

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
October 23, 2024



Debt Issuance Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2024 @ 8:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here.](#)

Peel Housing Corporation Special Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2024 @ 9:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here.](#)

Regional Council

Thursday, October 24, 2024 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here.](#)

8.1 Housing Development Update 2024 (Recommendation)

Summary:

- Peel increases the supply of shelters, community and supportive housing through a variety of programs including: the Peel Community Housing Development Program (PCHDP), the Non-Profit Housing Development Program, the Peel Affordable Rental Incentives Program (PARIP) and the My Home Second Units Renovation Assistance Program, and the federal Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI).
- Through the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), Birch Place opened in Brampton for occupancy in March 2024. Birch Place has 50 affordable rental units, with 17 youth transitional units.
- Current active Capital Projects in Brampton include:
 - Youth Shelter (80 bed facility – ROP led) Consulting for design and development services underway (RFP).
 - Wilkinson Shelter (150 beds – replacement of existing facility - ROP led) Preliminary design concepts being developed to prepare for a design/build RFP early 2025.
 - Chelsea Gardens (200 units, affordable rental - ROP led / PHC site) Borehole drilling complete, construction contract awarded and construction beginning October.
 - Peel Manor Seniors Rental Building (198 units, affordable rental – ROP led) Design work completed to 80%; applications submitted for planning approvals; construction management firm hired

City Staff Comments (Planning):

- The need for affordable housing, particularly amongst our community's most vulnerable far exceeds available resources.
- Brampton City staff support the Region's efforts to advocate to the federal and provincial governments to increase funding for community and supportive housing in Peel.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

11.1 2024 Capital Financial Triannual Performance Report – August 31, 2024

Summary:

- The Budget Policy requires that staff report the status of capital work at a minimum of twice a year.
- This report provides the second update for 2024 on the financial results of the Capital Program based on information as at August 31, 2024.
- The 2024 Capital Budget included approval of \$1.9B in capital projects for Regionally Controlled programs including \$1.3B in growth-related and \$0.6B for the Peel Regional Police.
- In the initial eight months of 2024, \$630.3M was spent, surpassing the previous five years' average of \$366.8M (i.e. 72 per cent higher) as at August 31.
- As at August 31, 2024, Peel has Capital Work in Progress totaling \$7.0B (1,729 active capital projects).

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- Staff observe that the Region's unspent capital increased from \$5.1B at the end of fiscal 2023 to \$7.0B as at August 31, 2024.
- Main contributor to the increase was the approval of 2024 Capital Budget totalling \$2.5B. With estimated annual spending of approximately \$700M this is equivalent to over 10 years of work assuming similar average annual spending pattern.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

11.2 2024 Operating Financial Triannual Performance Report – August 31, 2024 (Recommendation)

Summary:

- The Budget Policy requires that staff report the status of operating and capital services at a minimum of twice annually and this report provides the first forecasted year end financial position of the Operating Budget based on the information and financial results as of August 31, 2024.

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- The report highlights that the Region is on target with the Council approved operating budget, projecting a surplus of \$3.9M on a net budget of \$1.5B or 0.3%.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

17.1 Asylum Claimant Response Update

Summary:

- The report provides an update to Council on Peel's ongoing asylum claimant response, building on the work and updates delivered over the past year.

City Staff Comments (Government Relations/Community Services):

- The report updates Council on Peel's ongoing asylum claimant response.
- Regional staff work with several stakeholders to create a distinct service system for asylum claimants that is client-centered and separate from Peel's local homeless system.
- Continued advocacy efforts to the federal and provincial governments for additional supports and resources is required.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendations.

17.2 The Erosion of Basic Living Standards for Peel's Most Vulnerable Residents

Summary:

- This staff report highlights key trends and issues impacting those living in poverty. These trends indicate a growing intensity of need among Ontario Works clients.

City Staff Comments (Community Services):

- Staff strongly support this report and its recommendation to advocate for the provincial government to increase Ontario Works rates to a livable rate and commit to indexing supports to the annual inflation rate.
- For the 6th consecutive year, Ontario Works rates have not increased, and inflation-based adjustments have not occurred, resulting in individuals receiving \$733 per month, which consists of a \$390 shelter allowance and \$343 for basic needs. In July 2024, the caseload was 41 percent higher compared to July 2023.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

October 21, 2024

The Ontario Legislature Resumes

- The provincial Legislature resumed this Monday after a 19-week summer break.
- The Minister of Energy announced he will introduce legislation to make it easier for new homes and businesses to connect to the electricity grid.
- The Premier appointed former federal Health Minister Dr. Jane Philpott to head a new team mandated to look into shortage of primary care physicians and connect every Ontarian with a primary-care provider within five years.



October 21, 2024

Bill 212, Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024

- The Minister of Transportation introduced *Bill 212, The Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*.
- The legislation, if passed, would (highlights):
 - **Create a new Building Highways Faster Act that would speed construction of Highway 413, Bradford Bypass, Garden City Skyway bridge and other priority highway projects** designated by the province. The new Act would accelerate access to property and property acquisitions and introduce new penalties for obstructing access for field investigations or damaging equipment. The legislation would also allow regulation-making authority to facilitate around-the-clock, 24/7 construction on priority highway projects.
 - **Require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic.** Municipalities would be required to demonstrate that the proposed bike lanes will not have a negative impact on vehicle traffic.
 - **Support smaller municipalities with pothole prevention.** The government is consulting with municipalities to develop a pothole prevention and repair fund to open in the 2025 construction season.
 - Raise speed limits on all provincial 400-series highways to 110 km/h, where it is safe to do so.



Staff are analyzing the newly introduced legislation for direct and indirect impacts to the City.

October 21, 2024

Public Consultations: Bill 212, Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024

Bill 212 - Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024 - Framework for bike lanes that require removal of a traffic lane.

- The regulations and associated policy guidance for the bike lanes framework is currently being developed and will include:
 - The scope of included municipalities and or roads that will be subject to the bike lanes framework.
 - Defined provincial review process for new bike lanes that require the removal of an existing lane of traffic.
 - Required data, studies, and other information that would be subject to the framework.
 - Timeframes related to provincial requests for municipal data on existing bike lanes, where a lane of traffic was removed.
 - Service standards for ministry decisions
- Comments due: November 20, 2024.

Bill 212 - Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024 - Building Highways Faster Act, 2024

- MTO is proposing a new Act under Bill 212 Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024 called the Building Highways Faster Act, 2024. The new Act, if passed, will accelerate highway construction for designated priority projects to support the movement of goods and people across Ontario.
- Comments due: November 20, 2024.

Staff are analyzing the newly tabled legislation and associated postings of the Ontario Regulatory Registry for comments and feedback.

October 21, 2024

Ontario Helping to Combat Hate and Create Safer Communities

- The Ontario government is investing \$12.75M this year to help address the rise of hate incidents and keep communities safe across the province.
- This is part of the governments \$25.5M investment over two years in the new *Anti-Hate Security and Prevent Grant* to help faith-based and cultural organizations implement measures to ensure their community spaces remain safe and secure.
- The grant provides up to \$10,000 to eligible community organizations to help them protect their spaces from hate-motivated incidents, graffiti, vandalism or other damage.
- Grant funding can be used for measures such as hiring security staff, surveillance cameras, security assessments, cybersecurity, and building repairs.
 - The application portal opens on October 31, 2024, and closes on December 2, 2024.
- A complete list of eligible organizations can be found at Ontario.ca/AHSP



This funding opportunity is open to registered charities, not-for-profit corporations and community groups. Municipalities are not eligible for this funding,

October 16, 2024

Government of Canada National Action Plan results in 19 per cent decline in auto theft



- The National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft, which was developed following the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft, focuses on disrupting, dismantling and prosecuting the organized crime groups involved in auto theft.
- According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, national auto theft trends for 2024 have shown a 19 per cent decline in auto theft in the first half of the year compared to the same period last year.
- The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has intercepted more than 1,900 stolen vehicles in railyards and ports this year, already exceeding last year's total. In the Greater Toronto Area alone, 620 stolen vehicles have been intercepted by the CBSA in 2024.

The City of Brampton has been at the forefront with its advocacy for a coordinated action to combat auto theft, including collaboration with all levels of government and stakeholders. This action plan is a direct result of the City's robust advocacy efforts.

October 18, 2024

Call to Action on Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crises

- Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) called on the Ontario and federal governments to take action on the homelessness, mental health, safety and addictions crisis impacting municipalities across the province.
- The Mayors passed a resolution which included requesting that the provincial government:
 - Urgently review, consult on, and update the Mental Health Act and the Health Care Consent Act, neither of which address the current state of this crisis across the province.
 - Implement Diversion Courts throughout the province, and expand the scope and reach of these courts, with a focus on rehabilitation rather than punitive measures.
 - Along with the federal government, introduce legislation prohibiting open and public use of illicit drugs and public intoxication; and
 - Review, consult on, and update the Trespass to Property Act with such a review to include but not be limited to options to assist communities in addressing aggressive or repetitive trespass
- It is critical that the province moves quickly to create a plan to build a plethora of supportive housing units, especially units that address the needs of those who have started treatment, and need shelter, care, and supports
- The motion requests that the government create a blueprint to the build of the thousands of beds needed and include the source of funding and municipal funding programs required with the blueprint.



The City of Brampton has actively advocated for federal and provincial action on the homelessness, mental health, safety and addictions, including working with OBCM and supporting advocacy by AMO and FCM. Brampton has also highlighted the City's own actions, local impacts and need for support to enable a meaningful and timely supports to individuals in need and to ensure public safety.

October 18, 2024

Ontario Big City Mayors Elect New Executive Committee Members

- At the October 18, 2024, meeting, OBCM elected new members to their executive committee.
 - Mayor Alex Nuttall of Barrie was elected as Vice Chair.
 - Mayor Elizabeth Roy of Whitby was named secretary.
 - Mayor Bryan Peterson was acclaimed and will be returning to the Board as Treasurer.
- They will join current Chair Mayor Marianne Meed Ward of Burlington and Past-Chair Cam Guthrie of Guelph who will continue their terms.
- The new members officially join the committee in December for a two-year term.
- OBCM's executive committee leads the caucus of 29 mayors from Ontario's largest cities. Their role includes representing OBCM at various meetings/events with provincial and federal government representatives, partner municipal organizations and other stakeholders.
- They also work with staff to develop OBCM policies and organize meetings as well as work with their mayoral colleagues to identify key priorities for the organization.



The October 18th OBCM meeting and a renewed call for action by the provincial and federal governments, builds on the *Solve the Crisis* campaign calling of an immediate action on homelessness and mental health issues in cities across Ontario.

October 16, 2024



Province to Introduce Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes

- The Government of Ontario announced it will introduce legislation that would require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes of traffic.
- AMO released a statement advocating for municipal autonomy in decision making. Bicycle lanes are an essential element of urban transportation planning and road safety. Requiring provincial approval would be a significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction.

AMO is not aware of any consultation with municipalities regarding bicycle lanes or of the evidence the province considered in its decision. AMO has urged the province to respect local decision-making when considering transportation improvements, such as bike lines.

THANK YOU!

