

Youth Focus Group Workshop

May 12th, 2021
Engagement Summary

**BRAMPTON
PLAN**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On Wednesday May 12th, 2021, at 3:00 pm to 5:00pm, a Youth 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 39 people and 8 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 jobs they wish to see more of in Brampton.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was promoted through E-blast outreach to citizens, organizations and relative community groups.



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: Arts, Culture, and Events (21%) followed by Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive housing (17%). Participants also selected Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation (7%), Transportation and Connectivity (7%), and Natural Heritage, Climate Change, and Resiliency (7%). A smaller percentage of participants selected Employment and Retail (3%) and Heritage Preservation (3%).

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

Almost half of the participants (43%) voted that all the characteristics contribute to a healthy and complete community. This response was followed by equitable access to community services and facilities (11%), ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods (7%), and having a variety of employment areas and jobs (7%). Four percent (4%) of respondents selected creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces.

Participants were asked what jobs Brampton should focus on attracting in the long term. Green technology (32%) and the health sector (32%) received an equitable amount of responses, followed by the technology sector (25%), small business (25%), and post secondary (21%). Office jobs (18%) and the creative sector was selected by 14% of the respondents, with 11% selecting professional trades and skilled labour.

A final poll question asked what would incentivize respondents to walk, cycle, or take transit to local destinations. Safer pedestrian and cycling routes (32%) and transit incentives (32%) received the highest votes. Improvements to existing mobility infrastructure and more convenient pedestrian, cycling, and transit routes followed at 29%. Next was bike storage (25%) and better access to pedestrian, cycling and transit routes (21%). Twenty-nine percent of participants chose

to not respond to this question, which can be partially accounted by the eight City of Brampton Staff that attended the meeting.

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.





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

3 Key Messages Heard

3.1 Transportation and Connectivity

3.1.1 Safety

- Improving street, sidewalks, cycle lanes, and trail safety.
- Increase street lighting.
- Consider improving the signage for the area, providing maps for the trails.

3.1.2 Complete Streets

- Increase the number of multi-use walkways.

3.1.3 Providing Adequate Transportation Infrastructure and Access to Support Growth

- Increase the amount of transit throughout the City, more accessible and frequent routes.
- Implement more electronic charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Make the system easier for youth to use to travel throughout the City to visit, shop, and attend school.
- Provide more affordable options for transit users, subsidized ticket costs for students.

3.1.4 Movement and Connectivity

- Concern about commuters living on the edge and having limited access to transit routes.
- Work on connecting the cycling routes within the City of Brampton and the surrounding area.
- More active transportation options.

3.2 Arts & Cultural Heritage

3.2.1 Arts/Culture

- Promote public art and virtual art.
- Encourage public facilities to promote creativity, use these spaces inside and outside for public art displays.
- Musical events an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity.
- Plan community events, such festivals, parades, dances, and BBQs.
- Support the use of outdoor spaces like piazzas, parks, and outdoor spaces for social gatherings.
- Use the public realm through murals or sculptures to reflect the history of an area.
- Commission Indigenous artists to create art installations that reflect the history, current events of the City of Brampton and local areas.
- Naming of public spaces to raise awareness of significant community figures.

3.2.2 Collaboration

- Promote diversity through collaboration.
- Continue to involve youth groups in the process.
- Considering working schools to develop public art projects.
- Partner with small businesses for art incentives.
- Promote platforms for hobby artists.
- Opportunity to approach Algoma University School of Business Pitch to coordinate a grant program with youth.

3.3 Open Spaces and the Environment

3.3.1 Creating Equitable Access to Green Spaces in the City

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

3.3.2 Mitigation and Adaptation

- Include policies to support the implementation City-approved Green Standards on new development.
- Develop eco incentives for homeowners (i.e. the use of non permeable paving surfaces).
- Municipal buildings to incorporate energy and environmental design practices such as green roofs.
- Provide opportunities for environmentally friendly choices in day to day life.

3.4 Attainable and Supportive Housing

3.4.1 Affordable Housing

- Provide affordable housing for residents and future generations.
- Provide alternative housing options and built forms to accommodate various family compositions.
- Address gentrification and ensure minority communities are not disproportionately impacted.
- Implement policies in development agreements that support affordable rental housing design guidelines (percentage of units allocated to affordable housing).

3.4.2 Community Services

- Provide funds to support youth that are homeless or at risk.
- Develop services to assist new residents to the City of Brampton.
- Ensure that all residents have access to technology in their homes.
- Priority housing program to support individuals, such as those exiting human trafficking.

3.4.3 Age-Friendly Strategy

- Continue to implement the City's Age Friendly Strategy.
- Support the integration of senior's residences into the larger community.

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:

[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

Project	City of Brampton Official Plan Review		
Date	May 12, 2021	Time	3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Venue	Webex		
Purpose	Focus Group Meeting – Youth and Youth Organizations		

- 1) **Introductions and overview of the agenda (City) (5 min)**
- 2) **WSP/City Presentation** (lots of visuals and interactive polls. No more than 20 people.) **(30 min)**
 - Introductions
 - Introduce purpose of the OP
 - Include live polling (ex. What is an OP? What is a Complete Community?)
- 3) **Discussion (Webex Polling & Miro) (45 min)**
 - Youth/Youth Organizations to choose from polling questions top 3 topics they'd like to talk about.
 - Miro – post-it-note exercise where feedback from the group is transcribed on virtual sticky notes.
- 4) **Next Steps and Adjourn Meeting (10 min)**



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	7%
		B	Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive Housing	17%
		C	Arts, Culture and Events	21%
		D	Growth	0%
		E	Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation	7%
		F	Employment and Retail	3%
		G	Transportation and Connectivity	7%
		H	Preserving Heritage	3%
			No Answer	34%
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)	0%
		B	Creating affordable and different housing types	0%
		C	Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas)	4%
		D	Having a variety of employment areas and jobs	7%
		E	Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, recreation centres, parks)	11%
		F	Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods	7%
		G	All of the above	43%
		H	Other	0%
			No Answer	29%
3	WHAT JOBS SHOULD BRAMPTON FOCUS ON ATTRACTING IN THE LONG TERM? (select your top three)	A	Technology Sector	25%
		B	Retail and Service Industry	0%
		C	Office (i.e., Major Office, Flex Space)	18%
		D	Creative Sector (i.e., Film, Music, Tourism)	14%
		E	Health Sector	32%
		F	Post Secondary	21%
		G	Green Technology	32%
		H	Warehousing, Manufacturing & Logistics	0%
		I	Small Businesses	25%
		J	Professional Trades and Skilled Labour	11%
			No Answer	36%
		4	WHAT WOULD INCENTIVIZE YOU TO WALK, CYCLE OR TAKE TRANSIT TO SCHOOL/WORK/ LOCAL DESTINATIONS? (select all that apply)	A
B	Better access to pedestrian, cycling, and/or transit routes			21%
C	More convenient pedestrian/cycling and/or transit routes			29%
D	Somewhere to safely store my bike at school/work and keep it covered from the elements			25%
E	Transit Incentives (i.e. lower costs)			32%
F	Improvements to existing mobility infrastructure			29%
G	Other			0%
	No Answer			29%

Appendix C – Questions and Answers

#	Question	Answers
1	What is something about the City's transportation system that you think needs improvement?	<p>Improving street safety.</p> <p>Make it easier for youth to get to the city to visit, shop and attend school.</p> <p>Safe sidewalks, cycle lanes and trails.</p> <p>More transit going throughout the City, in all directions.</p> <p>Connecting cycling routes to the cities and towns neighbouring Brampton.</p> <p>More options for active transportation. Bike lanes aren't well connected to one another. Spread apart and make it difficult to bike around.</p> <p>General awareness - change in mindset - leaders set the tone for change.</p> <p>Well-lit streets, especially for youth when they return home @ late hours</p> <p>Providing maps for some of the larger trails so it is easier to navigate the trail system. Better signage.</p> <p>More affordable, everyday options for people who work full time but don't have access to cars.</p> <p>Affordable bus tickets for students.</p> <p>Posting maps at transit stops.</p> <p>Accessible transportation ex. bus stops near neighbourhoods or accessible bike paths for youth.</p> <p>More electric charge stations across the city to encourage people to buy electric cars.</p> <p>More multi-use walkways</p> <p>Most of the new development over recent years has been in the edges of the city but transit routes are very inconvenient.</p> <p>More accessible/frequent routes to get from the edges of the city to the more urban centres.</p>
2	The City is looking to be a Climate Change Leader. What are some things the City can do to adapt to a changing climate?	<p>Green roofs on Municipal buildings (library, city hall, museum etc.)</p> <p>Providing EV charging stations at civic locations/city hall</p> <p>Changing mindsets - making environmentally friendly choices every day.</p> <p>Using permeable paving for filtering water /rain</p> <p>Encouraging homeowners to use permeable paving on their property as an eco incentive.</p> <p>Making sure any new private development meets City-approved Green Standards</p>
3	What are some ways the City can promote cultural diversity in the design of communities?	<p>Encouraging facilities that promote creativity.</p> <p>Use civic facilities inside and outside for public art.</p> <p>Youth have a voice and need to be involved in this process.</p> <p>Parks, bbqs, outdoor stages.</p> <p>Festivals, parades, dances.</p> <p>Understanding diversity through collaboration.</p> <p>Outdoor plazas for social gatherings and small businesses, piazza.</p> <p>Musical events to celebrate cultural diversity.</p> <p>Understanding diversity through collaboration.</p> <p>Commissioning Indigenous artists to paint murals to reflect the history, & current topics, of Brampton/local areas.</p> <p>Raising awareness of important figures through the naming of public spaces.</p> <p>Mural or sculpture in a park reflecting the history of the area.</p> <p>Promote public art.</p> <p>Virtual Art.</p> <p>Find ways to collaborate on public art projects with the schoolboards.</p> <p>Competitions with high schools, local area Councillor.</p>

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		Involving business partners for incentives. Promoting platforms for hobby artists. Algoma University School of Business of Ec. Pitch event with the school boards tied into a grant program with Youth.
4	What can the City do to prioritize housing for people of all walks of life, age, and ability to continue to live in Brampton?	Providing more convenient transit routes so people can get to work more easily, save time and money. Priority housing program to include individuals exiting human trafficking. Ensuring that residents have reliable access to internet and technology services, especially in low income housing or areas. Funds to assist youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Prioritize affordable housing. Price of housing high. Make housing more affordable so people continue to live, or move to, Brampton. Addressing gentrification and minority communities are not unduly targeted. Providing services for communities especially for newcomers that may require social services. Providing for building forms that can accommodate families (ex. 2-3 bedrooms in multi-unit developments) Build into agreements (make it a requirement through policy) for new development that there are a certain % that are affordable. Senior residences should be integrated into the community and not necessarily as a stand-alone building. Continue to implement City's Age-Friendly Strategy.
5	Are there areas in the City where you feel there should be more green spaces (ex. parks, trails), including places for recreation (ex. rec centres, basketball courts)?	More integration with green spaces into already made areas such as plazas, and parking lots, etc.
6	What can the City do to promote Community Hubs?	Time expired before question could be explored.
7	What kind of jobs are you interested in, now and in the future (part time vs full time)? How do you think the City should be incentivizing jobs for youth?	Time expired before question could be explored.
8	What are some other topic areas you would like the City to explore as they update their Official Plan? What have we missed in today's discussion that is most important to you?	Time expired before question could be explored.