

February 8, 2016

Ms. Audrey Bennett
Director - Provincial Planning Policy Branch
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Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
13th Floor
777 Bay St
Toronto ON M5G2E5

Mr. Jason Travers
Director - Natural Resources Conservation –
Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
2nd Floor S
300 Water St
Peterborough ON K9J 8M5

Dear Ms Bennett and Mr. Travers:

RE: Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: 2015-2041

OSSGA is a not-for-profit association representing over 280 sand, gravel and crushed stone producers and suppliers of valuable industry products and services. Collectively, our members supply the majority of the 164 million tonnes of aggregate consumed, on average, annually in the province to build and maintain Ontario's infrastructure needs. OSSGA works in partnership with government and the public to promote a safe and competitive aggregate industry contributing to the creation of strong communities in the province.

OSSGA has had an opportunity to review the report entitled "Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2015-2041". This report highlights:

- The GGH and in particular the GTA will experience significant population and employment growth over the next 30 years. Higher density developments are needed to accommodate the growth.
- There is a need to reduce greenhouse gases from current levels which is a top priority for the Provincial government.
- There are significant environmental and economic benefits of extracting aggregate close to market in terms of transportation costs, greenhouse gas emissions and wear and tear on truck routes.
- Alternate modes of transportation (e.g. rail or ship) to transport aggregate further from market are not feasible due to lack of infrastructure.
- There is a major infrastructure deficit within the GGH and currently there are limited financial resources within government. As a result it is important that strategic approaches are taken to optimize infrastructure investments and benefits.
- There is a need for high quality infrastructure that can withstand climatic changes for public safety.
- There is a need for high quality infrastructure to increase the life cycle/longevity of municipal infrastructure.

- There is a need for new open/recreational spaces for the existing and anticipated population.
- Creative solutions are needed to provide flood attenuation and water augmentation to protect public safety and the natural environment.
- There is a need to find a solution to deal with excess fill from development sites.

These recommendations of the advisory panel can be implemented through the wise use and management of aggregate resources within the Provincial Plan areas. The Provincial Plan areas contain some of the highest quality aggregates and supply 35% of GGH's total aggregate needs. Maintaining an abundant/competitive supply of close to market aggregate from the Provincial Plan Areas:

- reduces the cost of aggregates which optimizes infrastructure investments;
- maintains access to some of the highest quality aggregates in Southern Ontario. Utilizing these resources will increase the longevity of infrastructure, build infrastructure that can withstand climatic changes; and supply the required resources for increased density;
- reduces greenhouse gases emissions associated with transportation; and
- rehabilitated sites in close proximity to the population base provide an opportunity for flood control, public/ recreational open spaces and locations for excess fill from development sites.

The Province has identified that over the next 25 years, 2.5 billion tonnes of aggregate will be required in the GGH of which 1.5 billion tonnes is needed in the GTA to implement the infrastructure and growth needs of the Growth Plan.

As the Province is aware close to market reserves are depleting at alarming rates and new supply has not been keeping up with current production levels. Currently, the average haul distance to supply aggregate in the GTA is 35 km. In 2009, the Province examined the available supply of high quality crushed stone aggregates from different distances from the Vaughan Corporate Centre. The study concluded there was only 103 million tonnes of high quality crushed stone approved for extraction within 50 km (SAROS Paper 5). Since the completion of the study, there has been another 50 million tonnes of high quality crushed stone produced with no replacement of new supply in this area. As a result, there is only 53 million tonnes remaining.

In 2006, the Growth Plan called for the Province to identify significant mineral aggregate resources for the GGH and to develop a long term strategy for ensuring the wise use, conservation, availability and management of mineral aggregate resources in the GGH.

To date, this work has not been completed and the Advisory Panel has made a similar recommendation.

The current Provincial Plan review provides an opportunity to proactively plan for aggregates to ensure the Province can meet its aggregate needs that are required to implement the Growth Plan. Without replacement of new reserves within close proximity to the consumer additional infrastructure will be needed to transport

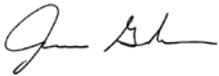
aggregates further from market and transportation costs and greenhouses gas emissions will increase which is contrary to the Provincial objectives.

We continue to urge the Province to implement the recommendations provided in our position paper dated April 30, 2015 and OSSGA welcomes the opportunity to work with the government and other stakeholders to identify significant mineral aggregate resources for the GGH and develop a policy framework to ensure the wise use, conservation, availability and management of mineral aggregate resources as part of the Provincial Plan Review.

OSSGA would appreciate an opportunity to meet with the Province to discuss the aggregate strategy and how this information could inform policy decisions as part of the Provincial Plan Review.

Regards,

Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA)



James Gordon
Chair, Ontario Stone Sand & Gravel Association

Enclosure: The Future of Ontario's Close To Market Aggregate Supply: The 2015 Provincial Plan Review, Summary Document prepared by OSSGA, April 30, 2015