

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Growth Evaluation Framework Feedback

From: Alida Wilson

Sent: August 11, 2021 9:14 PM

To: GRIDS 2 and MCR <grids2-mcr@hamilton.ca>

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Subject: Growth Evaluation Framework Feedback

Hello,

I live in Ward 1, I voted for no urban boundary expansion, and I'm writing to you about the evaluation framework being used to make the decision on our city's urban boundary expansion plan.

The 10 aspects of the framework that are listed (growth allocation, municipal finance, transportation systems, etc) are being presented as equally important to consider, however there is one aspect that carries significantly more weight than all the rest. The impact on Climate Change is the single most important factor that needs to be considered when we look at our plans for growth and densification.

The city councillors unanimously declared a climate emergency in March 2019 so we know the whole city recognizes the urgency and severity of the situation. Hamilton has a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, and this decision is a make or break opportunity for that goal. If we were to expand the boundary, we would be increasing emissions from land use and taking a huge, irreversible step away from that goal.

Each remaining aspect of the framework needs to be viewed through a climate lens...how do the additional emissions of boundary expansion affect municipal finance? We end up spending more money, time and resources trying to offset the additional emissions of boundary expansion. How do the increased emissions of boundary expansion impact transportation systems? Instead of focusing on a more efficient, renewable energy powered transportation system within our existing boundaries, we would have to put our resources into expanding the reach of our system, sacrificing the efficiency that is already built into a denser city.

"Climate change" is not one factor to consider out of 10. Climate change is the lens through which every factor needs to be viewed. Every aspect of the framework has an impact on the climate emergency. Every aspect needs to be looked at as an opportunity to step towards or away from our 2050 goal.

I'd also be interested to know - how do you plan on using the results from the urban boundary expansion survey? Councillor Brad Clark revealed that he received only 4 votes for "ambitious density" to expand the boundary, but a whopping 8258 votes for "no urban boundary expansion". Clearly the residents of this city are strongly opposed to expanding the boundary. Will you listen to what the public is telling you? Will you recognize that we are concerned for our future and demand a positive step towards decreasing carbon emissions and combating climate change?

Thank you,
Alida Wilson