

Government Relations Matters

City Council
April 17, 2024



Audit and Risk Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 11:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 1:30 PM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024.

April 9, 2024

Update on Emergency Management Strategies

- The province released its [first annual report](#) on the *Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan*.
- Highlights from the report include:
 - Leading and participating in 85 emergency exercises and drills with both government and non-government partners to strengthen emergency practice and preparedness.
 - Launching the *Provincial Exercise Program*, a multi-year plan to exercise, test and strengthen multi-sector emergency plans and whole-of-government emergency response.
- The report also speaks to continuing to use data and digital tools to help communities prepare for potential emergencies, including extreme weather events.



City staff observe that the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, included as one of the report highlights, targets smaller communities with population under 100,000, making the City ineligible.



April 9, 2024

Inclusive Communities Grant

- The province is investing **\$750,000** in 2024 to help communities across the province become more age-friendly and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.
- Applications are now open for the 2024-25 cycle of *Inclusive Community Grants*:
 - These grants provide municipalities, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous communities with up to **\$60,000** for local projects that will help older adults and people with disabilities participate in community life.
 - Eligible organizations have until **May 22, 2024** to submit their applications.

City staff are exploring opportunities to leverage this funding towards projects that would promote accessibility, safety and active living in Brampton.

April 10, 2024

Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes

- The province has introduced the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185)*.
- If passed, the legislation and targeted housing measures are to help municipalities and other partners by:
 - Letting homebuyers and homebuilders decide on the number of parking spaces in new residential development near transit based on market needs.
 - Prioritizing infrastructure for ready-to-go housing projects with a new “use it or lose it” process to address stalled development.
 - Improving consultation and providing municipalities and builders with greater certainty to get homes built faster.
 - Streamlining approvals for student housing and supporting standardized designs to reduce delays and costs.



Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes (Cont'd)

- Bill 185 would have significant implications for municipalities. The Bill would affect various relevant legislation including the *Planning Act*, *Development Charges Act*, and the *Municipal Act*.
- Key relevant highlights of the proposed legislation include:
 - An updated draft of the *Provincial Planning Statement*.
 - A “*use it or lose it*” policy.
 - Walking back Bill 109 rebates to developers, while being able to use DCs to fund growth related studies
 - Region of Peel, Halton Region and York Region to become upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities on July 1, 2024.

City staff are reviewing the proposed legislative amendments and will report back to Council.

City staff are reviewing the six (6) public consultation postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for potential submissions on the City’s behalf, which are due on May 10 and 12, 2024.



April 15, 2024

Expansion of GO Train Service Across the Greater Toronto Area

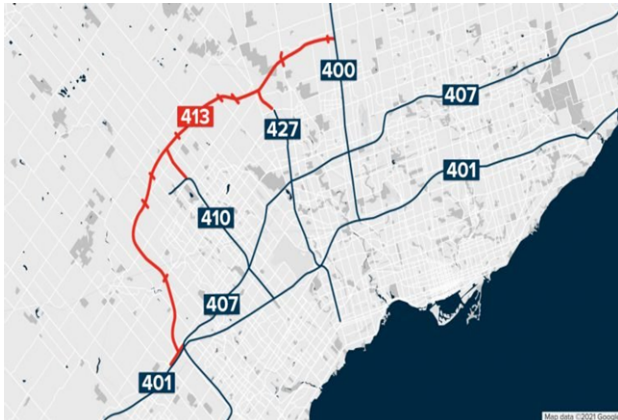


- The province is proceeding with a significant GO train service expansion adding more than **300 trips per week** on the Milton, Lakeshore West, Lakeshore East, Kitchener and Stouffville lines.
- Starting April 28, 2024, weekend train service will increase from every **30 minutes to every 15 minutes** in the afternoon and evening on the Lakeshore West and Lakeshore East lines between Oakville GO Station, Union Station and Durham College Oshawa GO Station.
 - The **15% increase** in weekly trips will give commuters more choice to get where they need to go faster.
 - Riders on the Kitchener GO line will benefit from the new 30-minute weekday service during midday and evenings between **Bramalea GO Station** and Union Station.

The City continues to advocate to the province for a two-way, all-day GO train service on the Kitchener GO Line.

April 15, 2024

Advancement of Highway 413



- The governments of Ontario and Canada are collaborating to ensure environmental protections and regulatory clarity to advance the Highway 413 project.
- Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the two levels of government have established a joint working group in which provincial and federal officials will recommend appropriate measures to minimize environmental impacts in areas of federal environmental jurisdiction.
- The Supreme Court of Canada has declared parts of the *Impact Assessment Act* unconstitutional, prompting a commitment to revise the legislation and an interim halt on designating projects.

Staff will provide Members of Council with further details at a later date.

April 12, 2024

Canada's Housing Plan

- The federal government unveiled the *Solving the housing crisis: Canada's Housing Plan*.
- The plan recognizes the critical link between infrastructure and housing, as well as important investments to tackle homelessness and encampments and support asylum seekers.
- The plan lays out a strategy to unlock 3.87 million new homes by 2031, calling on all orders of government to build at least 800,000 more homes by 2031.
- Highlights of the plan also include:
 - Investments to attract, train, and hire the skilled-trade workers needed to build more homes.
 - An additional **\$1B** for the Reaching Home program and **\$250M** to support local response to homeless encampments.
 - A commitment to **extend the Interim Housing Assistance Program** and to work with all orders of government to find long-term solutions to prevent asylum seekers from experiencing homelessness.
 - **\$1B** to the Affordable Housing Fund, including a new Rapid Housing Stream.



In early April, the government announced several measures to help address the current housing crisis, including funding for municipalities and provinces, supports for renters, and incentives for construction of affordable housing, among others.

Canada's Housing Plan (Cont'd)



- The City of Brampton appreciates the newly announced supports for skilled trades in Brampton and beyond.
- Talent shortages, worker recruitment challenges, and opportunities for more foreign credential recognition have been identified as a challenge, while workforce development is the number one issue among most Brampton firms.
- Working with key Brampton stakeholders such as the Brampton Board of Trade, colleges and universities (e.g., Sheridan, Algoma and Toronto Metropolitan University), Peel-Halton Workforce group, as well as both Peel Region school boards the City is:
 - Hosting information sessions and events with companies
 - Working with colleges and universities to have company data and support for new apprenticeship and skilled trades programming developed and delivered; and
 - Co-ordinating Brampton company input with both school boards to increase the awareness of job opportunities in skilled trades at high schools in Peel Region.
- The City encourages the federal government to work with Brampton and other stakeholders to ensure that these new measures to attract, train and hire skilled workers will continue to support job creation and economic growth in Brampton.



April 16, 2024

2024 Federal Budget

- The Federal Minister of Finance has tabled the 2024 Budget.
- The City of Brampton has provided a formal pre-budget submission through the budget consultation process highlighting key City priorities.
- Over the next weeks, staff will analyze the document in detail and identify opportunities for collaboration, funding and additional advocacy.

The GR staff have provided Members of Council with a summary of the budget document and initial analysis.

The budget document will help inform the City's ongoing engagement with the federal government including advocacy, funding and collaboration on key priorities.

AMO 2024 Board Elections

Elections for positions to the AMO Board of Directors will occur at the 2024 AMO Annual Conference and AGM, hosted by the City of Ottawa in **August 2024**.

Key dates:

- Nominations open: late April 2024
- Nominations close: late June 2024
- Nominations report listing all certified candidates sent to membership: early July 2024
- Deadline for registered delegates to change their caucus affiliation: early July 2024
- Candidates' meeting: late July/early August 2024
- Voting period: Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (times TBD)
- Elections results announcement: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (time TBD)
- First Board meeting for all elected candidates: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 (time TBD)
- Term of office: August 21, 2024 - August 18, 2026



THANK YOU!

