

**From:** Laura Katz

**Sent:** March 8, 2021 10:06 AM

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**Subject:** Delay decision making about urban boundaries

Good morning,

I am requesting that Hamilton City Council delay Hamilton's Official Review Plans (MRC) at your upcoming meeting. The region of Halton voted unanimously to pause their planning on Feb 17 and I believe we must follow suit. .

Constituents cannot be properly consulted given COVID restrictions. Many residents do not have internet access or lack the expertise to use Zoom software in order to delegate. Critical decisions which will impact Hamilton for the next 30 years, should not be made while in-person consultation is impossible. Hamilton's 2016-2025 Strategic Plan commits to community engagement and participation and states: "Citizens are consulted and involved in making the decisions that impact them".

For this action to be effective, councils around the Golden Horseshoe will need to pass similar motions and as it started in Halton, I hope it can continue to Hamilton and beyond.

The best option for our municipality is to freeze the urban boundary and direct new development to within the existing built-up areas.

**Sprawl is costly for our health, the environment and our wallets. We will all pay the cost of irresponsible development.**

Low density residential development is an economic disaster, as well as an environmental one. Our current infrastructure deficit will only grow as we continue to build out into greenfields, building new roads and water infrastructure that taxpayers cannot support. As well, storm run-off from impermeable surfaces will only increase as the effects of climate change grow. Transportation emissions from these developments will prevent us from reaching our climate targets and should not be considered. We have more than enough land within the current urban boundary to develop complete, self-sustaining communities for future growth until 2031 and should have the flexibility to plan for 2041 using the guiding principles of Places to Grow.

Please delay any decision making until voices from all wards can be heard, particularly Ward 11 and Ward 9, where some constituents face internet connectivity issues.

Best,

Laura Katz

Ward 1