



**Report**  
**Staff Report**  
 The Corporation of the City of Brampton  
 4/10/2024

**Date:** 2024-03-25

**Subject:** **The Feasibility of a Logistics Innovation Zone in Brampton (RM 71/2023)**

**Contact:** Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development

**Report number:** CAO's Office-2024-294

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report from Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development, to the Committee of Council Meeting of April 10, 2024, re: **The Feasibility of a Logistics Innovation Zone in Brampton (RM 71/2023)**, be received;
2. That staff be directed to initiate Phase 1 of the Logistics Innovation Zone Feasibility Report (Attachment 1); and
3. That a copy of this report be forwarded to relevant provincial and federal ministries.

**OVERVIEW:**

- In October 2023, staff was directed to investigate the feasibility of a Logistics Innovation Zone (LIZ) in Brampton (CW388-2023).
- The City of Brampton plays a pivotal role in the manufacturing, transportation and logistics sectors that form the backbone of the national economy.
- The Logistics Innovation Zone Feasibility Report outlines a three-phased approach, with each phase building on the success of the last.
- The LIZ aims to harness the city's prime location, skilled labour pool and vast land resources to foster an ecosystem that bolsters trade efficiency and stimulates economic expansion.
- Phase 1 of the LIZ will be funded from the 2024 Economic Development Operating Budget, pending Council approval. Departmental staff will report back on all additional costs relating to the other phases at a future date.

## BACKGROUND:

On October 25, 2023, Regional Councillor Toor, Chair of Economic Development, provided Committee of Council with an overview of Detroit's Mobility Innovation Zone.

Councillor Toor outlined the opportunity to establish a Logistics Innovation Zone (LIZ) in Brampton, noting the Regional Municipality of Peel is Canada's logistics hub; as well as the potential for innovation and the need to address the challenges of this sector.

A motion ([CW388-2023](#)) was approved, directing staff to report back on the feasibility of establishing a Logistics Innovation Zone in Brampton.

## CURRENT SITUATION:

The City of Brampton plays a pivotal role in the manufacturing, transportation and logistics sectors that form the backbone of the national economy.

The logistics sector in Brampton, with its extensive network of over 11,000 employers and 24,000 strong workforce, contributes significantly to the national GDP, underscoring Brampton's position in the supply chain network of Canada.

Brampton's status as one of the top-connected mid-sized North American cities ([fDi Intelligence, 2021](#)) further solidifies its potential to spearhead advancements in the logistics industry.

The Feasibility Report (Attachment 1) for the City of Brampton's Logistics Innovation Zone is the product of comprehensive research and analysis, and is a collaborative effort between the City's Economic Development Office, led by Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development, and BHive, led by Kulbir Colin Singh Dhillon, Chief Innovation Officer. Support will be provided by Integrated City Planning staff and others.

This report includes feedback from key internal and external stakeholders and reflects best practices in logistics and transportation innovation globally.

A multidisciplinary research methodology was employed, utilizing existing data, case studies, and an assessment of current technological trends and environmental considerations, with the objective of generating a holistic and forward-thinking plan, tailored to Brampton's unique strengths and vision for the future (Brampton 2040 Vision).

The Report outlines a three-phase approach, with each phase building on the success of the last:

- **Phase 1:** Branding and Conceptualization
- **Phase 2:** Materializing the Vision
- **Phase 3:** Culmination and Construction

The initial phase emphasizes the importance of branding and conceptualization in laying the groundwork for the LIZ, setting a strong foundation for its identity, technological direction, and stakeholder involvement.

This foundational phase paves the way for the establishment of a physical hub for innovative collaboration and ongoing pilot initiatives aimed at honing logistics technologies.

The culmination of these efforts is the construction of the Centre of Excellence, a facility that will demonstrate Brampton's commitment to fostering sustainable innovation and cutting-edge technology.

The LIZ aims to harness the city's prime location, skilled labour pool, and vast land resources to cultivate an ecosystem that bolsters trade efficiency and stimulates economic expansion.

Throughout all project phases, staff will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders, including the Smart Freight Centre, a centre of excellence for goods movement that conducts research on regionally significant goods movement issues and projects in Peel Region and the GTHA, and advocates for the coordination of transportation infrastructure, land development, regulations, technology tools, and resources.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Financial Implications:**

Phase 1 of the Logistics Innovation Zone will be funded from the 2024 Economic Development Operating Budget, pending Council approval. Departmental staff will report back on all additional costs relating to the other phases at a future date.

### **Policy Implications:**

The Logistics Innovation Zone is supported by, and would contribute to the achievement of, policy direction in the Brampton 2040 Vision and Brampton Plan:

#### 2040 Vision

The Vision recognizes that Brampton is a major national logistics hub of warehousing and manufacturing with links by rail, air, and roads. Action 4-8 (Advanced Goods Movement Management) in the Vision calls for the adoption of a Brampton-made advanced goods handling and movement framework for regional partnerships that continues to serve the logistics sector but also serves Brampton's city-building agenda. It states that the framework must include known advanced goods handling and movement techniques, inquire into emerging technologies, and have wide industry involvement and public input.

## Brampton Plan

The Mobility Framework in Brampton Plan establishes a high-level plan for moving people, goods, and services throughout Brampton, to the surrounding region, and beyond while also guiding city-building objectives such as growth management, economic development, and climate action. The Plan recognizes that trends in consumer preference and emerging urban freight technologies are creating new challenges for cities and that a comprehensive and adaptive urban freight environment will be important to prepare Brampton for future technological innovations and disruptions. Policy direction in the Plan regarding goods movement directs the City to work with other levels of government and industry stakeholders to develop and support a comprehensive, integrated, and effective multimodal goods movement system for the safe movement of goods by road, rail, and air. It further directs the City to provide for the establishment of priority routes for goods movement and to better integrate multimodal goods movement planning with freight-supportive land uses and transportation system planning.

### **STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:**

This report supports the Strategic Focus Area of Growing Urban Centres and Neighbourhoods to stimulate Innovation, Create Jobs, and Grow Investment.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The comprehensive feasibility study for Brampton's Logistics Innovation Zone outlines a strategic path for the City to enhance its role as a leader in logistics innovation.

This project aligns with the City's vision for economic growth, innovation, and sustainability, as detailed in the Economic Development Master Plan, Brampton's 2040 Vision.

Council's endorsement of Phase 1 is recommended to set the project in motion, with the goal of advancing trade efficiency and expanding the local economy.

Authored by:

Approved by:

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Clare Barnett  
Director  
Economic Development

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Marlon Kallideen  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Logistics Innovation Zone Feasibility Report