

Item 8.3



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**OMB Reform (LS16027/PED16237)
Planning Committee
December 6, 2016**



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Background

- October 2016, Province published a “*Review of the Ontario Municipal Board – Public Consultation Document*”. Comments due to Province - December 19, 2016
- City has provided comments on 3 occasions as part of other *Planning Act* Reform Initiatives (PED14004, PED15093 and PED16152) on OMB Reform
- Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario and other municipalities providing similar comments



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Consultation Paper Themes:

- OMB jurisdiction and powers
- Citizen participation and local perspective
- Clear and predictable decision making
- Modern procedures and faster decisions
- Alternative dispute resolution and fewer hearings



OMB jurisdiction and powers

- **Restrictions on OP and OPA appeals**
- **Sending new information back to Council prior to an OMB hearing**
- **Reviewing Council decisions on a standard of “reasonableness”**



- Improving the procedures so the public can more easily understand and have access to the process
- Better information from OMB on its website (e.g more timely posting of decisions with attachments, better information on the Citizen's Liaison Office)



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Clear and predictable decision making

- Improve consistency of decisions
- Multi-member panels, differing disciplines



Modern procedures and faster decisions

- For efficiency and cost, greatest opportunity for change
- Rethink pre-hearing rules and processes, examples:
 - Eliminate procedural orders and issues lists, instead use standard set of rules and information exchange practices
 - Shorten time between filing of appeal and first hearing event
 - Increase hearings in writing where appropriate



Alternative dispute resolution and fewer hearings

- Improve availability of mediators
- Reduce pre-mediation filing requirements
- Not make mediation “required”



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Other Matters

- Early neutral evaluation
- **Eliminate appeal for non-decision where decision imminent**



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Questions