

York Regional Police

Developing a 20-year facilities plan



ORH'S APPROACH

ORH undertook intensive consultation and data analysis to gain an in-depth understanding of the service's operations, to build up a profile of the current service and to identify the drivers for location planning. Historical calls for service and population data were linked with population trend data to project future demand levels and patterns. Improved patrol zone boundaries were then recommended. ORH's location optimisation model (OGRE) was used to identify the most appropriate configuration of stations. This was applied over the 20-year timescale in a phased manner, to meet future planning requirements.

RESULTS

Current patrol zones were redrawn, improving incident coverage from 90% within seven minutes to 90% within five minutes. The zones were also increased in number between 2021 and 2031 to maintain or improve incident coverage. Optimal locations for stations were identified, based on population access and minimising driving times to and from the recommended patrol zones. Currently 70% of residents are within 15 minutes of their nearest station. By 2031, this



will be improved to 70% within 10.5 minutes. The average time that a patrol car spends driving to and from a station during a 12-hour shift will be reduced by 20 minutes.

KEY BENEFITS

- ORH provided a robust, evidence-based, quantitative road map for the phased introduction of new patrol zones and district stations
- ORH's expertise in location optimisation and experience of demand forecasting provided confidence in the recommended solutions
- Site search area maps were produced around optimal locations to guide land acquisition

- Detailed data analysis gave the service additional insight into demand patterns and vehicle usage, beyond the parameters of the study itself

Optimising estate locations resulted in a reduction in patrol car drive time equivalent to two additional patrol cars, 24 hours a day, seven days a week



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THE CHALLENGE

The population of York Region in Ontario is expected to grow by approximately 500,000 to reach 1.5 million by 2031. This growth will be through both the intensification of housing in current residential locations and expansion into new areas. Given the changing geographical profile of demand, York Regional Police required updated patrol zone boundaries to respond efficiently and effectively to a growing number of calls for service. Future station locations needed to be identified to best service these patrol zones and provide improved access to police facilities for the public. The new locations then had to be integrated within a 20-year facilities masterplan.

