



# Norfolk County Office of the Mayor

## MINISTRY OF RED TAPE REDUCTION - KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

### Where We're At – Planning Application Delays

- Norfolk County faces significant delays in planning application processing due to:
  - Increased application volume
  - Limited staff capacity
  - Complex, overlapping provincial policies and agency reviews
- Even simple applications can take many months due to coordination challenges between conservation authorities, utilities, ministries, and departments.
- These delays impact urgent housing and economic development needs, frustrate investors/builders, and reduce confidence in the system.

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### What Norfolk is Asking – Planning Process Improvements

1. **Cross-Ministry Review**
  - Assess approval timelines and agency referrals to eliminate duplication and delays.
2. **Regulatory Simplification Tools**
  - Introduce standardized templates, checklists, and clear guidance for applicants and staff.
3. **Pilot Delegated/Fast-Track Approvals**
  - For low-risk or priority projects (e.g., housing, agri-value projects) in rural municipalities.
4. **Support for Digital Permitting Platforms**
  - Improve coordination and efficiency among internal and external reviewers.



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## Update – Urban Boundary Expansion & Inter-Urban Water Supply

- Norfolk is expanding urban boundaries by 1,354 acres across Courtland, Delhi, Simcoe, and Waterford to support ~30,000 more residents by 2051.
- Planning includes 294 acres for residential and 129 acres for employment land.
- Infrastructure investments needed for water and wastewater upgrades in Port Dover, Simcoe, Waterford, Delhi, and Port Rowan, all currently with independent water systems.
- The inter-urban water supply program aims to centralize and interconnect water systems for redundancy and growth support.

## What Norfolk is Asking – Water Infrastructure Support

- Requesting provincial guidance on how to break down and approach funding applications for the inter-urban water supply project.
- Without provincial financial support, staff are reviewing a “Plan B” involving investment in five independent water systems and sourcing additional groundwater wells for growth areas.

