



GRIDS 2 / MCR
Urban Growth Consultation Summary
City Wide Mail-Out

Report PED17010(m)
General Issues Committee
November 9, 2021

Background

March 29, 2021 GIC motion:

(a) That staff be directed to conduct a city-wide mail consultation with a survey on the Land Needs Assessment and the Municipal Comprehensive Review that includes the Ambitious Density Scenario, a “no boundary expansion” scenario, and that also allows residents to submit their own alternative scenario, to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve No. 110046 at an estimated cost of \$35,000;

(b) That, with respect the mailout survey regarding the Land Needs Assessment and the Municipal Comprehensive Review, staff be directed to: (i) include a postage prepaid return envelope as part of the mailout; and, (ii) give residents 30 days to respond to the survey, respecting the Land Needs Assessment and the Municipal Comprehensive Review.

(c) That staff be directed to compile the data from the Land Needs Assessment and the Municipal Comprehensive Review survey and provide an Information Report to be presented at a Special General Issues Committee no later than October 2021

Survey Development

- One page format, folded cardstock
- Postage-paid return
- Information about ‘intensification’, ‘density’, and ‘greenfield development’ and how they relate to land need
- Option to select one of three options:
 - Ambitious Density
 - No Urban Boundary Expansion
 - Other suggestions
- General Comments



Front



Back

Survey Distribution

Mail

- Distribution through Canada Post walk mail routes
- 215,822 hard copy surveys were delivered to households across the City
- One survey per household

Email

- Interest from public to provide option for all residents to provide input, including responses from multiple individuals from the same household, or from those with no fixed address
- PDF version of mail-out survey initially distributed via email, then made available on GRIDS2-MCR website
- Email submissions directed to GRIDS2-MCR project inbox

All responses due by July 23, 2021

Results

Table 1 – Report PED17010(m)

	Option 1: 'Ambitious Density'		Option 2: 'No Urban Boundary Expansion'		Option 3: Other Suggestions		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Mailed Responses	931	11.3%	6,743	81.9%	559	6.7%	8,233
Emailed Responses	157	1.5%	9,893	97.4%	104	1.0%	10,154
All Responses	1,088	5.9%	16,636	90.4%	663	3.6%	18,387

- Total of 18,387 survey responses received
- Majority of survey submissions received through email
- Option 2 – No UBE - was selected by the majority of respondents (90.4%)

Comments

Option 1 – Ambitious Density

- Variety of housing options needed other than apartments
- Cater supply to demand
- Affordability of housing if supply is limited
- Intensify development along key corridors first
- Increased residential uses in rural area and RSAs
- Opportunities for sale of farmland

Option 2 – No Urban Boundary Expansion

- Use underutilized lands in UB for redevelopment (medium/high density)
- Climate change implications of expansion
- Infrastructure development and maintenance costs of expansion
- Focus on active transport
- Affordable housing focus in existing areas
- Farmland and natural heritage protection
- Consider lower growth target

Option 3 – Other Suggestions

- Desire for reduced land need through alternative scenario
- Develop vacant sites first
- Focus development in existing areas to avoid need for UBE
- Housing affordability needs to be considered in housing options
- Medium density housing
- Intensification through infill encouraged broadly,

Noted Issues

Design

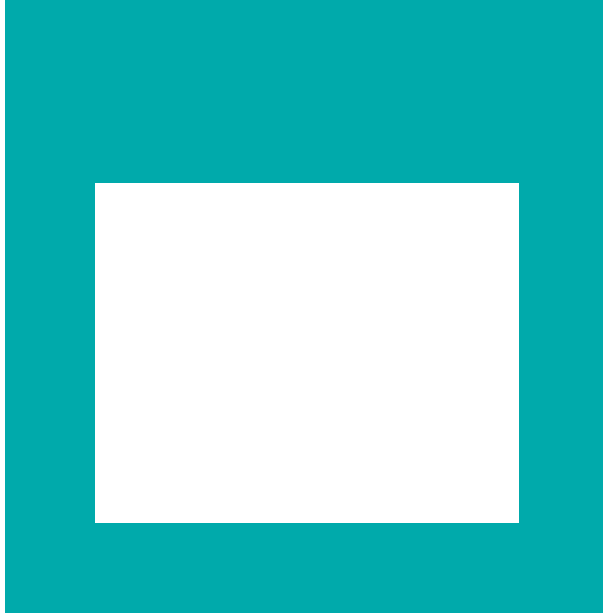
- Survey design – perceived as ‘flyer’ and discarded
- Language perceived as biased (i.e. ‘Ambitious Density’)
- Lack of information on survey page

Distribution

- Surveys not received – ‘no flyers’ households
- One per household limitations
- No online survey developed
- Not widely advertised
- Duplicate submissions (email / mail / both)

Next Steps

- Purpose of Urban Growth Survey was to inform Council of the preferences of local constituents before making a decision with respect to the Land Needs Assessment
- Results of survey to be considered alongside concurrent Staff reports:
 - Land Needs Assessment update, and Peer Review (PED17010(n))
 - “How Should Hamilton Grow” Evaluation Framework (PED17010(o))



THANK YOU