

# Horizon 2050

## Burlington's 25 Year Vision and Strategic Plan – Council Presentation

---

March 3, 2026



# Horizon 2050 Project Journey



## 1. Initiate

*Setting ourselves up for success!*



## 2. Assess

*Where are we now?*



## 3. Engage

*Where do we want to go?*



## 4. Strategize

*How do we get there?*



## 5. Create

*Bring the Vision to Life!*

### Get Involved Burlington Project

**2,300+**

Project Page Views

**6,700+**

e-Newsletter Subscribers

### Social Media Campaign (Oct)

**28,018**

Post Impressions

**344**

Post Engagements

### Surveys and Sessions

**1118**

Survey Respondents

**2000+**

Public Engagement Events Participants

**8**

Public Engagement Sessions

**15**

Interviews with Council, City Staff, and Partners

# Horizon 2050 Strategic Positioning



## **An evolution, not a reset**

Horizon 2050 builds on the foundation of Vision 2040, reflecting how Burlington has grown and how the city is evolving for the future



## **People-first**

Vision and strategy puts people and their lived experience at the center of long-term planning and decision-making



## **Quality of life as the measure of success**

Success is defined by how people experience life in Burlington, not just by City outputs



## **Purposeful growth**

Growth is planned deliberately as a means to support community needs, well-being, and long-term sustainability



## **A collaborative future**

Horizon 2050 emphasizes shared responsibility and collaboration in shaping Burlington's future



## **Growth with people and place at the center**

Advancing Burlington's approach to growth, focusing on how growth supports everyday life, community culture, and the natural environment

# Recommended Horizon 2050 'Strategy On a Page'

## VISION

Burlington is a community where nature is protected, growth is purposeful, and everyone thrives

## MISSION

Burlington stands together—staying connected, caring for one another, and strengthening community well-being for generations to come

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

**Quality Services for all Communities**

**Neighbourhoods that Support Well-Being**

**Preserve the Environment & Promote the Natural Legacy**

**Enabled and Purposeful Growth**

*Objectives*

*Outcomes*

*Objectives*

*Outcomes*

*Objectives*

*Outcomes*

*Objectives*

*Outcomes*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Financially Responsible**

**Sustainable & Future-Ready**

**Communities Fostering Respect & Belonging**

**Economic Vitality**

**Innovative, Transparent & Data-Driven**

# Recommended Horizon 2050 Vision Statement

---

*Emphasizes a strong sense of place and civic identity*

*Emphasizes collective belonging and shared responsibility*

**“ Burlington is a community where nature is protected, growth is purposeful, and everyone thrives ”**

---

*Green spaces and the lakefront preserved for generations*

---

*Development, mobility, and services that are planned and deliberate to support community well-being*

---

*Residents, businesses, and visitors have access to opportunity, feel connected, a sense of belonging and able to live well and fulfilling lives.*

# Recommended Horizon 2050 Mission Statement

---

**Burlington stands together – staying connected, caring for one another, and strengthening community well-being for generations to come**

# Recommended Horizon 2050 Guiding Principles



## Financially Responsible

The city **uses public resources responsibly** and designs services, programs, and community amenities that remain within reach for everyone.

As a community, we work together to make **thoughtful, balanced choices for all** that support **long-term financial sustainability**.



## Sustainable & Future-Ready

The city **protects and enhances our natural environment**, acts on climate change, and plans with **long-term responsibility**.

As a community, we contribute to sustainability by **caring for our natural spaces**, making **climate-minded choices**, and supporting a **resilient future** for generations to come.



## Communities Fostering Respect & Belonging

The city fosters **communities rooted in respect and belonging** through **strong partnerships** that create welcoming spaces.

As a community, we ensure **equitable access to services, safe and healthy environments**, and opportunities for all community members.



## Economic Vitality

The city supports a **strong, diverse local economy** that provides opportunities for residents and businesses to prosper.

As a community, we **champion local enterprise**, participate in economic life, and help build a Burlington where **everyone can succeed**.



## Innovative, Transparent & Data-Driven

The city operates with **openness, integrity, and accountability** - using modern digital tools, clear communication, and evidence to guide decisions and **build trust**.

As a community, we **engage constructively, stay informed, and participate meaningfully** in decision-making.

# Recommended Horizon 2050 Strategic Directions

---



## Quality Services for all Communities

*Burlington provides exceptional and efficient services to customers and community members. Community members feel connected and actively participate in civic life*



## Neighbourhoods that Support Well-Being

*Burlington's diverse neighborhoods are welcoming to all. Neighbourhoods are designed and supported to be safe, inclusive and encourage healthy living.*



## Preserve the Environment & Promote the Natural Legacy

*Burlington is a leader in environmental stewardship. The natural beauty of the lake front and green spaces are protected for future generations and enjoyed by all.*



## Enabled and Purposeful Growth

*Burlington grows its economy in priority sectors. Development is purposeful to meet the changing needs of the community. An integrated network of mobility solutions moves people and goods seamlessly.*

# Recommended Horizon 2050 Strategic Objectives



## Quality Services for all Communities

- The city aims to meet or exceed service levels and quality standards
- Foster meaningful civic engagement and participation
- Ensure transparency and accountability in governance
- Enhance customer experience through a customer-first approach
- Foster an ethical and collaborative organizational culture



## Neighbourhoods that Support Well-Being

- Strengthen social connectivity and community spirit
- Enable safe and inclusive neighborhoods
- Advance creative and adaptive city planning and development
- Foster equity and inclusion across all service
- Promote health and wellness for all community members



## Preserve the Environment & Promote the Natural Legacy

- Advance the established net-zero commitments for municipal operations and the broader community
- Preserve natural areas to maintain biodiversity and ecological resilience
- Expand and innovate urban greenspaces to support climate adaptation and improve community well-being
- Create vibrant, accessible green spaces that invite exploration, learning, and generational connection with nature
- Enhance municipal resilience to climate-related risks to protect essential infrastructure and maintain reliable service delivery



## Enabled and Purposeful Growth

- Drive sustainable economic growth in priority sectors to create quality jobs and long-term prosperity
- Deliver purposeful housing development to support diverse and changing needs
- Create an integrated mobility network with accessible and low-emission options
- Enhance connectivity and reduce car dependency through transit and active transportation

# Working Together to Achieve Success

---

Achieving Horizon 2050 goals will require **shared effort across the Community, Council, and City Staff**. Each group plays multiple roles in advancing these priorities – at times leading initiatives, at times partnering with others, and in many cases facilitating collaboration or advocating for change.



# Wrap Up, Reflections & Next Steps

---

**Questions?**

## **Next Steps:**

1. **Finalize Horizon 2050 (Apr 2026)**
2. **Communicate & Promote Final Approved Horizon 2050 (Apr – June 2026)**