

Black Community Focus Group Workshop

May 27th, 2021

Engagement Summary

**BRAMPTON
PLAN**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On Thursday May 27th, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm, a Black Community Focus Group 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. 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 - Discussion: Public engagement poll period.

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

Consultation materials available online at the following link:

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

1.2 Meeting Overview

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

Approximately 36 people and 5 City of Brampton Staff attended the Focus Group Meeting that was hosted on WebEx. Comments were received through the WebEx chat box. 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 areas of social equity they wish Brampton Plan policies should focus on.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was promoted through E-blast outreach to citizens, organizations and relative community groups, as well as the internal Economic Empowerment and Anti-Black Racism contact list.

**BRAMPTON BLACK COMMUNITY
PLAN FOCUS GROUP**
MAY 27TH: 6-8PM

Black Community engagement on
Brampton's future

We want to hear from you!

311 f t i y b brampton.ca/bramptonplan **BRAMPTON**

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 B.

Based on the input received, the city-building themes participants were most interested in discussing were: Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive housing (50%) followed by Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation (33%). Participants also selected Arts, Culture, and Events (28%), Employment and Retail (28%) and Growth (22%). A smaller percentage of participants selected Transportation and Connectivity (17%) and Natural Heritage, Climate Change, and Resiliency (17%), while Heritage Preservation (0%) was not of interest for any of the participants.

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

Over half of the participants (56%) voted that all the characteristics contribute to a healthy and complete community. This response was followed by creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (28%), ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods (28%), having a variety of employment areas and jobs (28%) and creating affordable and different housing types (28%). Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents selected equitable access to community services and facilities and active transportation options (17%).

Participants were asked what areas of social equity Brampton should prioritize in the long term. Over half (65%) of the respondents believe that Brampton should prioritize Housing and Affordability. Half of the respondents believe that jobs and employment should be prioritized (50%), followed by the health sector (40%) and transit and transportation methods (30%). Social services (15%) and food equity (15%) were equally important to respondents, with five percent (5%) selecting access to green spaces.

A final poll question asked what would incentivize respondents to walk, cycle, or take transit to local destinations. Safer pedestrian and cycling routes (52%) received the highest votes. Better access to pedestrian, cycling and/or transit routes (48%) and more convenient pedestrian/cycling

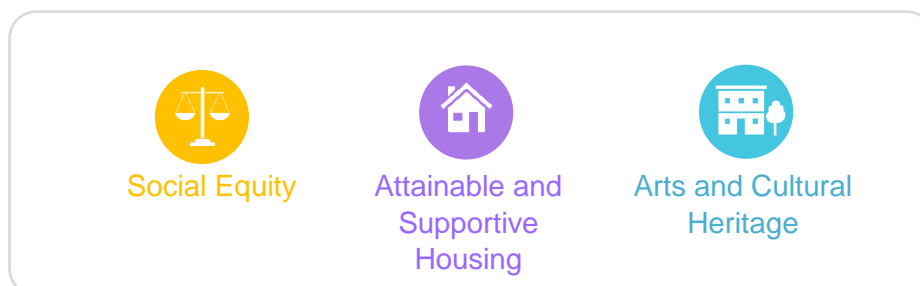
and/or transit routes (48%) followed. Improvements to existing mobility infrastructure (38%) and transit incentives (33%) were next, followed by safe spaces to store bicycles from the elements (29%).

2.2 Comments Received

The Word Cloud below visually represents some of the things that were heard. All the feedback received has been categorized in the Word Cloud below.



KEY THEMES



The key messages related to these themes are further detailed in Section 3 of this report.

3 Key Messages Heard

3.1 Social Equity

3.1.1 Policy

- When speaking about equity consider the most marginalized populations, and centre race at the beginning of the conversation.
- Lots of policies are based on discrimination, it is important to look at the entire system.
- Community involvement is necessary for marginalized groups, and policies to ensure equality and diversity is represented in the planning process is pivotal to this.

3.1.2 Transportation

- Policy must reflect reality – public transit access must be distributed equally across the City of Brampton, especially areas with more vulnerable populations.

3.1.3 Other City Processes

- City has aggregate data on the black community – leverage this to further understand the diversity that exists within the community.
- Greater reflection of the community at the decision making tables.

3.2 Attainable and Supportive Housing

3.2.1 Seniors Housing

- Many seniors are living in rental homes they cannot afford.

- Affordability a major concern for seniors in Brampton.
- Short-term (development horizon) housing is required for in need seniors.
- Brampton requires strategies/policies to keep seniors in their homes (e.g. community support, changes to building codes for dwelling modifications, etc.).
- Seniors need to have better options before it's too late, and a bigger conversation must be had with many stakeholders. MPs, MPPs, Mayors and others should be involved.
- Brampton needs a seniors home dedicated to Black seniors.

3.2.2 Age-Friendly

- Brampton requires age-friendly accommodations proximate to amenities to reduce transit transfers and support people of all ages.

3.2.3 Second Units and Multigenerational Homes

- Make it easier to have a second residence in your home.
- Encourage safe, legal basement apartments.
- More multigenerational housing, not just single family dwellings. These are important, especially now in Brampton.
- Must investigate how extra units would impact parking to accommodate higher densities. Parking is already a major issue in Brampton.

3.2.4 Affordability

- Zoning for affordable housing required in Brampton.
- A housing strategy must allow all to buy into the housing market and be barrier free.
- Affordability is not spending more than 40% of my income on rent or mortgage.
- Affordability is something within your budget for new immigrants and/or seniors and other vulnerable populations, and to be able to own or rent decent housing.
- Affordability is being able to pay the rent or mortgage and still be able to provide for food, clothes and transportation to travel to places of employment.
- The upcoming federal policy change is severely restricting middle income families to buy homes. It caters mainly to multi generational Canadian families where they have intergenerational wealth to buy a house. We need to make housing more affordable for immigrant families and first generation Canadian families who have a harder time buying a home in Brampton.
- Evaluate affordability based on number of people using foodbanks, and for newcomers, young families and transitioning professionals.

3.3 Arts and Cultural Heritage



3.3.1 Cultural Recognition

- Brampton must recognize contributions of Canada's Indigenous Black population.
- Recognition for the Black Diaspora.

3.3.2 Facilities

- Brampton needs space for events to take place and cultural art can be displayed.
- Venues for cultural film festivals, youth spaces, innovations hubs etc.
- Facility costs are too high – Brampton must find a way to allow more usage for City's facilities for community events at little cost.
- Cost to rent facilities is out of reach for many residents and non-profits.
- Develop eco incentives for homeowners (i.e. the use of non permeable paving surfaces).
- Facilities must be multi-purpose and multi-functional.
- Brampton should develop a Black African Caribbean Heritage Cultural Community Centre and seek out help from higher levels of government.

3.3.3 Artistic Expression

- Affordability is required for artists to showcase diverse work.
- Brampton must find a way to promote all Black cultures within the Diaspora using community centres, libraries, museums, or other public spaces, and provide equal access at low costs.
- Address gentrification and ensure minority communities are not disproportionately impacted.
- Implement policies in development agreements that support affordable rental housing design guidelines (e.g. percentage of units allocated to affordable housing).

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. Materials, when available, can be accessed by visiting the project webpage and can be found under 'Engagement Recaps'). Public Engagement events, as they are scheduled, and a link to the Brampton Plans surveys, can be found on the project webpage at the link below:

[City of Brampton | Official Plan | Engagement Recaps](#)

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

opreview@brampton.ca

Appendix A - Meeting Agenda

AGENDA



| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Job Title | City of Brampton Official Plan Review | | |
| Date | Thursday May 27th, 2021 | Time | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. |
| Venue | Webex | | |
| Purpose | Focus Group Meeting – Black Community | | |

1) Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

- Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
- Introduction from Mayor and Staff
- Agenda overview
- Polling explanation

2) Presentation

- Brampton 2040 Vision
- Planning 101
- Brampton Plan Overview
- Engagement and Next Steps

3) Discussion

- Polling to inform discussion areas

4) Next Steps and adjournment

- Ways to stay engaged

Appendix B – Polling Questions

| # | Question | Choice | Answers | Percentages |
|---|--|--------|---|-------------|
| 1 | WHAT CITY-BUILDING THEMES ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING? (SELECT YOUR TOP THREE) | A | Natural Heritage, Climate Change and Resiliency | 17% |
| | | B | Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive Housing | 50% |
| | | C | Arts, Culture and Events | 28% |
| | | D | Growth | 22% |
| | | E | Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation | 33% |
| | | F | Employment and Retail | 28% |
| | | G | Transportation and Connectivity | 17% |
| | | H | Preserving Heritage | 0% |
| | | | No Answer | 22% |
| 2 | WHAT CHARACTERISTICS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR IDEA OF A HEALTHY AND COMPLETE COMMUNITY (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY) | A | Active Transportation Options (i.e. walking, cycling, transit) | 17% |
| | | B | Creating affordable and different housing types | 28% |
| | | C | Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas) | 28% |
| | | D | Having a variety of employment areas and jobs | 28% |
| | | E | Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, recreation centres, parks) | 17% |
| | | F | Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods | 28% |
| | | G | All of the above | 56% |
| | | H | Other | 6% |
| | | | No Answer | 22% |
| 3 | WHAT AREAS OF SOCIAL EQUITY SHOULD BRAMPTON PRIORITIZE IN THE LONG-TERM? (SELECT YOUR TOP THREE) | A | Housing and Affordability | 65% |
| | | B | Transit and Transportation Methods | 30% |
| | | C | Jobs and Employment | 50% |
| | | D | Health Sector | 40% |
| | | E | Social Services | 15% |
| | | F | Access to Green Space | 5% |
| | | G | Food Equity | 15% |
| | | | No Answer | 25% |
| 4 | WHAT WOULD INCENTIVIZE YOU TO WALK, CYCLE OR TAKE TRANSIT TO SCHOOL/WORK/LOCAL DESTINATIONS? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY) | A | Safer pedestrian and cycling routes | 52% |
| | | B | Better access to pedestrian, cycling, and/or transit routes | 48% |
| | | C | More convenient pedestrian/cycling and/or transit routes | 48% |
| | | D | Somewhere to safely store my bike at school/work and keep it covered from the elements | 29% |
| | | E | Transit Incentives (i.e. lower costs) | 33% |
| | | F | Improvements to existing mobility infrastructure | 38% |
| | | G | Other | 14% |
| | | H | No Answer | 43% |

Appendix C – Questions and Answers

| # | Question | Answers |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What can the City do to ensure a social equity lens is applied to its policies? | <p>Involve in the conversation.</p> <p>When we talk about equity center race first, consider the most marginalized.</p> <p>Look at the entire systemic discrimination – lots of policy based on discrimination.</p> <p>Community involvement is necessary.</p> <p>Community involvement is necessary</p> <p>Equality in representation.</p> <p>Policy must reflect reality.</p> <p>Many staff or councillors for that matter use public transit and as one who uses public transit regularly, much work needs to be done in terms of safe entry and exit especially in winter.</p> <p>More bus shelters.</p> <p>One of the important things is that the city has aggregate data on the black community.</p> <p>The diversity that exists.</p> <p>Figure out what percentage of Bramptonians identify as black (equity in staff hiring).</p> |
| 2 | What can the City do to prioritize housing for people of all walks of life, age, and ability to continue to live in Brampton? | <p>Seniors – many are living in rental or homes that cannot afford.</p> <p>Affordability – subsidies.</p> <p>Short-term (development horizon) housing for in need seniors.</p> <p>Zoning for affordable housing.</p> <p>Age-friendly accommodations proximate to amenities to reduce transit transfers.</p> |
| 3 | What does the term 'affordable' mean to you? | <p>Newcomers, young families, transitioning professionals.</p> <p>To be able to pay the rent or mortgage and still be able to provide for food, clothes and transportation to get to their places of employment.</p> <p>Not spending more than 40% of my income on rent or mortgage.</p> <p>Affordable is something within your budget.</p> <p>For either new immigrants and or seniors.</p> <p>Evaluate based on the number of people accessing food banks.</p> <p>If only living on a pension – using less than half for rent.</p> <p>To be able to own or rent a decent housing.</p> <p>Affordable living is suppose to be 40% of your monthly income for housing.</p> <p>The upcoming federal policy change is severely restricting middle income families to buy homes. It caters mainly to multi generational Canadian families where they have intergenerational wealth to buy a house. Some immigrant families as well as first generation Canadian families are having a harder time buying a home, esp. here in Brampton.</p> |
| 4 | What are some ways the City can promote cultural diversity in the design of communities? | <p>A place where facilities can take place, and arts can be displayed.</p> <p>Different concerts.</p> <p>Affordability for artists to showcase their work.</p> <p>Rent at community centers is high.</p> <p>Park rentals.</p> <p>Establish cultural enclaves, Caribbean in nature. Film festivals, youth spaces - innovation hubs.</p> <p>Black African Caribbean Heritage Cultural Community Centre. By calling it this, we should be able to get funding from Federal, Provincial, municipal. There is space in West Brampton where they also need to build a hospital.</p> <p>Multi Purpose and multi functional facilities.</p> <p>Find a way to promote all cultures within the black diaspora using community centres, libraries or other public spaces.</p> |