

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA East Region – September 14, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the GTA East [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the GTA East regional planning webinar held on September 14, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the detailed options analysis and draft recommendations to meet the needs. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by October 5, 2026.

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What feedback do you have on the draft recommendations?	The Town of Whitby generally supports the draft recommendations and recognizes the need for timely investment in electricity infrastructure to support planned

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	housing, employment growth, electrification, and economic development within the municipality. The Town supports implementation of the recommended transmission and station investments and encourages their timely delivery to ensure electricity capacity does not become a constraint to growth. The GTA East region is experiencing significant forecast demand growth, and the identified infrastructure investments will be important to maintaining reliability and supporting future development. The Town would like to emphasize that the identified near-term station capacity needs are critical and require timely infrastructure improvements. While targeted electricity demand-side management measures can provide meaningful benefits and should continue to be pursued, they should be viewed as complementary measures rather than a replacement for the station investments required to address immediate and forecast capacity needs. Whitby encourages the IESO and its partners to prioritize implementation of the recommended near-term station improvements. Whitby also encourages the IESO and its partners to continue exploring complementary non-wires solutions alongside the recommended infrastructure investments. Recent discussions with utilities, developers, and industry partners have highlighted growing interest in district energy systems, distributed energy resources, energy storage, and other local energy solutions that may help reduce future load growth, improve resilience, and support long-term decarbonization objectives. While these solutions are not a substitute for the infrastructure investments identified in the draft recommendations, they may play an important supporting role in helping address future electricity needs within the region.
What information needs to be considered regarding the draft recommendations?	Whitby continues to experience significant population and employment growth, particularly within Brooklin, North Whitby, and other strategic growth areas expected to accommodate a substantial share of future development. The Town is also actively advancing electrification initiatives through implementation of its climate and sustainability objectives, which will contribute to increasing electricity demand over time. The Town encourages the IESO to carefully consider the

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	timing of the proposed infrastructure investments relative to forecast growth. Based on growth currently underway and planned within Whitby, there is concern that electricity capacity requirements may materialize sooner than currently anticipated. In particular, Whitby encourages the IESO to explore opportunities to advance delivery of the proposed North Whitby/Pickering station, where feasible, recognizing its importance in supporting forecast growth and addressing emerging capacity constraints within the municipality. Beyond residential growth, electricity capacity is increasingly becoming an economic development consideration. The Town has received feedback from businesses and prospective investors regarding electrical capacity limitations and the potential impact on future employment and industrial development opportunities. Given these pressures, the Town encourages the IESO to consider whether additional analysis could be undertaken regarding complementary non-wires solutions within constrained growth areas. Examples could include: - Thermal district energy systems utilizing geoexchange or other low-carbon energy sources; - Distributed energy resources and energy storage; - Microgrid or local energy system opportunities within employment areas; - Demand-side management approaches targeted to rapidly growing communities. The Town is aware of municipal examples, such as Edmonton's Blatchford Renewable Energy Utility, where district energy infrastructure was integrated with large-scale community development and supported long-term sustainability goals. Whitby is not suggesting these approaches replace the infrastructure investments identified in the draft recommendations. Rather, the Town encourages consideration of whether these solutions could be evaluated in parallel to better understand their potential role in supporting growth, resilience, electrification, and economic competitiveness within the GTA East region.
How can the IESO continue to engage with communities and stakeholders as the recommendations are implemented,	The Town appreciates the engagement opportunities provided throughout this planning process and encourages continued collaboration with municipalities, local distribution companies, economic development

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or to help prepare for the next planning cycle.	organizations, major landowners, developers, and large energy users. As implementation proceeds, Whitby would welcome ongoing discussions regarding: - Forecast electricity demand associated with major growth areas; - Emerging employment land electricity requirements; - Opportunities for non-wires solutions and distributed energy resources; - District energy and community energy systems; - Resilience and reliability considerations associated with increasing electrification. The Town would also support future stakeholder discussions or technical working sessions focused specifically on innovative approaches that may complement traditional infrastructure investments in high-growth municipalities.

General Comments/Feedback

The Town of Whitby supports timely implementation of the draft recommendations and emphasizes the importance of ensuring that electricity infrastructure keeps pace with planned growth. Reliable electricity capacity is essential to supporting housing development, employment lands, economic investment, community services, and broader municipal growth objectives.

At the same time, Whitby believes there is value in continuing to explore innovative approaches that may support long-term system resilience, affordability, and decarbonization. Given the significant growth anticipated within Brooklin, North Whitby, and the Town's employment areas, Whitby would welcome ongoing discussions regarding district energy systems, distributed energy resources, energy storage, and other complementary non-wires approaches that could support future electricity planning initiatives.

The Town looks forward to continuing to work with the IESO, Hydro One, Elexicon Energy, and other stakeholders as the recommendations are advanced and as future planning work is undertaken within the GTA East region.