

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA North (York Region) – September 19, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Jennifer Wong, Negar Mahmoudi, Justin Minor, Mark Head

Title: In order from left to right: Manager, Sustainability (Sustainability & Asset Management Department); Manager, Utility & ROW (Operations Department); Planner (Planning & Urban Design Department); Manager, Natural Heritage (Planning & Urban Design Department)

Organization: City of Markham

Email: jwong4@markham.ca, nmahmoudi@markham.ca, jminor@markham.ca, mhead@markham.ca

Date: October 3, 2025

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

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the scoping assessment report. A copy of the report and a narrated video presentation can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by October 3, 2025.

Topic	Feedback
- What feedback is there on the proposed recommendations?	While it is understood that the design is currently at a preliminary and high level, further investigation will be required during detailed design, along with close coordination with the municipalities, particularly if the construction of a large high-voltage duct bank is being considered. Given the congested municipal Right-of-Way (ROW), detailed investigation is essential to assess the potential impact of such construction on the ROW, future operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements, and the effect on municipal utilities, infrastructure, and ROW assets. City of Markham currently only permit utility infrastructure to take place within the boulevard space. - The screening of all options for near- and long-term needs should continue to prioritize solutions that accommodate station and transmission infrastructure within existing corridors and avoid the need for expanded or new corridors in Markham that impact current and future planned development and adjacent communities. Impact mitigation for all new or upgraded infrastructure adjacent to existing communities and developed areas will need to be prioritized and addressed in the subsequent EA and detailed approval stages. - What are the expected land use requirements and impacts of the options to address longer-term needs associated with new or expanded existing TS in Markham/Vaughan/Richmond Hill? (i.e. all those shown from slides 21 to 24 in the presentation) If such preliminary assessments have yet to be completed, what is the current timeframe for when they would be and then shared with municipalities? - Option screening for the GTA North IRRP and South/Central Bulk Plan should prioritize use of existing available corridors for upgraded and new infrastructure and avoid the need for new or expanded corridors through existing and future planned development that would result in significant community impacts. Underwater options for routing new transmission from Darlington to the GTA should not be prematurely screened out if they are technically feasible. Options for 500 kV routes into the GTA should be carried forward to the EA stage and selected based on a consideration of options and full evaluation of their net environmental and community impact. The South/Central Bulk System Plan should provide for a reasonable range of alternatives to be considered.
- What information needs to be considered in these recommendations?	- Markham District Energy (MDE) Wastewater Energy Transfer Project - https://www.markhamdistrictenergy.com/news_event/markham-district-energy-announces-worlds-largest-wastewater-energy-transfer-project/

Topic	Feedback
	- Given the significant amount of growth anticipated across York Region over the next decade, direct coordination with relevant municipal staff is recommended to help ensure that long-range municipal land use plans with updated growth forecasts (e.g. official plans, secondary plans, master plans for transportation, water, etc.) are appropriately considered and incorporated into screening criteria, especially in regards to plans which will permit and facilitate development of new community areas and infrastructure which might overlap with IESO's preferred options (e.g. Markham's Future Urban Area Planning District and a new stepdown station in North Markham or new Buttonville to Armitage transmission line), to better harmonize municipal and provincial planning for growth and capacity building projects. - Please note the City will be updating detailed growth forecasts as part of the City of Markham Official Plan Review, which is currently underway, and has been undertaking detailed build out analyses in several secondary planning studies for key growth areas in the City. This information can be provided to support IESO's forecasting to help align the timing of delivery of electricity infrastructure with growth and demand.
- How can the IESO continue to engage with communities and stakeholders as these recommendations are implemented, or to help prepare for the next planning cycle?	- The IESO should consult with Regional and Municipal Councils prior to the EA process, once final preferred options to meet electricity demands are identified. Markham also suggests a presentation to Council, which can be arranged through staff. - With the multitude of parties involved in long-term electricity planning, providing info and context about related events and venues outside of IESO's public consultation meetings could be a valuable resource for municipal staff less familiar with these processes, and/or who would like to establish stronger direct relationships and co-planning capacities with generator and transmission companies as well as LDCs. - The construction of a new 500 kV line in Markham or elsewhere in the GTA will require comprehensive and tailored public consultation and engagement given the anticipated concerns regarding visual and perceived health impacts of high voltage transmission lines. It is recommended that IESO conduct a broader public consultation on the IRRP and South-Central Bulk System planning process and option screening prior to the plans being finalized in Q4 2025.

General Comments/Feedback

Please note that all feedback gathered on this form are from staff in Sustainability & Asset Management, Operations, and Planning & Urban Design. This form and the GTA North electricity planning documents were not circulated to Mayor and Council. It is requested that IESO, Hydro One and Alectra staff that can speak more specifically to the electricity planning shortfalls and upgrades that impact Markham provide a presentation to Council, prior to the EA process to discuss the short to long-term infrastructure details and plans, as well as a communications plan for the public. In 2005, the City of Markham received a large public backlash towards the transmission lines through the Rodick Road corridor that ultimately halted the expansion of the corridor. Markham would not want to repeat the same concerns again with the expansion of transmission infrastructure through our existing community areas. Early public communications is highly recommended to avoid additional backlash. Another public example from a 2023 article: Hydro project in Markham paused after 230kV line backlash.

Link: [Hydro project in Markham paused after 230kV line backlash](#)