

**From:** Paul Shaker  
**Sent:** March 26, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Motion on Lands Needs Assessment

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm writing to support the proposed motion calling for an extension of consultation on the Lands Needs Assessment and for the inclusion of a third option that demonstrates how our anticipated growth can be accommodated within our existing urban boundary.

It is not an understatement to say that the decision on how we decide to grow today will influence our success as a city for decades to come. By only presenting two sprawl-growth options, we are significantly limiting our opportunities to explore how we can become a prosperous city with sustainable growth, both economically and environmentally. As such, there needs to be a more fulsome set of options to consider for the next 30-years. Having reviewed the planning documents, there appears to be a number of opportunities for growth that are not part of the discussion, but would still create outcomes that would comply with Provincial requirements. The inclusion of a third option that demonstrates how our growth can be accommodated within our existing urban boundary, while complying with Provincial requirements will only strengthen debate around this important decision.

Additionally, the level of engagement to date, as highlighted in the staff report, should be higher for an initiative of this importance. It is not only essential to have more engagement, but this city-wide discussion around the future of Hamilton can be a positive community-building exercise where people from across our region feel they can play a part in building a legacy. City planning at its best brings a community together to have an inspiring conversation about what the future can hold. Hamilton has a deep well of community expertise in a number of areas that should be brought to the table to help articulate different options and alternatives. The discussion around Hamilton growth over the next 30 years can become an example of this type of planning.

I urge you to pass the motion to address these two issues of more growth options and more engagement.

Regards,

**Paul Shaker**, MCIP, RPP  
Principal

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