

IESO Response to Feedback

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA North – Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations September 22, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on September 22, 2025 for the GTA North (York Region) as part of its engagement to inform the development of a long-term electricity plan - Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). During the webinar, the IESO provided an overview of the electricity needs for the GTA North, shared the detailed options analysis to meet those needs, and sought feedback on the draft recommendations. The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group¹ to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- [The City of Markham](#)

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects, and initiatives, as well as local issues and concerns that should be considered in the electricity planning for the GTA North (York Region) electrical region.

Feedback/common themes	IESO response
The City of Markham emphasized the importance of early and ongoing coordination with municipalities throughout the Environmental Assessment (EA) and detailed design phases.	Thank you for your feedback. Please note, the IESO is not responsible for siting transmission recommendations and detailed design. At this stage, the precise location for new infrastructure has not yet been determined. Once the IESO publishes the final IRRP report, the implementation of any

¹ The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Alectra Utilities Corporation, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. and Hydro One.)

Feedback/common themes	IESO response
	recommended infrastructure, including siting decisions and any associated environmental assessment (EA), is the responsibility of transmitters and LDCs. Engagement with Indigenous communities, the public, business, stakeholder groups, and other interested parties is critical. During the EA process, the transmitter will engage communities to keep them informed on the progress and to solicit feedback.
The City of Markham strongly supports prioritizing electricity solutions that make use of existing station and transmission corridors.	Thank you for your feedback. The Technical Working Group (TWG) understands the land-use constraints in the region and has endeavored to mitigate the need for large-scale infrastructure implementation in past IRRP cycles. In the 2020 IRRP cycle, the TWG made recommendations that would defer the need for new infrastructure. However, considering the significant forecasted demand growth in York Region, this IRRP cycle required comprehensive investments in new infrastructure, upgrading existing infrastructure and incremental electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) to ensure a reliable supply of energy to support this anticipated growth. In Markham, the solutions involve replacing existing conductors (lines) in an existing corridor and eDSM. Additional upgrades of existing lines will be monitored during regular intervals.
The City of Markham requested further clarity on the land use implications of long-term infrastructure proposals.	The longer-term options are in the very early stages of being studied. The TWG will monitor and meet annually to assess whether these actions are required, dependent on when additional demand materializes, and to discuss the timing and scope at regular planning intervals. These longer-term draft recommendations will help ensure the system is able to adapt should additional demand materialize. In future IRRP planning cycles, the TWG will revisit these options and will present any updates on whether these options are required or can be further deferred. The IESO is committed to engaging communities, municipalities, stakeholders, Indigenous communities, business and all interested parties throughout the regional planning process. As future cycles kick-off, the IESO will host several public engagements and share key updates throughout the development of any regional plan.

Feedback/common themes	IESO response
The City of Markham suggested aligning municipal growth plans with the IESOs electricity planning initiatives to mitigate any overlapping priorities.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO engages directly with municipal staff at each step of the IRRP to ensure alignment between municipal initiatives (i.e. housing targets, economic development, decarbonization and electrification plans) and energy planning, and that community priorities are incorporated into final recommendations. The TWG forecast accounts for population and development growth, and electrification targets. The GTA North IRRP's draft recommendations and forecast will continue to be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis and through future planning cycles. We encourage municipalities to keep their local distribution companies (LDCs) up to date on any new, planned, or approved local developments to ensure electricity planning is aligned and that future demand forecasts capture your community's growth. The implementation of the IRRP recommendations is the responsibility of the relevant parties, including LDCs and transmitters who will engage communities on siting and route selection for proposed infrastructure.
The City of Markham requests that Regional and Municipal Councils be engaged at key stages of infrastructure planning, particularly before the EA process begins, and to present before council to provide transparency.	Thank you for your feedback. As part of the public engagement process the IESO welcomes the views and preferences of municipal representatives for consideration in the development of the IRRP. The IESO sent out letters with regional planning updates at key planning stages to all councillors and mayors in York Region and met with ward councillors that may be impacted by the IRRP recommendations. Additionally, the IESO engaged with municipal staff at each stage of the IRRP process to communicate planning updates and to solicit feedback on the development of the IRRP. Councillors and municipal staff are also encouraged to attend our public webinars, ask questions and submit feedback.
Broader public engagement regarding new transmission lines to address public concerns.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO is committed to engaging communities, municipalities, stakeholders, indigenous communities, businesses and all interested parties throughout the regional and bulk planning processes. We value community feedback and perspectives as it is critical in developing the final recommendations.

Feedback/common themes	IESO response
	The IESO hosts several public engagements throughout the development of any regional or bulk plan. We encourage you to attend future regional planning engagements for the GTA North, and to participate in the South and Central Bulk planning webinars via the engagement page. Once a plan is developed, implementation of transmission recommendations will be carried out by transmitters. They're accountable for engaging with communities on specifics, such as route selection, design, construction methods, and timelines. Engagement continues throughout the life of the project, not just during planning, but also into construction and long-term operation and maintenance. The transmitter is responsible for engaging with affected communities, especially through the environmental assessment process and Duty to Consult.