

Date: 2021-06-21

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT: BRAMPTON PLAN**

Secondary Title: Discussion Papers: Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency and Transportation & Connectivity – City Wide

Contact: Andrew McNeill, Manager Official Plan and Growth Management,
Planning, Building and Economic Development Department,
(905) 874-3491, andrew.mcneill@brampton.ca

Report Number: Planning, Bld & Ec Dev-2021-684

Recommendations:

THAT the report titled: Information Report: Brampton Plan – Discussion Papers: Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency and Transportation & Connectivity – City Wide, to the Planning and Development Committee Meeting of June 21, 2021, be received.

Overview:

- The Planning Act requires municipalities to update their Official Plans no less frequently than ten years after a new plan comes into effect and every five years thereafter.
- A comprehensive review of Brampton's Official Plan is being undertaken to ensure conformity and consistency with provincial and regional legislative and policy frameworks as well as to align cross-departmental plans and strategies.
- Two discussion papers are attached that provide ideas pertaining to Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency and Transportation & Connectivity that will evolve to become the basis for new policy direction for Brampton Plan.
- Brampton Plan is proposed to be completed by Q2 of 2022

Background:

The current City of Brampton Official Plan (the Official Plan) was adopted by Council in 2006 and approved by the Ontario Municipal Board in 2008. In October 2013, City staff received direction from the Planning, Design, and Development Committee to initiate a scoped review of the Official

Plan. However, in 2017, the scoped review was put on hold pending the outcome of the “Living the Mosaic – Brampton 2040 Vision” (the 2040 Vision) process. Commencing in Fall 2017, the 2040 Vision process broadly engaged residents and stakeholders across the community to foster public discussion about the future of Brampton. Following this extensive engagement, the City’s 2040 Vision was endorsed by City Council in June 2018.

The City’s Official Plan Review was subsequently re-launched in Fall 2019 to build on the work completed through the 2040 Vision, and to prepare a new Official Plan (hereinafter referred to as ‘Brampton Plan’) to guide growth and development over the next 30 years. At the January 22, 2020 Special Meeting of Council, Motion C025-2020 was carried as follows:

1. That the staff report titled: Brampton 2040 Plan (Official Plan Review) – Work Program (R 1/2020) (File JBA OPR 19), be received; and
2. That the work program identified in the above noted report be endorsed as the basis for Brampton’s Official Plan Review.

What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan is developed under a framework established by the Province of Ontario to ensure that short and long-term growth is coordinated in a manner that meets local social, economic, built and natural environment needs and aspirations. Municipal Official Plans must be consistent with and conform to Provincial and Regional Plans, including, but not limited to, the ***Provincial Policy Statement, A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe***, the ***Greenbelt Plan***, and the ***Region of Peel Official Plan***. These overarching policy documents provide direction to the City on land use planning matters. Official Plan policies establish:

- How to promote economic development and develop community improvement initiatives;
- How to protect and conserve cultural heritage resources;
- How to protect and enhance the city’s environmentally sensitive areas;
- Where new housing, industry, offices and shops will be located;
- What community services, such as roads, transportation, utilities, parks, trails and schools will be needed to accommodate growth and develop healthy and sustainable communities; and
- Where, and in what order, different parts of the community will grow.

The development of Brampton Plan offers an opportunity to adopt a contemporary and strategic set of policies that will guide growth and development over the 2051 planning horizon and direct physical change and its effects on the social, economic, built, and natural environment of the city.

Brampton Plan Program

The Brampton Plan process will be completed across five phases. An overview of the project timeline, including the purpose of the different phases is presented below. Each phase of this project is associated with major deliverables and tailored consultation and engagement tactics. The comprehensive Brampton Plan work program includes the following phases:

Phase 1 – Background Review & Community Engagement Strategy

- To introduce the project to the community and undertake a review of relevant background information.

Phase 2 – Test the Vision & Development Growth Scenarios

- To assess and identify growth scenarios to contribute to the development of population and employment forecasts.

Phase 3 – Policy Analysis and Community Structure

- To review existing Official Plan policy and confirm conformity with Provincial and Regional policy and plans. An updated community structure was proposed and community and stakeholder meetings were held to obtain feedback on the draft community structure.

Phase 4 – Discussion Papers and Policy Recommendations

- To prepare Discussion Papers to organize City priorities regarding emerging planning issues and report back on community feedback. A Policy Directions Report will be prepared to assess new and emerging planning policy and research on directions for the policies and schedules of Brampton Plan.

Phase 5 – Draft New Official Plan

- To undertake the technical writing, reviewing, testing and implementation of updates to Brampton Plan based on work completed to-date.

Current Situation:

What is a Discussion Paper?

The current phase of the Brampton Plan process includes the release of seven topic-based discussion papers, which align with the themes and findings of the Brampton 2040 Vision. The papers are meant to get people thinking about some key ideas and directions that will help guide the next phase of the process - which is policy direction.

Purpose of a Discussion Paper

Building on the work completed during the 2040 Vision, as well as in 2019 and 2020, a number of discussion papers are being prepared to guide more focused subject matter reviews as part of developing Brampton Plan. The entire process can be considered a funnel. In the beginning, during the visioning part of the process, the community put forward their ideas and aspirations for Brampton. We have been testing those ideas and discussions papers begin to narrow the process to where we produce policy direction for Brampton Plan. While never losing site of the community aspirations contained within the 2040 Vision, discussion papers begin to merge those aspirations with technical reality and planning conformity. Continued community engagement is critical through this and all future steps of the process so we maintain true to the 2040 Vision.

The topics of the seven discussion papers are identified below:

1. Arts and Cultural Heritage
2. Attainable and Supportive Housing
3. Natural Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency
4. Implementation of Growth Management Framework and Official Plan Structure
5. Employment and Retail
6. Transportation and Connectivity
7. Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation

Transportation & Connectivity Discussion Paper

This Discussion Paper, attached hereto as **Appendix A**, examines Transportation & Connectivity and is intended to be an opportunity to engage in a discussion on key transportation issues that should be considered in Brampton Plan. It will compliment work being undertaken as part of the City's Transportation Master Plan. This discussion paper introduces bold visions and new ideas for Brampton's transportation network over the next 30 years, to help Brampton meet its growing needs, meet its sustainability objectives and ultimately provide a network that works for everyone. Four "Key Directions" are introduced and each contains several policy directions that elaborate further on how the "Key Directions" can be achieved. Underpinning the entirety of this paper are three high-level issues that matter dearly to Bramptonians: sustainability, health, and equity.

1. The first key direction, **Complete Streets**, refers to constructing Brampton's streets in a way that supports the movement of all modes of transportation. This section discusses a prioritized investment in public transit, using new ways to measure the performance of the street network, improving active transportation network connectivity, improving how crossings and accesses are built to arterial streets and exploring new alternatives to six-lane widening projects.
2. The second key direction, **Vision Zero**, is a focus on enabling everyone to move about safely in Brampton. This section discusses prioritizing safety of vulnerable road users, addressing motor vehicle speed as a major cause of collisions and thinking more about the movement of large trucks in the city.
3. The third key direction, **Nodes and Corridors**, discusses how transportation and development can be more closely linked to provide people more options for getting around and making walking and transit possible for more trips. This section discusses mixed-use development as a way to bring destinations closer to where people live, identifying certain streets where movement of vehicles is not the primary objective and using high-quality transit service to allow people to make longer trips.
4. The final key direction, **Emerging Technology**, explores how Brampton can leverage new trends, technologies and data to improve travel for residents. This section discusses ways to support electrification of cars, buses and other modes, leveraging innovative technologies like ride-hailing and electric scooters and finding new sources of "big data" to support better decision-making.

This is a starting point for generating discussion about transportation bold visions and new ideas for implementation in Brampton Plan. A Policy Directions Report will follow and will outline detailed changes proposed for inclusion in Brampton Plan.

Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency Discussion Paper

This Discussion Paper, attached hereto as **Appendix B**, examines the Natural Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency. While this Paper combines two themes, it should be noted that they are distinct.

The Natural Environment component of this Discussion Paper (Section 2) has been prepared to affirm the importance of Natural Heritage to the City of Brampton and to implement recently updated Provincial and Regional Policies, including the **Provincial Policy Statement, 2020**, the **Greenbelt Plan, 2017**, the **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020**, the Region of Peel 2041+ and incorporate the City's 2040 Vision. This Discussion paper outlines key policy updates to provide enhanced protection of the Natural Heritage System through implementation

of best management practices for natural heritage planning, sustainability, climate change, naturalization, invasive species, road ecology, noise and light pollution, low-impact development, bird friendly development and mitigation hierarchy.

The Discussion Paper offers policy recommendations to be considered for incorporation into Brampton Plan around the following areas:

- **Natural Heritage System:** Delineate a natural heritage system to include the Growth Plan mapping, Regional Greenlands system updates, and recommendations from Conservation Authority watershed natural heritage system modelling to capture locally significant features;
- **Feature-Based Policies:** Define and protect locally significant woodlands and wetlands, and update buffer/Vegetation Protection Zones for consistency;
- **Restoration and Enhancement:** Develop new policies surrounding management and restoration plans for key natural heritage areas in the city;
- **Buffers:** Recognize the importance of variable setbacks and enhanced buffers for a variety of natural features, functions and habitat;
- **Ecological Linkages:** Prioritize the establishment of east-west linkages through establishing/ protecting wildlife corridors, implementing road ecology best management practices, green infrastructure, utility corridors, and parks;
- **Urban Forest:** Establish a new subsection of Brampton Plan to address Urban Forests which includes preparation of an Urban Forest management plan, consideration of canopy targets, climate change, and development of mitigation requirements for tree removals;
- **Natural Hazards:** Recognize and protect the ecosystem services of natural hazard lands through remediation and restoration to improve water quality, stormwater management, reduce soil erosion/improve slope stability, etc.; and
- **Stormwater Management:** Develop policies to facilitate the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques in new developments and to identify full lifecycle costs of stormwater management and develop long term funding options.

The Climate Change & Resiliency component of this Discussion Paper (Section 3) has been prepared to assist in affirming the City of Brampton's commitment to respond to climate change. In alignment with global action on climate change, Brampton City Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019. This represented a significant step towards meeting the City's goal of reducing GHG emissions in Brampton by 80 percent by 2050. This declaration also aligned with unanimous endorsement of the City's first Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP).

This Discussion Paper highlights the many efforts advanced by the City of Brampton in alignment with regional, provincial, national, and international efforts in response to the climate crisis as well as areas of opportunity to further advance the City's ability to manage the risks associated with climate change. As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton Plan is a crucial document to incorporate climate change policy into municipal decision-making and service delivery. The policy recommendations provided in this Discussion Paper support a systems approach to the planning and design of transit-oriented, energy efficient communities that support development, quality of life and social equity while addressing climate change. To support this, climate change should be integrated across policy areas of Brampton Plan. Policy recommendations provided in this Discussion Paper include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- **Green Communities:** Improving the quality of life for residents by enabling more sustainable living through transit-oriented, mixed-use communities that are safe and accessible for all. Green communities should be designed to respond to future climate change impacts to protect the corporation and community from potential risks (e.g., flooding, major storm events);
- **Energy Supply and Local Energy Systems:** Transition the city towards low or zero carbon energy systems by supporting district energy systems, alternative forms of renewable energy and energy from waste streams and encouraging a range and mix of housing types and compact forms of development;
- **Building Design, Construction, and Efficiency:** Supporting opportunities to reduce significant emissions from the home and building sector in Brampton and to support the development of safe and resilient spaces for residents that reduce heat island effect and improve air quality. Policy options include retrofitting programs, energy and water conservation, tree planting and preservation opportunities, green infrastructure for stormwater management and intensified compact forms of development; and
- **Implementation:** Methods and means to support implementation of climate change objectives across the corporation include adopting active transportation networks and implementation plans, continued monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Community Development Program and consideration of energy advantages to attract and retain economic investment.

This is a starting point for generating discussion about Natural Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency issues and recommendations. A Policy Directions Report will follow and will outline detailed changes proposed for inclusion in Brampton Plan.

Virtual Open House – June 21, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Prior to Planning and Development Committee (PDC) on June 21, 2021, a virtual Open House will be held to provide an opportunity to share in detail the ideas contained within the two discussion papers and provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. Notice for the Open House and PDC meeting was provided via social media pages and the Brampton Plan project webpage: www.Brampton.ca/BramptonPlan.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications identified at this time.

Other Implications:

Technical policy planning implications associated with the attached discussion papers will be considered and inform a future Policy Directions Report.

Term of Council Priorities:

Brampton Plan is noted as a Term of Council priority under the following:

Council Priority: A City of Opportunities

Strategic Priority: 1.4 Prioritize Jobs Within Centres

Project Number: 1.4.3 Develop a New Official Plan that aligns all master plans with Brampton 2040.

Conclusion:

The attached Discussion Papers pertaining to Transportation & Connectivity and Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency are two of seven papers that are being prepared to advance Brampton Plan. The seven Discussion Papers will build upon the work completed in Phases 1-3 of the Brampton Plan process to establish a foundation from which to develop more detailed policy directions. This is a starting point for generating discussion about Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency and Transportation & Connectivity issues. Recommendations will evolve through the development of the Policy Directions Report which will outline detailed changes proposed for Brampton Plan. The ideas presented in these two papers will be refined through continued engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders.

Authored by:

Andrew McNeill, OALA, CSLA
Manager, Official Plan and Growth
Management, Planning, Building &
Economic Development Department

Approved by:

Richard Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P.Eng
Commissioner, Planning, Building &
Economic Development Department

Reviewed by:

Bob Bjerke, MCIP, RPP
Director, City Planning & Design, Planning,
Building & Economic Development
Department

Submitted by:

David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Appendix A – Transportation & Connectivity Discussion Paper

Appendix B - Natural Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency Discussion Paper

Appendix C – Presentation