

Faith Community Focus Group Workshop

May 31st, 2021
Engagement Summary

**BRAMPTON
PLAN**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On Monday May 31st, 2021, from 10:00am to 11:00am, a Faith Community Focus Group was held for the City of Brampton Official Plan Review (Brampton Plan) focusing on the draft proposed City Structure framework. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Official Plan Review project, a recap from the Mayor's Faith Leaders Advisory Forum 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, and recap from the Mayor's Faith Leaders Advisory Forum.

Part 3 - Discussion: Public engagement period.

Part 4 - Next Steps: 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 75 faith leaders and 3 City of Brampton Staff attended the Focus Group Meeting that was hosted on Zoom. Comments were received through the Zoom chat box and following the session. Due to the large group (75 participants), limited time and platform, polling was removed from this session to allow additional time for discussion. Direct engagement and comments were prioritized to provide feedback and address concerns.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was organized and promoted through Mayor Patrick Brown's Faith Leader contact database.

2 Feedback

2.1 Discussion Questions

Discussion prompts were posed during the public meeting presentation to obtain a better understanding of participants and what they believed are important characteristics of healthy and complete communities. The full scope of responses can be found in Section 3.

The discussion period focused on what Brampton Plan can do with the physical form of the city to help improve participants' day to day activities and relationship with their faith community. Participants responded and expressed various concerns, including discussions around parking. Participants expressed that they engage with both local and regional folks, and that parking is a problem for their place of worship across the Brampton area. Further questions and conversation resulted in various individual questions, comments and concerns from participants.

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 Growth and Development

3.1.1 Amend Zoning Codes

- Issues with parking rules and availability make it difficult to manage expansions without losing members within Places of Worship. This issue should be considered, and actions should be put in place to minimize.
- Zoning complications and rigidity resulting in difficulty for some to rent lots for the sake of developing Places of Worship.
- Ensure regulations allow for more flexible practices, removing unnecessary red tape.

3.1.2 Fair Pricing

- Ensure developers are not overcharging for plots zoned for the purpose of community centers and Places of Worship—to ensure faith communities can develop places of worship for reasonable prices.
- Only consider rezoning plots dedicated for community centers after in-depth study on why such land had not yet been developed under its current regulations.
- Encourage the rental of City of Brampton owned community spaces to faith communities for usage as Places of Worship

3.2 Arts & Cultural Heritage

3.2.1 Arts/Culture and Events

- Encourage events and cultural generation from Places of Worship.
- Ensure public spaces are available for Faith Communities to rent.
- Musical events as an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity.
- Support the use of outdoor spaces like piazzas, parks, and outdoor spaces for social gatherings.
- Promote partnerships between community centres and faith communities for religious events.

3.3 Open Spaces, Accessibility and Engagement

3.3.1 Accessibility

- Zoning and affordability complications have resulted in a trend of Places of Worship being pushed toward peripheries—such as toward industrial sectors, away from residential.
- Ensure zoning regulations are revised to better encourage the development of a wider range of Places of Worship across the city—to best ensure equitable access for citizens.

3.3.2 Creating Equitable Access to Green Spaces

- More integration of green spaces into existing areas such as plazas and parking lots.

3.3.3 Developing a Partnership with the City

- Ensure places of worship receive appropriate support post-pandemic to best revitalize Places of Worship and community engagement.
- Accessibility of one-on-one consultations over issues and concerns.
- Faith Community and City Officials seen as two equal players with integral responsibility to building community and the direction of the city.
- Create a group network to more easily allow Faith Community leaders to communicate with each other and with City Officials.

3.3.4 Assistance for Homeless and Marginalized

- It is in the best interest of the city and wider community to provide assistance to those in need and provide a sense of regeneration throughout the City of Brampton.
- Appropriate aid for the homeless and marginalized is in the best interest of developing a sense of community in neighbourhoods, safety, and the interests of the wider Faith Community.

3.4 Transportation and Connectivity

3.4.1 Walkability and Public Transit

- Attendance to Places of Worship largely revolve around the local community and convenient accessibility, with most wider community engagement occurring during special events.
- Ensure communities have non-driving alternatives available when possible, through expanded public transit and walkability.

3.4.2 Parking Space Sharing

- Encourage Places of Worship to build positive relationships with neighbouring businesses and community centers, to alleviate the need to overbuild parking spaces.
- Sharing parking lots or renting parking spaces can provide a stronger sense of community and bond with neighbouring businesses, promoting local cooperation.

3.4.3 Access to Parks, Event Infrastructure and Greenery

- Accessibility to parks, green spaces & various community spaces should be emphasized to enhance the ability for Places of Worship to host events of various scopes and sizes.
- Greenery is important as a stress reliever, beyond having religious significance in many cultures and spheres of belief. As such, accessibility to greenery should be encouraged and emphasized.

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 have been 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:

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

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	Monday May 31, 2021	Time	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Venue	Zoom		
Purpose	Focus Group Meeting – Faith Organizations		

1) Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

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

2) Presentation

- Mayor’s Faith Leaders Forum Recap
- Brampton 2040 Vision
- Planning 101
- Brampton Plan Overview
- Engagement and Next Steps

3) Discussion

- Discussion Question

4) Next Steps and adjournment

- Ways to stay engaged