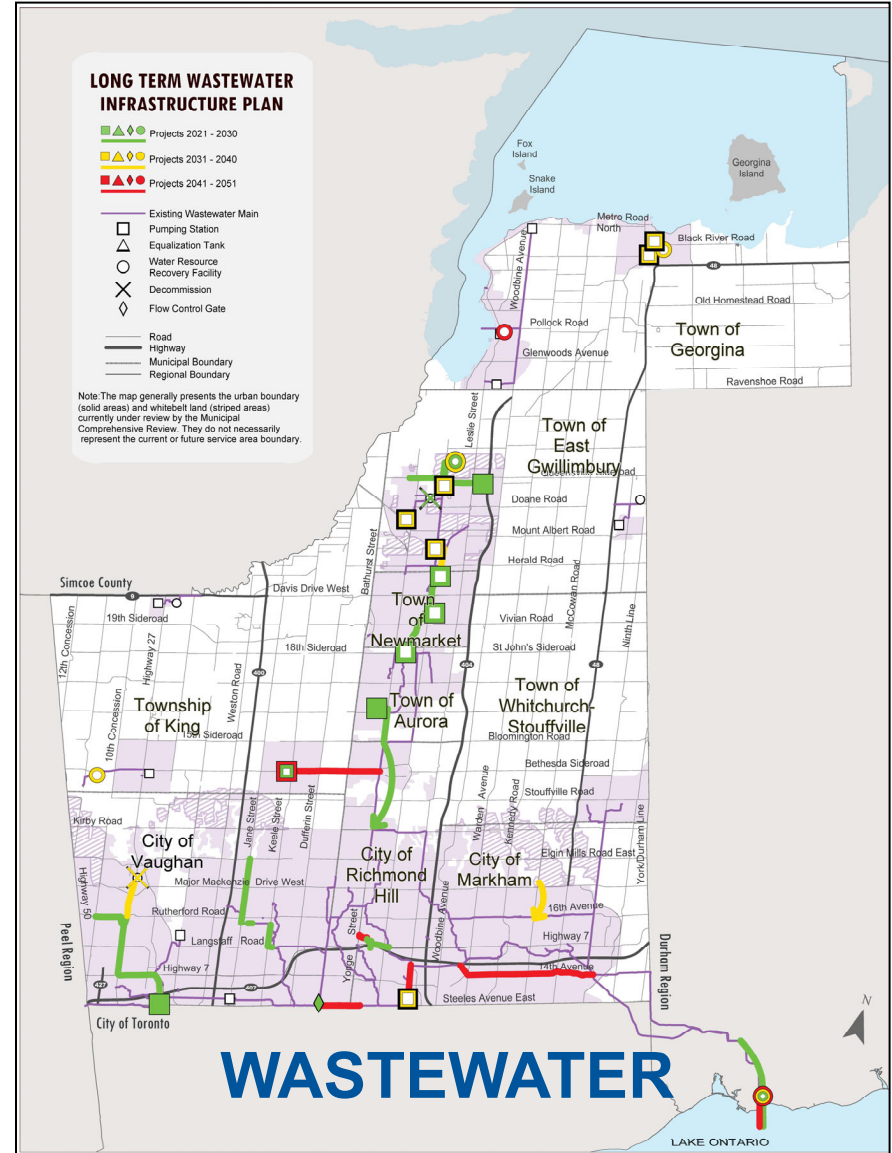
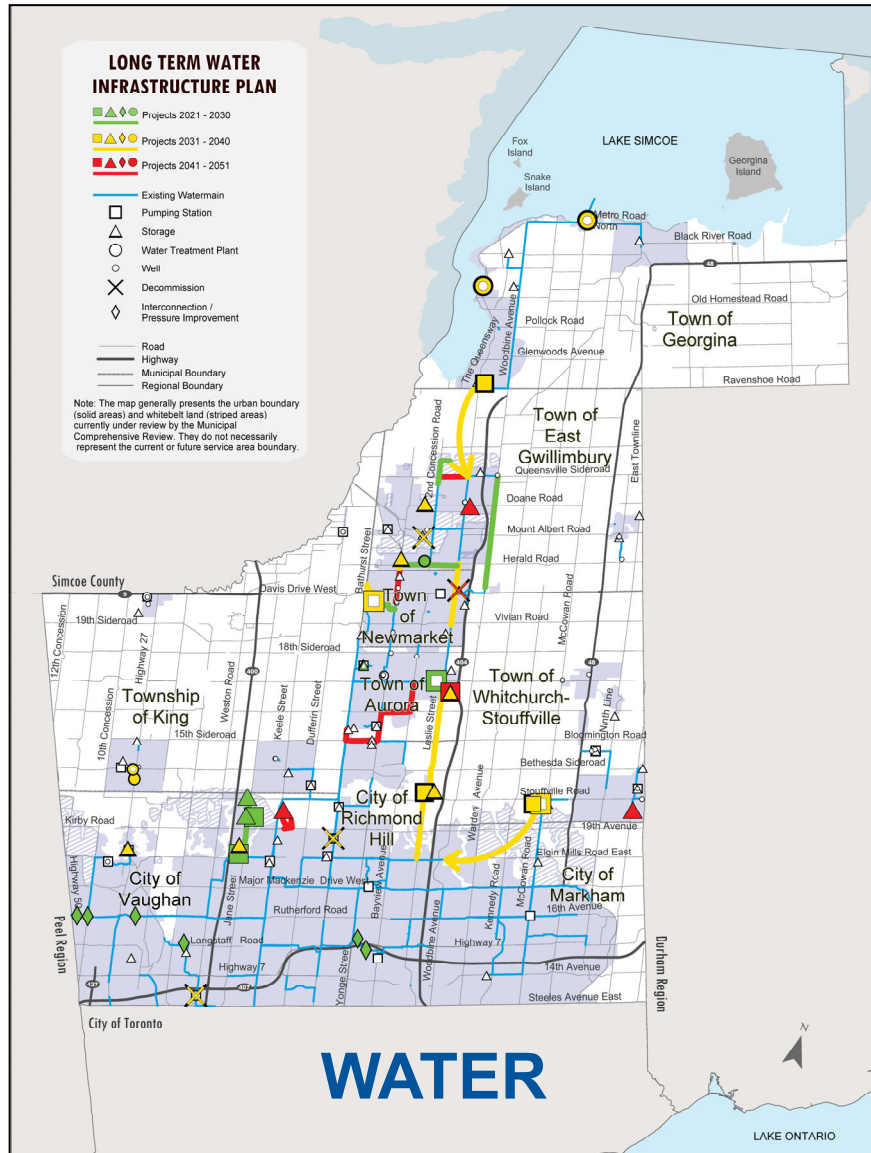
YORK REGION'S **EMPLOYMENT** is EXPECTED to GROW from



# Servicing Strategies Align With 2016 Master Plan



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# Highlights of the Infrastructure Program

## To meet 2051 system demands:

- Most projects from the 2016 Master Plan have been carried forward, with some adjustments to sizing and timing
- Additional \$1.4 Billion in new water/wastewater infrastructure compared to 2016 Master Plan
- The updated water and wastewater infrastructure program totals **\$4.3 billion** over a 30-year horizon



# Key Water Projects - Aurora

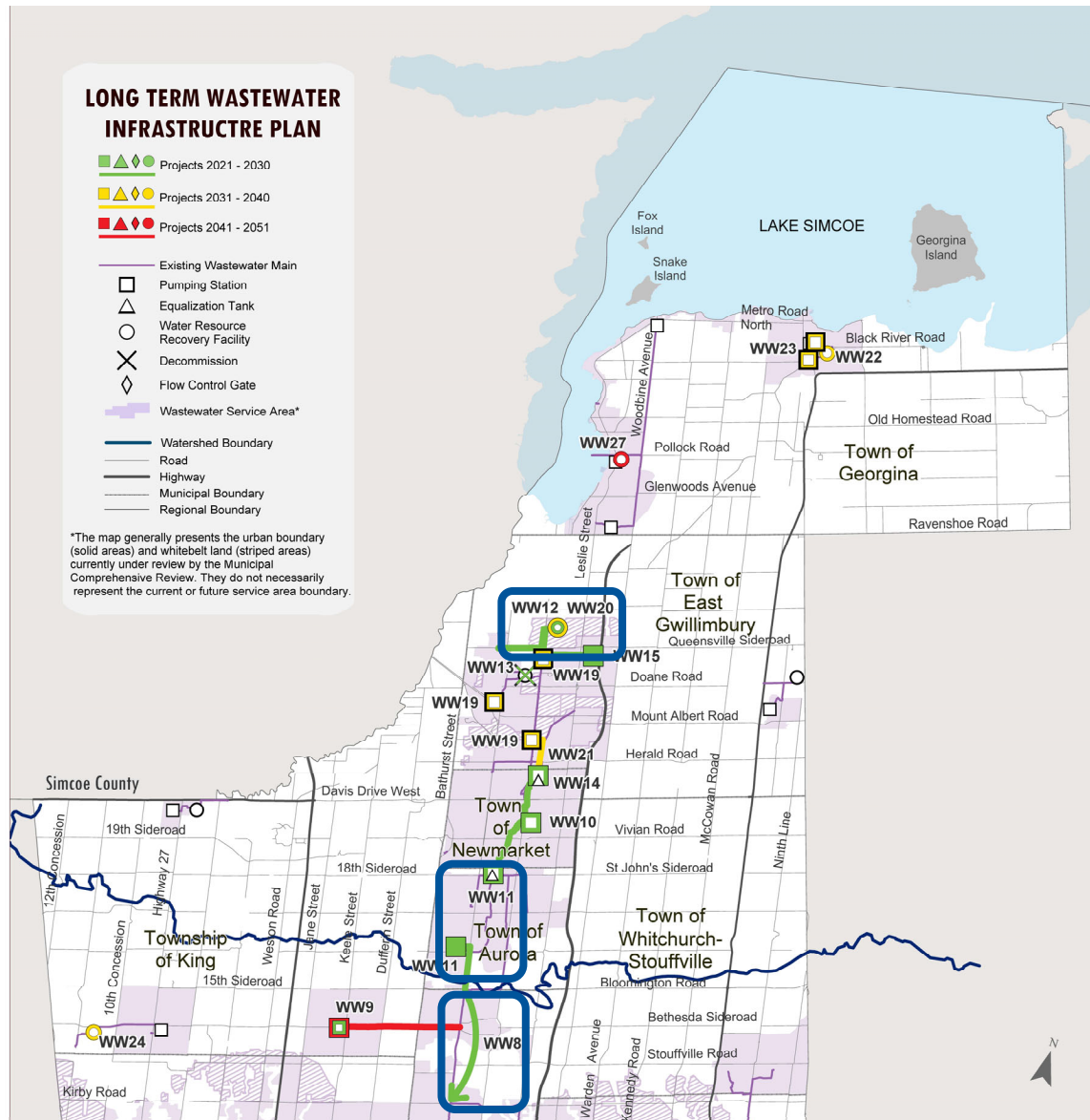


Long term, water supply will continue to be blended Lake Ontario-based surface water and groundwater

Additional supply from:

- **Aurora East Pumping Station Upgrades and Orchard Heights Reservoir Inlet Upgrades** projects in near-term
- **York Water System East Expansion** in medium term will support growth and system resilience
- **Bloomington/Bayview Watermain** project planned in the long-term

# Key Wastewater Projects - Aurora



Long term, flows will continue to be sent South to York Durham Sewage System through:

- **YDSS Interim Servicing Solutions and Forcemain Twinning** projects near term
- **Yonge Street Sewer Twinning** project also within the next 10 years

Capacity in YDSS also to be freed up through the proposed:

- **Upper York Water Reclamation Centre and Upper York Servicing Infrastructure Phase 2** projects

# Implementing and Monitoring the Master Plan

Infrastructure projects implemented through annual budget and **Capital Plan**

**Capacity Monitoring** coordinates servicing with near-term growth

**Demand management** programs continue to play a key role in long term service planning





# Demand Management Programs

Demand management programs updated in 2021

## **Long Term Water Conservation Strategy Update:**

- Enhanced focus on reducing non-revenue water
- Continue to raise awareness on water conservation, reducing outdoor water use and encourage water efficiency in new residential developments

## **Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy Update:**

- Establishes targets specific to each Local Municipality in York Region, tailored to reflect conditions in each community
- Continued digital integration in data collection and analysis to drive actions towards long term reduction targets

# 2021 Servicing Capacity Assignment Status Update

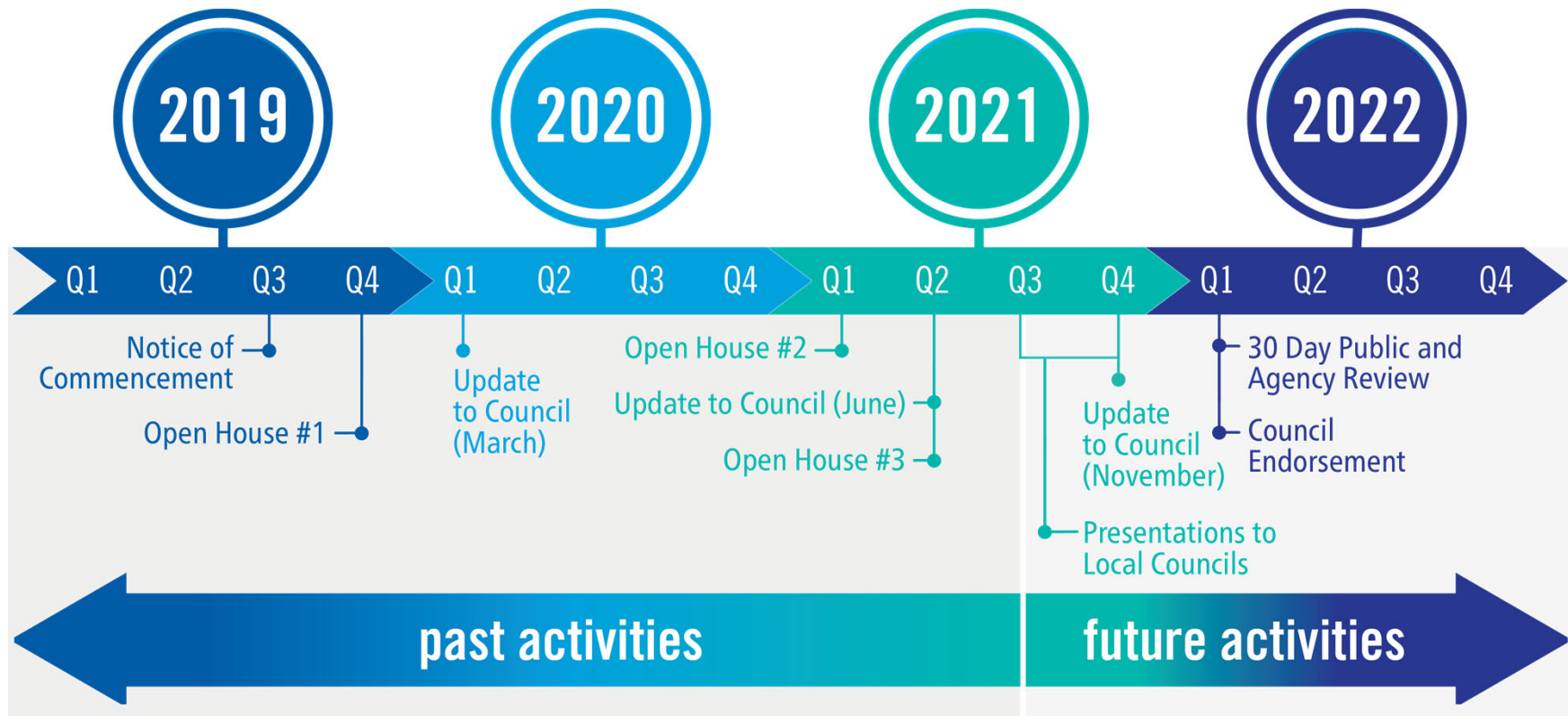
- As reported at Regional Council in September 2021
  - 7,281 persons of estimated available capacity in Aurora at end of 2020
  - approximately 6 years of growth remaining based on current growth rate
  - Authorized staff to assign additional capacity for Centres and Corridors
    - 1,000 persons capacity to be equally distributed to Aurora, Newmarket and EG
    - Assignment allows for the planning process to proceed up to building permit
    - To be released for occupancy upon completion of new Henderson Pumping Station

# Consultation and Engagement



- Engagement with local municipal staff, Indigenous Communities and development industry throughout the project
- Three public Open Houses completed
- Feedback collected and considered as input to the Master Plan and shared with other business areas

# Next Steps to Finalize the Plan



# Thank you

For more information

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