

The Economy, Land Use and Transportation

Possible Change:

The updated RGS will set clear direction for coordinating sustainable economic development with land use planning, transportation planning and planning for utility infrastructure.

What does integrating land use, transportation and the economy mean?

Sustainable economic development focuses appropriate commercial and residential densities within urban centres to create more local services and employment for area residents. This provides local jobs and reduces the community's ecological impact.

Where lands for commercial and industrial uses are maintained within these central locations, businesses may collaborate with each other and minimize the need for additional costly infrastructure. Commercial growth within regional town centres also supports employment opportunities that are within walking distance or easily accessed by transit. Such forms of development reduce emissions from personal automobile and protect green space from development.

Why is this important for a sustainable region?

Offices and retail areas are key components of vibrant and flourishing communities. In support of economic and social sustainability, a region

should have employment opportunities close to where people live, not only to reduce commuting times for workers, but also to support economic development in the urban areas throughout the region. At the same time, there should be a sufficient supply of land for industry and commerce with good regional transportation connections for workers and customers.

How can the RGS support better coordination between land use and transportation planning?

The RGS could set clear direction that retail, office and institutional uses are to be concentrated in urban nodes and village centres close to where the majority of the population lives and where they can be efficiently served by transit. The RGS could also set clear direction that major commercial and institutional developments are not to be located outside of urban nodes. As well, the RGS could direct that official community plans include policies that indicate how these region wide directions will be supported.



For more information on this topic please see the discussion papers at www.shapingourfuture.ca