

URBAN
STRATEGIES
INC .

vision for transformation
**education
package**

Vaughan Tomorrow

The film



This video was made by the City of Vaughan for all of its residents. **Vaughan Tomorrow: Voices for Transformation** illustrates the challenges facing Vaughan based on its current suburban structure. It also highlights some of the positive initiatives taking place in the city (urban gardening, youth festivals, expanded transit) that provide new directions for transformation. Vaughan has the potential to be a more sustainable and beautiful city, welcoming and accommodating people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse needs. As we create a new Official Plan that will guide Vaughan's future growth, we want to hear from you.

How to use this education package



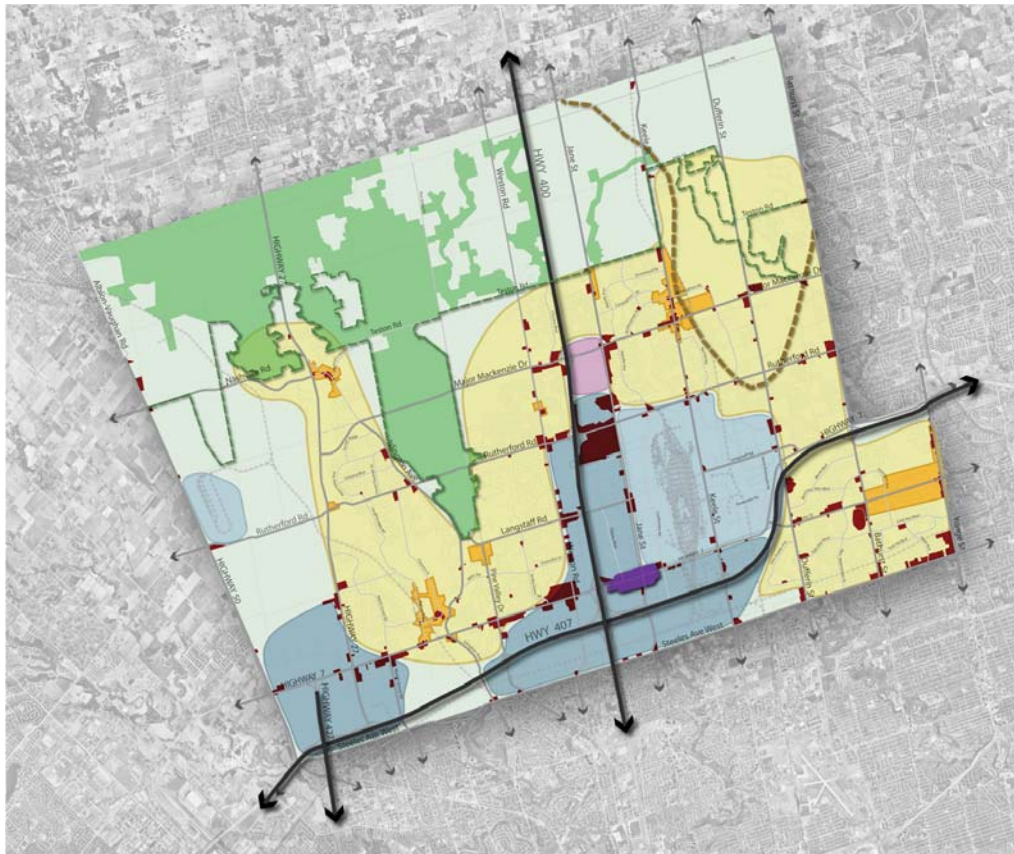
After screening the 18 minute film, have a class discussion around the following questions. If possible, record the students comments (be creative!) then mail or email comments to city staff. These comments will be incorporated into the new Official Plan project. If you would like to have a planner from the city come and speak to your class, contact the City 905.832.8585 and ask for Clement (8214) or Melissa (8320).

Now we want you to help plan the City of Vaughan

Use the following questions to guide a classroom discussion on Vaughan's planning issues.



What is your favourite place in Vaughan? What place(s) do you dislike? Why? We asked some of Vaughan's residents what places they liked and disliked. The results are shown on this map. Now it's your turn. Create your own map.



Legend

- Vaughan Corporate Centre Node
- Historic Village
- Residential Area
- Highway Employment
- General Employment
- Commercial Area
- Wonderland
- Rural / Open Space
- Greenbelt
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- Highway
- Arterial Road
- Local Road

The Greenbelt is located in the northern portion of Vaughan. This portion of land is protected in the Ontario Greenbelt legislation (2005). What is the purpose of the Greenbelt?



In Vaughan today, most people use a car to get around. But this is not a sustainable mode of transportation. How could planning make it easier to use a bike? Walk? Or use transit to move around?



What are some of the differences between a city that is “built around the car” as opposed to older cities that were built before cars (such as walking, horse and buggy)? Discuss some of the differences.



Communities are comprised of a number of elements, what are some of these elements in the film? Name some other important elements.



The film talks about the importance of protecting the countryside? Why is that important? Do you ever visit the countryside? Why?

Today, Vaughan has 250,000 residents and 162,000 jobs. These numbers will almost double by 2031. What challenges does this kind of growth present?

Healthy communities provide services for a range of ages and lifestyles. What types of services need to be provided for seniors? teenagers? adults?



Name some key places where people gather? (e.g. public plazas, libraries, music venues). Where are these places in Vaughan? What is missing?



The Vaughan Corporate Centre is to become Vaughan's new "downtown". What would you like to see in Vaughan's downtown?



The film talks about the importance of being able to walk to a corner store. Why is that important? What other types of services should be within walking distance from your house?



What can you do to make Vaughan more sustainable? (For example, in the film a community uses the hydro corridor behind their houses for growing vegetables)

The Welcome Centre, located near Vaughan Mills Mall, helps newcomers integrate into Vaughan. How can planning make it easier for newcomers to get around a new community?

What are some of the things that you would like to see in Vaughan's future?



What do you use parks for? What facilities should be located in parks (eg; kiosks, skate parks, pools)?



The film discusses neighbourhoods that rely on subway and bus rather than car—what do these neighbourhoods look like? (Think about the type of housing, stores, activities that would be located there).

Purpose

- > Inform youth about the challenges and opportunities in their communities
- > Engage youth in civil and informed discourse about these issues
- > Get a youth perspective on issues that will inform the Official Plan project
- > Introduce students to the practice of planning, what it is and how it affects our communities

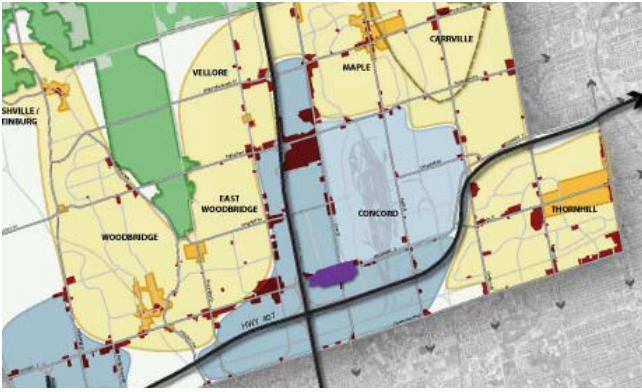
Key messages

- > The built environment does not happen by accident or by mandate.
- > Our actions as citizens and consumers influence what is built, when it is built, and where it is built.
- > The new Official Plan is an opportunity to influence the way that Vaughan is built over the next 30 years



When planning the built environment, such as a street, it is important to understand how it functions. Is it to make for an enjoyable pedestrian experience, to encourage people to walk or ride a bike? To accommodate car traffic? How important are trees and how we plant them? All of these answers will guide how a street develops.

What is an Official Plan?



The City of Vaughan is creating a new Official Plan. The Official Plan is part of Vaughan's integrated Growth Management Strategy. It will address all elements of effective, sustainable city-building, while managing growth over the next 25 years.

The Official Plan is a legal document approved by the City of Vaughan and the Region of York, which describes policies and objectives for future land use. It reflects a community vision for future change and development.

An Official Plan tells you:

- > **Where new development can locate**
- > **How existing and future neighbourhoods will be designed and built**
- > **What municipal services will be provided (roads, water mains, sewers and parks)**
- > **When and where Vaughan will grow**

What is planning?



Do you get to work by car, by bike or using transit?

Planning is of fundamental importance to the quality of people's lives because it deals with the design and organization of urban space and activities.

Planners consult with the public to understand local issues, research policy issues (e.g. Greenbelt protection legislation), and visit sites to see what currently exists in the area and what could potentially be located there.

When planning is done well it enables us to build thriving, healthy, sustainable communities where people want to work, shop, live or visit. It supports the economic development which is vital to create jobs. It helps us to protect our natural and historic environment and ensure everyone has access to green space and community services. It enables the delivery of essential infrastructure that allows us to travel and enjoy access to clean, affordable energy, water and wastewater facilities. Planning does all of this by helping us to ensure development meets economic, social and environmental objectives in an integrated and sustainable way.

This is an opportunity for you to help plan your city!