

City Structure Public Workshop

Saturday April 10, 2021
Public Engagement Summary

**BRAMPTON
PLAN**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of City Structure Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On April 10, 2021, at 10:00am to 12:00pm, a City-wide Public Meeting #1 was held for the City of Brampton Official Plan Review focusing on the draft proposed City Structure framework. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Official Plan Review project, engagement events held to date, and provide information on how to further participate in the process. It was also an opportunity to collaborate and engage in open discussion to address the key themes related to the City's draft Official Plan Structure. The event was organized as follows (see Appendix A – Meeting Agenda):

Part 1 - Introduction and Housekeeping: Indigenous land acknowledgement; introductions and welcome statements from Mayor Brown, Councillors, and City staff. City staff reviewed the meeting objectives.

Part 2 - Presentation: City staff provided an overview of key Official Plan drivers, structure maps, and performed live voting/poll questions.

Part 3 - Panel Discussion: Public engagement question and answer period.

Part 4 - Next Steps: Survey and discussed other ways to provide feedback.

Consultation materials available online at the following link [Public Meeting #1 – City Structure](#)



1.2 Meeting Overview

1.2.1 Meeting Details (Venue, # of Attendees, Meeting Participants)

Approximately 160 people attended the public meeting that was held on WebEx. Comments were received through the WebEx chat box throughout the workshop as well as sent through emails to the City. Interactive poll questions were posed during the presentation to gain a better understanding of the participants and allow them to vote for characteristics that they believed contributed to their idea of a healthy and complete community, as well as jobs they wish to see more of in Brampton.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was promoted through the following outlets:

- Brampton Guardian
- City of Brampton Webpage
- City of Brampton Media Release
- Social Media Platforms:
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - LinkedIn
- Presentations to citizen-advisory committees
- Presentations to several public-facing (virtual) events
- E-blast Outreach to citizen-advisory committees and community groups
- E-blast Outreach to Nurturing Neighbourhoods mailing list.
- E-blast Outreach to the Official Plan Review mailing list.

2 Feedback

2.1 Polling Questions

Interactive polling questions were posed during the public meeting presentation to obtain a better understanding of the participants and what they believed are important characteristics of healthy and complete communities. The full poll results can be found in Appendix C.

Based on the input received, most participants (81%) joined the meeting because they were interested in the future of Brampton. Close to half of participants would like to know more about the Official Plan process (46%) and learn more about planning in Brampton (39%). Finally, less than 15% of participants either have business interests in the City (11%) or have joined the meeting for other reasons (14%).

Most participants in the meeting were residents (50%) and public sector employees in Brampton and neighbouring municipalities (22%). Less than 10% of participants identified as members of the development and building industry (9%) and work in Brampton (7%). Finally, the remaining participants identified as business owners (1%) or other (4%).

The polling questions included choosing the characteristics in which participants believed contributed to healthy and complete communities. The options provided were as follows:

- Active Transportation (i.e. walking, cycling, transit);
- Creating affordable housing and different housing options for all stages of life;
- Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas);
- Having a variety of employment areas and jobs;
- Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, rec centres, parks;)
- Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, and play and buy local healthy foods; and,
- Other

The characteristic that received the most votes was to ensure the community has places to live, work, exercise and play, and buy local healthy foods (68%). This was followed by active transportation (58%), creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (55%), and creating affordable housing and different housing options for all stages of life (52%). A smaller percentage of participants voted for equitable access to community services and facilities (36%) and having a variety of employment areas and jobs (28%). The least votes were given to other characteristics that were not listed (2%) which confirms that the listed characteristics were a good representation of what participants believed contributed towards healthy and complete communities.

A final poll question was posed to determine if participants were in favour of the City Structure direction based on what was heard at the presentation. Most participants either strongly agreed (46%) or somewhat agreed (35%). Less than 10% of participants neither agreed nor disagreed (9%) and fewer somewhat disagreed (2%) or strongly disagreed (1%).

3 Key Messages Heard

3.1 Transportation and Connectivity

3.1.1 Traffic and Safety

- Consider traffic calming measures.
- Limit through traffic into residential neighbourhoods.
- Implement safety measures for planned bus stops (e.g. limit locating bus stops in the middle of streets to avoid people running across streets to make it to their bus on time).
- Consider designated truck routes or charging fees to control congestion.

3.1.2 Complete Streets

- Importance of visual appeal in designing complete streets (e.g. blue noise wall on Williams Parkway was not appealing).
- Concerns over widening of existing streets (e.g. Williams Parkway and Torbram Road).

3.1.3 Providing Adequate Transportation Infrastructure and Access to Support Growth

- Prioritizing accessibility in established neighbourhoods to parks, shops, library and community centres.
- Work with the Province to encourage optimization of existing 407 toll highway (e.g. dedicated lane for logistics).
- Continue to invest in light rail transit in Brampton east-west and Brampton north-south corridors.

3.1.4 Movement and Connectivity

- Concern about commuters living outside of the City of Brampton crossing through the City to get to their destinations thereby adding to existing congestion.
- Queen Street corridor and Main Street are as equally important for regional connections and key transit projects.

3.2 Urban Structure

3.2.1 Directing Growth and Planning for Land Uses

- How does the cost of sprawl in Brampton compare to neighbouring cities (e.g. City of Mississauga)?
- What is the impact of urban sprawl on property taxes?
- Ensuring that there isn't a 'piece-meal' approach to development in Brampton and Peel Region.
- Ensure that there is an efficient, clear, clean, green and complete vision to guide future growth.

3.2.2 Attracting Investment & Jobs in Brampton

- What jobs are available for post-secondary graduates as most jobs in the City are low-paying blue-collar jobs?

3.3 Built Form and Arts & Cultural Heritage

3.3.1 Sensitive Uses

- Concern over tall buildings being next to sensitive uses such as low-rise residential dwellings (e.g. 140-year-old home).

3.3.2 Reactivate Downtown Brampton

- Thoughts on providing wayfinding art and storytelling tools through sidewalk discovery route, inclusive mural program, and augmented reality experience.
- Consider providing permanent laneway activation through enhanced seating, art, and lighting elements.
- Continue to protect, respect and promote areas in the City with character and history, such as Gage Park.
- Animate vacant storefronts through dynamic window dressings and pop-up programs.
- Include adaptive reuse of surface parking (e.g. creative use of shipping containers).
- Update the Bramalea City Centre with a green vision, include a seniors' village.

3.3.3 Arts/Culture

- Promote the Brampton Arts and Culture Master Plan.
- Designate an 'arts' area in the city (ex. Streets/districts). Streets as important catalysts to incentivize cultural industries (ex. Montreal 'Mile End/Le Plateau'; Toronto Queen Street). Rebrand this area for 'creative types', by subsidizing rents, providing grants, prioritizing culture industries in zoning.
- Actively plan and incentivize creative industries (ex. Berlin).

- Arts/culture scene as ‘anchors’ in attracting other sectors, such as start-ups and tech sector.

3.4 Open Spaces and Recreation

3.4.1 Natural Heritage Areas

- Contribute to the protection, enhancement, restoration and conservation of the natural heritage areas.
- Protect corridors connecting wildlife habitats for songbirds, pollinators and other species. Place greater emphasis on providing more green spaces for existing wildlife habitats and green spaces.
- Reclaim woodlands, forests, creeks, rivers, lakes, marshes and wetlands by strengthening existing policies, and creating them where they do not exist.
- Increase planting and protection of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, gardens, bike paths, nature trails, conservation areas, wetlands, watercourses.

3.4.2 Creating Equitable Access to Green Spaces in the City

- Consider improving inequities towards accessing green spaces.
- Need for better overall health, more green space and less hardscaping (concrete).
- Green all spaces, even small ones, such as parks, parkettes, greenbelts, school areas, parks, roadways, highways, intersections, streets, street corners, existing residential and employment areas – they all count toward creating a connected green system.
- Revitalize and renew Chinguacousy Park to serve needs of the community with multi-programming areas and introducing native habitats, an Eco Park and Botanical Gardens.
- Gage Park should be increased in size to serve the needs of the City/community.

3.5 Environment and Climate Change

3.5.1 Mitigation and Adaptation

- Include policies in the Official Plan on mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Reduce cars and pollution by planning smarter and complete communities (e.g. living hubs/villages).
- Do not promote sprawl, concrete and overdevelopment.
- Reduce reliance on automobiles.
- Reduce suburban plaza-style approaches to commercial/retail development with too much concrete ‘dead’ space and promote Brampton as a ‘Flower City’.
- Reduce fertilizing lawns with harmful pesticides to reduce habitat loss.
- Explore green roofs in the design of buildings that re-introduce native habitats.

3.5.2 Sustainable Initiatives

- Consider a portal for the public to submit sustainable and green initiatives.
- Strengthen policies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.
- Consider sustainable upgrades to street furniture (e.g. light fixtures) and transit.
- Protect pollinators, from bees to butterflies and important native insects, songbirds, and pollinator plants, shrubs and flowers by reducing pollution and mitigating habitat loss through overdevelopment.
- Reduce overwatering on residential/commercial properties.
- Increase soil volumes to sustain new tree plantings and attract earth worms and essential native insects.
- Promote lawns and grasses should be pollinator friendly.
- Promote native wildflower meadows and habitats mixed with native trees and shrubs in the design of park space.
- Ban single-use plastics.
- Upgrade recycling facilities.
- Install environmentally friendly light fixtures/solar panels for all public utilities and civic buildings.
- Invest in sustainable transportation.

3.6 Attainable and Supportive Housing

3.6.1 Affordable Housing

- Provide affordable housing for residents and future generations.
- Provide alternative housing options to new talent and young professionals aside from rental and basements.

3.6.2 Age-Friendly Strategy

- Consider ways to successfully integrate seniors in the City (Age friendly strategy)
- Provide better and more equitable access to groceries, medical care, personal services, restaurants, shopping, lectures/programming, entertainment options, that are within walking distance of retirement/seniors' areas.
- Create more housing options for seniors.
- Create amenity for seniors to gather and recreate, socialize, is accessible to seniors of all abilities. Ensure amenity in buildings geared to seniors is appropriate for seniors and accessible.

3.7 Other

3.7.1 Official Plan Engagement Strategy for Marginalized Communities

- Strengthen involvement and outreach to seniors' groups and marginalized communities.

3.7.2 Health & Wellness in Brampton

- Plan for better access to health service providers.

3.7.3 COVID-19 and Planning in Brampton

- How has Covid-19 impacted planning in Brampton? How is Brampton planning for public health in the future?

4 Next Steps

4.1 Upcoming Events

There will be several opportunities to participate in the Brampton Official Plan Review process. One way is to provide your input on a series of Discussion Papers related to the Official Plan, which will be presented to the public during three (3) Public Open House meetings scheduled on June 7, 2021, June 21, 2021 and July 26, 2021. Public Engagement events, as they are scheduled, and a link to a survey, can be found on the project webpage at the link below:

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/Official-Plan/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

Email the City at the email address below to be informed of upcoming engagement events.

opreview@brampton.ca

Appendix A - Meeting Agenda



AGENDA

April 10th Workshop Agenda

Job Title	City of Brampton Official Plan Review		
Date	Saturday April 10, 2021	Time	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Venue	Webex Meeting		
Purpose	City Structure Workshop		

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the Official Plan Review project, engagement events held to date, and provide information on how to further participate in the Study process. The meeting will also be an opportunity to collaborate and engage in open discussion to address the key themes related the City’s Official Plan Structure.

Agenda Overview

- 1) **Introduction and Housekeeping**
 - Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
 - Introduce Mayor and Councillors in attendance and Panel Members
 - Welcome from **Mayor Patrick Brown** (2 min)
 - Welcome from **Regional Councillor Martin Medeiros** and **Regional Councillor Pat Fortini** (2 min)
 - Welcome from **Planning Director Bob Bjerke**, City Planning & Design (2 min)
 - Meeting Objectives

- 2) **Presentation**
 - Key Drivers
 - City Structure Map
 - Live Voting/poll questions

- 3) **Panel Discussion**

- 4) **Next Steps, Metroquest Survey and future Public Engagement events**

- 5) **Adjourn Meeting**



Appendix B - Detailed Summary of Feedback

(See .pdf of Detailed Feedback Summary)

Appendix C – Polling Questions

#	Question	Choice	Answers	Percentages
1	WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?	A	I am interested in the future of Brampton	81%
		B	I want to know more about the Official Plan process	46%
		C	I have business interests in the city	11%
		D	I want to learn more about planning in Brampton	39%
		E	Other	14%
2	WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CITY?	A	I am a resident	50%
		B	I am a business owner	1%
		C	I am a member of the development/building industry	9%
		D	I am a representative of a non-governmental/non-profit organization	3%
		E	I work in Brampton	7%
		F	I am a public sector employee in Brampton or neighbouring municipality	22%
		G	Other	4%
3	WHAT CHARACTERISTICS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR IDEA OF A HEALTHY AND COMPLETE COMMUNITY?	A	Active Transportation (i.e. walking, cycling, transit)	58%
		B	Creating affordable housing and different housing options for all stages of life	52%
		C	Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas)	55%
		D	Having a variety of employment areas and jobs	28%
		E	Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, rec centres, parks)	36%
		F	Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, and play and buy local healthy foods	68%
		G	Other	2%
4	WHAT JOBS SHOULD BRAMPTON FOCUS ON ATTRACTING?	A	Technology Sector	62%
		B	Logistics and Warehousing	13%
		C	Office (i.e., Major Office, Flex Space)	32%
		D	Creative Sector (i.e., Film, Music, Tourism)	43%
		E	Health Sector	57%
		F	Post Secondary	43%
		G	Green Technology	65%
		H	Industrial & Manufacturing	21%
		I	Other	3%
5	I LIKE THE CITY STRUCTURE DIRECTION	A	I strongly agree	46%
		B	I somewhat agree	35%
		C	I neither agree nor disagree	9%
		D	I somewhat disagree	2%
		E	I strongly disagree	1%

Appendix D – Questions & Answers

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS FROM CITY OF BRAMPTON STAFF
<p>Are land use issues driven by the landowners or does the city provide input-into the process when the issue impacts the community -i.e. traffic, lack of promotion for active transit, increased pollution?</p>	<p>The City is looking to create a land use plan that benefits the community. We welcome feedback from everyone, including residents, business owners, landowners and all relevant stakeholders. We are looking to create environments where there is an integrated approach to transportation planning, land use planning and economic development such that we can deliver great, complete communities.</p>
<p>Will the past missteps on the road network for example the widening of streets such as Williams Parkway be reversed or made to be complete street? Will the plans for widening Torbram street proceed or will it revert to new vision?</p>	<p>The pursuit of complete streets that contribute positively to, and not detract from communities is a direction we will be pursuing in Brampton Plan. There are a series of streets that are currently being reviewed to determine whether previous directions should be continued or paused considering new priorities.</p>
<p>How are we planning for traffic caused by commuters who live outside of Brampton who drive through Brampton to their destination?</p>	<p>Priority should be placed on planning mixed-use communities that minimize the need to travel long distances. Brampton should not cater to through-puts. Instead, those that choose to travel through Brampton should do so on the terms of the communities that they are travelling through.</p>
<p>What will Brampton Plan do about traffic calming in residential neighbourhoods?</p>	<p>Safe streets, traffic calming, complete streets, vision-zero, these are all approaches that support a shift to creating more livable communities. This will all be explored through the Transportation Master Plan.</p>
<p>Will the city take a position with the Province to encourage a re-think on the toll highway that exists? i.e. 407-this highway is mostly underused-and why not dedicate a lane for logistics?</p>	<p>Highway 407 is an important corridor to re-think. It is strategically located and can serve as an important goods movement corridor. Discussions with the Province, the Region and the owners of the 407 are certainly something that we will consider so we can make better use of existing infrastructure.</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS FROM CITY OF BRAMPTON STAFF
<p>What steps is the City taking through the Official Plan process to protect established residential neighbourhoods and local streets from traffic infiltration? (e.g. Gage Park neighborhood and the proposed condo development at Queen St & Mill St S.)</p>	<p>This is a challenging issue. Preventing traffic infiltration means you concentrate it onto larger streets which can add to congestion. A well-connected network that can spread traffic loads and provide a number of routing options is a better approach. Instead of preventing infiltration, perhaps we can work together to ensure that any traffic that does go through the community does so on the terms of the community (slow speeds, respectful, etc.).</p>
<p>How is the city planning to address the lack of employment opportunities for post-secondary graduates? Currently, most of the jobs available in Brampton are low-paying and blue-collar. How do you plan on retaining your educated youth?</p>	<p>This is an important issue. What many cities are finding is that to attract higher paying jobs you need to focus on delivering better transit and better place quality. In other words, you need to create the kinds of places where these workers want to live and work. Jobs follow people. Create the ingredients to attract talent and the jobs will follow. Brampton can do better on this front and we will place a strong emphasis in our planning work to try and create the right environments that will not only keep our young grads from leaving but also attract talent to come live and work in Brampton.</p>
<p>What happens to the plan when new people are elected to Municipal government or if the Region is split up as Mississauga was proposing?</p>	<p>The Province has decided that the Region will not be split.</p>
<p>I am a yoga instructor and would like to know where I can get some help to start restorative yoga for senior citizens and give back to community.</p>	<p>Yoga is a great way to improve our mental health and well-being and get to know our neighbours. Visit the City of Brampton's Recreation webpage to learn about 'Recreation at Home' and connect with our Recreation team to explore the virtual fitness opportunities provided by the city during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, there is no outdoor gatherings permitted, however virtual fitness sessions can be a way forward.</p>