

Mayor talks GTA West cancellation, employment lands growth

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means residents outside of the smaller study area will no longer be impacted by a future highway corridor," he said.

The mayor also says the town of Halton Hills is planning to add 75 hectares of employment lands next to the Premier Gateway project.

These lands would be adjacent to the current Premier Gateway Phase 1B Secondary Plan area, north of Steeles Avenue. The Premier Gateway lands are still under study for the Northwest GTA corridor.

However, the town is undertaking a new employment lands study that will outline key spaces for the town to protect and encourage to be developed for business and industry. Staff also presented the

framework for an employment lands study, which they will be preparing to finish by June 2019.

"We want to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the future population," said Bronwyn Parker, senior planner with the town. This project will look at the employment lands needed to match population growth projected by 2041 and determine whether more employment lands are needed.

The town needs to identify the lands they would like to include in their urban boundary and present to the Halton Region, in order for the region to add them into their official plan.

Currently, Halton is planning to renew its official plan in 2021.

Mayor Rick Bonnette is commending the province's decision to cease plans for the GTA West corridor, but still wants to see a bypass around Norval.

"I am very encouraged to hear of the province's decision to move forward on this issue," he said.

After cancelling the GTA West study, the province is moving forward with a smaller, northwest GTA corridor study, and the mayor says he will continue to also lobby for a bypass around Norval.

In a recent council meeting, Bonnette mentioned that much of the lands frozen by the previous study are now open.

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