

Taking a Closer Look at the Downtown



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Re-examination of the Downtown Policies in the
Adopted Official Plan

Presentation to:
Burlington Seniors' Advisory Committee

October 21, 2019



What is an Official Plan?

- Statutory document that describes the City's long-term land-use strategy.
- Prepared with input from the public and helps ensure future planning and development will meet the needs of the community
- City's authority to regulate land use through an Official Plan and Zoning By-law comes from the *Ontario Planning Act*
- City's Official Plan must conform to higher-level plans and policies:
 - Provincial Policy Statement
 - Provincial Plans (Growth Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan, Greenbelt Plan, etc)
 - Halton Region Official Plan

Background on the Adopted Official Plan (OP)

- April 2018: City adopted a new OP
 - Policies for Downtown Mobility Hub were developed through an Area-Specific Planning study
- City submitted Adopted OP to Halton Region for review
- Dec. 2018: Region paused its review after identifying some conformity issues
- 2019: City staff working with Halton Region staff to make policy modifications that will resolve conformity issues
- **Adopted OP will not come into effect until Region approves it**

Background on the OP Re-examination

- Q1 2019:
 - City Council directed staff to re-examine the Adopted OP
 - Council confirmed scope of re-examination = downtown policies
- Q2 2019:
 - Council approved work plan
 - City hired SGL Planning consultants to work with City Planning staff
- Q3 2019:
 - Project team pre-engaged with key stakeholders and citizen committees
 - Project team developed [Engagement Plan](#)
 - SGL prepared [Background Report](#)
 - First phase of public engagement in August

OP Re-examination Process

- Summer 2019
 - Engagement → Themes (see [Feedback Report](#) pg 14)
 - Principles
 - Vision
 - 2 Concepts for future
- Fall 2019
 - Engage on 2 concepts
 - Move towards a recommended concept
- Winter 2019-20
 - Council to approve a concept
 - Detailed policy development



Staff heard 13 themes from public input in August:

1. Green Space/Open Space/Parks
2. Safer, More Useable and Inclusive Public Spaces
3. Arts, Culture, Events, People & Amenities
4. Walkability: Safer, More, & Better Pedestrian Spaces that are Less Car-Centric with More Transit & Cycle Options & Infrastructure
5. Traffic Congestion
6. Parking
7. Preserving and Encouraging Places to Shop and Work
8. Maintaining the Character of the Downtown/Heritage Preservation
9. Preservation of Connections to Waterfront
10. Built Form, Height, and Neighbourhood Transitions
11. Variety of Housing Options and Affordability
12. Design
13. Vision



**Public
Input**


Technical Studies

Studies informing the Re-examination of the Adopted OP:

- Environmental Impact Study
- Strategic Transportation Overview
- Functional Servicing Study
- Cultural Heritage Resources Assessment
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
- Market Analysis
- Flood Study
- Financial Impact Analysis
- Detailed Transportation Analysis



**Technical
Studies**



**Physical &
Environmental
Constraints**

Next Steps for Project Team

- Public Engagement Round 2
 - Mid-October to early November 2019
 - Discussion around 2 possible concepts for the future of downtown
 - 3-D models
- Winter 2019-20:
 - Develop a recommended Land Use concept and present to Council
 - Develop detailed policies based on Council-approved Land Use concept
- Working towards:
 - Council decides what policy modifications to endorse
 - Halton Region makes final decision on City's Official Plan

Call to Action for Committees

- Learn more about the project at www.getinvolvedburlington.ca
- Participate as an individual
 - Online survey
 - Action Labs
 - Stay informed
- Participate as a committee:
 - Advise Project Team and Council on Land Use Plan and policies
 - **Provide written comments to staff by mid-November 2019**

Questions? & Links to More Info

For more information:

- Project website: www.getinvolvedburlington.ca
- “[What You Need to Know](#)” background report
- Project [Engagement Plan](#)
- [Feedback report](#) on results of August engagement
- Contact the project team: thomas.douglas@burlington.ca