PED14004
Provincial Review of Land Use Planning and Appeal System

General Issues Committee: February 5, 2014
Why

• “Ensure that the land use planning and appeal system in Ontario is predictable, transparent, cost-effective and responsive to the changing needs of communities”
Our Approach

• Circulated to Senior Management
• Met with:
  – Planning Division
  – General Manager’s Office
  – Growth Management
  – Legal Services
• Response based on staff expertise and experiences with the planning system
“Big Picture” Recommendations

• Alignment of Policy Review
• Increase of Mandatory Review Period
• No appeals for Conformity Exercises
• Investigate tribunal models for Minor Variance and Consent applications
• Strengthen Municipal Decisions
• Increase the Planning Horizon
• Powers to Protect Future Employment Lands
Process/Technical Recommendations

• Removal of right to appeal entire municipal documents
• Refinement of “non-decision” appeal rights and provisions
• Extending the timeframe under which a decision must be made on development applications
• Engaging citizens – Opportunities for further engagement
• Providing alternate means of notification
• Clarifications for existing planning tools permitted by the Planning Act
OMB Recommendations

• Meaningful changes to the appeal system and Ontario Municipal Board are necessary.
• It is necessary to conduct a thorough review of the OMB operations, practices and procedures including, but not limited to:
  – Should OMB be eliminated? scoped? or replaced?
  – Scheduling of hearings
  – Hearing costs
  – Long wait times for decisions
  – Requirement for mandatory discussions between appellants and municipalities prior to appeals being filed
  – Consideration for more than one Board member for complex hearings
  – Improvement to administrative process, including a staff person to record all OMB proceedings.
Thank you