

Updated: York University nixes Aurora-Newmarket bid

By Brock Weir

Aurora and Newmarket's pitch to bring a campus of York University to the two municipalities has been nixed.

York announced their shortlist on Friday morning and bids from Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan have made the cut. Two bids were expected to make the final cut on Friday ahead of further consideration next month, but York and Seneca College extended their options.

"We heard such remarkable presentations from these three municipalities who went far above and beyond to showcase their capabilities and commitment that we decided to expand our list," said York University President Mamdouh Shoukri in a statement. "We believe that any one of these three candidate municipalities would be excellent partners in this major undertaking. York University is deeply honoured that so many municipalities in York Region are interested in working with us. All participating have demonstrated a strong commitment to postsecondary education, and full support from their local councils and communities."

Added Seneca College President David Agnew: "Every potential partner in York Region made an excellent case for an expanded postsecondary presence. We are delighted to be working in a strong partnership with York University to expand access to today's and tomorrow's students."

The University noted they believe Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan "stood out" with well-developed transportation infrastructure that could bring in students from across the GTA, as well as their "vibrant urban centres."