

Public Comment Summary (August 2021) - REVISED Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria (additional consultation as directed by Council)

Email/Mail Comments

#	Date:	Name:	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
1.	August 6, 2021	Rev. Canon Robert L. Brownlie	Received, thank you. There has been much concern over the years about 'the death' of the City core, I feel these areas NEED the most attention. It is not a NYMBY concern, but a concern for the health of the City as a whole	Email forwarded to Urban Renewal team for consideration
2.	August 6, 2021	Pat Wilson	Doesn't sound like council is listening. They seem to be directing staff to go forward with their flawed survey and poor methodology. Why does city council continue to ask questions it doesn't really want answered?	Staff review and respond to all comments received and recommend revisions to the framework as appropriate.
3.	August 6, 2021	Gerald Smith	<p>In my opinion, there should be no urban expansion of any kind on existing agricultural land, nor on any existing watershed areas.</p> <p>The focus going forward should be on innovative intensification on all lands within the current urban boundary, particularly those areas of the city which already contain infrastructure which would support enhanced housing, retail, and industrial uses.</p> <p>For example, I currently reside in a single family residence in the Dundas area of the City. This residence could easily be converted into a duplex if existing by-laws permitted such conversion. This example applies to large areas of the Dundas community and would provide for much needed capacity in housing stock.</p> <p>We need to embrace a new paradigm that acknowledges the value of agricultural and watershed lands beyond a "commodity" to be bought and sold while resulting in loss of food producing capacity and loss of environmental habitat.</p> <p>This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect a rare resource for ourselves and future generations to come.</p>	Comments are noted. The framework considers growth allocations within the existing built up area (intensification) as well as agricultural and natural heritage impacts.

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4.	August 7, 2021	Randy Young	<p>Since we are unable to manage our current infrastructure deficit (sewer, water, transit, housing, climate), why would we even consider any new growth until we fix the mess that we have today. Why create a bigger problem until we fix our current problems?</p> <p>Before expanding our existing boundary, we should focus on filling in our existing vacant, decrepit and contaminated properties. Only once this has been completed, consideration could be given to expanding the urban boundary.</p> <p>We’ve become an embarrassment because we refuse to make a decision and then implement it. So whatever plan we do decide on , we need to implement it.</p>	<p>Comments are noted. The framework considers growth allocation within the existing urban boundary.</p>
5.	August 7, 2021	S. MacDonald	<p>The revised Final Growth Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria was reviewed and found confusing / difficult to decipher.</p> <p>Please stop the urban expansion. Our City's current expansion so far resemble more like Mississauga than anything unique to the City of Hamilton.</p> <p>Stop expanding into the rural areas. Clean up the environmental hazards and use existing land in the City to build condensed housing. This way the residents can make use of the transit and services in place.</p> <p>No Urban Boundary Expansion please.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The evaluation framework is being designed to be a user-friendly, graphically-oriented tool.</p>
6.	August 7, 2021	M. Cappadocio	<p>The revised Final Growth Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria was reviewed and found confusing / difficult to decipher.</p> <p>Please stop the urban expansion. Our City's current expansion so far resemble more like Mississauga than anything unique to the City of Hamilton.</p>	<p>Comment identical to above. The evaluation framework is being designed to be a user-friendly, graphically-oriented tool.</p>

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9.	August 7, 2021	P. MacDonald	<p>The revised Final Growth Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria was reviewed and found confusing / difficult to decipher.</p> <p>Please stop the urban expansion. Our City's current expansion so far resemble more like Mississauga than anything unique to the City of Hamilton.</p> <p>Stop expanding into the rural areas. Clean up the environmental hazards and use existing land in the City to build condensed housing. This way the residents can make use of the transit and services in place.</p> <p>No Urban Boundary Expansion please.</p>	<p>Comment identical to above. The evaluation framework is being designed to be a user-friendly, graphically-oriented tool.</p>
10.	August 9, 2021	Fraser Forrest	<p>The reports on the Subject are just too much for me to take in so please forgive me if my comments have been covered:</p> <p>Land use:</p> <p>If Hamilton downtown is to remain viable, I think we need to come up with ways to increase the population density of the lower city:</p> <p>Presumably open lands not designated as parks, etc. in the lower city have been included as possible housing expansion sites, but have brownfields, industrial lands with existing unused buildings, etc., been considered? The value of existing infrastructure must at least partially offset the cleanup costs.</p> <p>How about reducing the number of parking lots and adding more levels of parking on prime sites, either upwards or underground. I have visited European cities where this has been the only solution, eg., Balboa and Salamanca in Spain. There, the lots were constructed well after the old heritage buildings were built - for us it would be much easier and cheaper.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Regarding population density and the location of future growth, the framework considers this question through the Growth Allocation and Complete Communities themes.</p> <p>Transit and support for the LRT line is considered in the Growth Allocation and Transportation System themes.</p>

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			<p>Are there any property tax subsidies (or increases) that could be applied to enable more population growth in the lower city?</p> <p>Transportation:</p> <p>Unless there is a large increase in available housing in the McMaster/Eastgate corridor, the unseen costs of the LRT can probably never be recovered by ridership.</p> <p>I'm not sure how this can be controlled by council, but the drift away from compact enclosed malls must have a significant effect on automobile use. If one has ever walked from store to store around these 'malls' on a busy day, they soon find it a very dangerous place, not to mention that there are many cars idling because shoppers are driving from one store to another rather than parking in one place. This 'mall' design may be great for Florida weather but not for Ontario winters.</p>	
11.	August 10. 2021	Alysha R.	<p>As a recent resident of Hamilton (moving here from Toronto originally from Brampton), I've been getting up to speed on the plan to structure Hamilton's growth. I am concerned of the inherent bias in the report/framework that was presented to council last Wednesday. Little to no attention was giving to the option to invest within the urban boundary through intensification and redevelopment in the existing urban area.</p> <p>I grew up in Northern Brampton and have seen the consequences of suburban sprawl that eats up farmland, results in road congestion, lack of community investment which leads to a lack of ownership and camaraderie. They are in the process of correcting that however Hamilton has an opportunity (if not an obligation) to learn from this and innovatively pursue creative solutions. In addition to this, there is a wealth of unrealized</p>	<p>Staff note that both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option plan for growth within the existing urban area through intensification and redevelopment. The following reports have been completed which specifically address opportunities for intensification and development / redevelopment in the</p>

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			<p>potential within the urban boundary through brown sites and sprawling parking lots.</p> <p>I'd like to add my vote towards the intensification and redevelopment in the existing urban boundary. Thank you,</p>	<p>existing urban area: Residential Intensification Market Demand Study, Residential Intensification Supply Update, Designated Greenfield Area Density Analysis.</p>
12.	August 11, 2021	Joanne B.	<p>I understand the thought process for growth, but with the climate change emergency I think more thought should be less houses, cars, large apartment buildings and office towers and more green space. Don't try to encroach on the whitebelt or greenbelt, that would be a big mistake. It can't be all about the money. People move out of the city to be able to enjoy more room, more green space, less pollution, less noise. Once you go down the road of large expansion, that's not what people moved for and will move on to other places when there is no more appeal to where they live.</p> <p>We still need farmers close, so that existing land they work should be sacred and not touched. The animals will disappear or start entering city spaces because all of their homeland will disappear. Trees will become scarce, eco-systems are altered forever and the impact will be significant. We need to take a step back and really assess what is important. Once you take the stance of large growth, you can't go back and that would be a shame. Can we not learn and adjust from past mistakes? Climate change is real and if we don't adjust our thinking, it will be too late. What a shame that would be for all of us. The responsibility is on you to make the right choice!</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
13.	August 11, 2021	Brenda G.	<p>I am a Hamilton citizen writing to you about the city's Evaluation Framework which is to be used to determine whether Option 1 or Option 2 is picked re upcoming urban boundary expansions.</p>	<p>The How Should Hamilton Grow framework is a tool for documenting a wide range of information and theme areas</p>

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			<p>The city cannot make a logical choice without the evaluation criteria being weighted against each other.</p> <p>I am also concerned that the survey results are not be using in the framework.</p> <p>Every move the city makes should be looked at through the lens of the environment.</p>	<p>based on direction of the Provincial Growth Plan, the GRIDS 2 / MCR 10 Directions to Guide Development and local priorities. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
14.	August 11, 2021	John K.	<p>There is a Climate Emergency . BC is on fire and drought. Crops there are failing. Federal and Provincial governments are failing there duty of care. It is up to local government to drive the solution. Urban Sprawl is part of the problem.</p> <p>We did not receive the survey form on city boundary expansion. I am one of five people resident here so I filled it online. 1 in 5!</p> <p>I am concerned about the regional governments overriding of Conservation Authorities powers. The City (and taxpayers) pay for these and have representation there. Those that gain from the expansion of city boundaries into the white zone are property developers and once the boundary is moved rezoning is locked in forever. Big profits on a sure bet.</p> <p>The city has declared itself as taking action to reverse the climate emergency but there has been little action taken.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources. Cost of growth is</p>

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			<p>You will be aware of the massive forest fires which are the new normal. These produce more CO2 they the used to absorb.</p> <p>The parameters of the "plan" published by the city department responsible show a lack of understanding of and a gross simplification of the causes of climate change which they assess by CO2 emissions. Agricultural land is a CO2 sink and food shortages are predicted.</p> <p>So staff are not qualified to assess expansion and "consultants" qualifications are not specified.</p> <p>Cost is another report assessment metric.</p> <p>The City knows the maintenance of expanded residential infrastructure is prohibitive considering its current debt burden</p> <p>Further more the date of publication of the department's report and council's decision leave no time for public consultation, evaluation and input. That is not "due process". The amount of public reaction to this has been considerable.</p> <p>Please take action to mitigate threats to the lives of the coming and present generation of residents. The clear and present danger.</p> <p>Trusting you for independent and unbiased consideration and vision for the future of the city</p>	<p>considered through the Municipal Finance theme.</p>
15.	August 11, 2021	Lisa L.	<p>In regards to the evaluation framework used to decide on whether or not to expand the urban boundaries of the city of Hamilton in order to accommodate population growth: It is now more important than ever to prioritize environmental sustainability and responsible growth. In order to understand the environmental impact of the proposed two options, it is</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG</p>

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			critical to consider greenhouse gas emissions associated with each. I'm disappointed to see that this is not reflected in the current evaluation framework. I strongly urge city councillors and staff to honour the city's commitment to addressing the climate emergency made in March 2019, and do a full evaluation of the boundary expansion and ambitious density scenario options through a climate lens.	emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
16.	August 11, 2021	Cynthia M.	It is of utmost importance that EVERY measure in deciding to extend the hamilton boundary or maintain the city limits by building within, be considered with the weight of our present climate emergency! Please do not falter. We cannot support an extension of our city limits. Consider Hamiltonians first, not developers.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
17.	August 11, 2021	Jane H.	It had been determined worldwide that we are in crisis mode in climate change. Hamilton must make their decisions based on the impact expansion will have on our climate. This must be the primary consideration. It is our duty to our children and the world that we do our part.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
18.	August 11, 2021	A Didur	I cannot stress strongly enough that I want the city to <u>undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' VS the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a climate lens.</u> There is no excuse for ignoring the dire warnings just released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - the panel of the world's leading climate scientists. We have been clearly warned that urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is required to avert ever-increasing climate disaster. Based on the IPCC's warnings,	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary

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			<p>now is the worst possible time to be sprawling Hamilton out into rural farmland. Urban sprawl fuels climate change. We must protect farmland and greenspace.</p> <p>The current evaluation framework city planning staff have proposed to assess the 'No Urban Boundary Expansion' option against the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' is far from rigorous. It puts the evaluation of climate crisis impacts on par with all other evaluation themes. Climate crisis impacts are inarguably the priority and should be in a stand-alone category. Climate should be the lens for all of the other 9! <u>There needs to be a comparison of greenhouse gas emissions driving decisions.</u> Emissions from land use will impact us for up to 1,000 years.</p>	Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
19.	August 11, 2021	Michelle A	<p>With the latest climate report which has been released, I think the city needs to look at all policies from a climate perspective. If there is no inhabitable planet in 100 years, then all of the other savings and decisions we make are pointless.</p> <p>I encourage the city to weight the environmental impact of decisions very high and even look at everything through that lens. It is only when we all do this, that we can make the needed impact.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
20.	August 11, 2021	David H	<p>I have read the final growth evaluation framework which will be used to rate the two options of no urban boundary expansions and so-called "ambitious density" expansion.</p> <p>While each of the 10 considerations makes sense, I believe that particular importance should be assigned to the climate change consideration, in both respects (what opportunities each option provides for reducing greenhouse emissions, what opportunities or risks associated with climate change each option presents).</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.

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21.	August 11, 2021	Anne W	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>Staff concur that climate change impacts cross many themes and note that climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources. Cost of growth is considered through the Municipal Finance theme.</p>

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			<p>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.</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to consider in their decision making.</p>
22.	August 11, 2021	Hilary L.	<p>I am contacting you concerning the Evaluation Framework being used to determine which Urban Planning option will be chosen. This framework should take into consideration greenhouse gas emissions. Whichever option we choose will impact us for generations, and we need to make smart decisions based on the growing climate emergency.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
23.	August 12, 2021	Joseph D.	<p>My concern with the Growth Evaluation Framework is the transportation section. There seem to be nothing about evaluating active transportation in the section (walking, cycling, etc.).</p>	<p>The How Should Hamilton Grow framework addresses active transportation in the Transportation System</p>

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			<p>I understand that buses and LRT is an important component but we seriously need to develop active transportation networks beyond the little that has been done thus far.</p> <p>Expanding the boundaries would not help with this issue. We need to develop our city within the current boundaries.</p>	<p>Theme, including the consideration of “Does the growth option provide an urban form that will expand convenient access to a range of transportation options including active transportation, to promote complete communities?”</p>
24.	August 12, 2021	Lynda D	<p>Please consider 'No Urban Boundary Expansion' with your Evaluation Framework regarding urban expansion.</p>	<p>The How Should Hamilton Grow framework includes consideration of the No Urban Boundary Expansion option.</p>
25.	August 12, 2021	Joanne L	<p>I am writing to raise my concerns about the framework you are using to decide if Hamilton's urban boundaries should be expanded or not.</p> <p>I understand that the Hamilton Councillors unanimously declared a climate emergency in March of 2019. To the best of my knowledge, this climate emergency has not lessened in the intervening years. In fact, as I am sure you are aware, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - a group of the world's leading climate scientists -urges immediate action to reduce greenhouse emissions to avoid climate disaster.</p> <p>Given this, I fail to see how any rational decision can be made without determining which option -to expand or not to expand boundaries- will result in the least emissions and then choosing that one. As a lifelong resident and long term taxpayer in this city, I am asking you to undertake a meticulous emissions evaluation of each of the options and as such do your part to help avert or at least mitigate the climate crisis facing us all.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>

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26.	August 12, 2021	Karen M	<p>I urge the City of Hamilton to undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' (option 2) VERSUS the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' (option 1) using a climate lens.</p> <p>Our councillors unanimously declared a climate emergency back in March of 2019.</p> <p>To retain any credibility on climate issues, the councillors must heed the dire warnings recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - the world's leading climate scientists - that has warned that urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is required to avert climate disaster.</p> <p>Based on the IPCC's warnings, now is the WORST possible time to be sprawling Hamilton out into rural farmland.</p> <p>I am not a member of any special interest group--rather, a citizen concerned for the quality of my children's and grandchildren's future. Removing farmland is untenable: once it's gone, it's gone.</p> <p>I trust the councillors share the same concerns.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
27.	August 12, 2021	Ross A	<p>I am emailing as I believe that climate change should be included and prioritized in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow. If it is not I am deeply concerned that not only will we be endangering the food security of Hamilton, we will also be increasing greenhouse gas emissions for centuries to come as further development will heavily depend on the usage of cars. Thank you very much for your time.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>

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28.	August 12, 2021	MaryAnne T	<p>URGENT CALL TO ACTION! Your staff are developing an Evaluation Framework that will guide You toward the choice of expanding or not expanding our urban boundary. This 10 criteria framework for deciding how Hamilton should grow <u>needs to prioritize climate change</u> or we will lock in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, car-dependent subdivisions for centuries.</p> <p>We are in a Climate Emergency and land use planning needs to reflect that! The Climate emergency, the climate crisis trumps all. You must act for all of us.</p> <p>Please put the health of our area and our planet before monetary benefits to the few. We don't need new subdivisions.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
29.	August 12, 2021	Tony C	<p>I believe the paramount evaluation criteria for Hamilton's City Planning should be Climate Change. We must do our part to halt climate change by investing in redevelopment within our current urban boundary. Our greenfields are precious and must be protected to ensure that our City continues to thrive into 2051 and beyond.</p> <p>It seems unlikely that our City can achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 if we engage in urban boundary expansion. It will create the need to drive everywhere, and it would disrupt and destroy the very ecosystems we need to clean our air and water. Urban boundary expansion represents a risk to climate change, whereas investing in wise redevelopment within our current urban boundary represents an opportunity to address climate change in a meaningful way.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.

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			Please view all planning through a Climate lens.	
30.	August 13, 2021	Don R	<p>I have previously corresponded as regards my view that urban expansion is unnecessary and harmful to our environment. Additionally it will impact and reduce valuable and ever shrinking farmland assets.</p> <p>I have reviewed the framework themes for evaluation of Options 1 & 2 and am concerned that the evaluation criteria are unranked and that the environment and related climate change are not given a dominant position. This prioritization would align with the council's declaration of a climate emergency some 2+ years ago.</p>	<p>The How Should Hamilton Grow framework is a tool for documenting a wide range of information and theme areas based on direction of the Provincial Growth Plan, the GRIDS 2 / MCR 10 Directions to Guide Development and local priorities. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
31.	August 13, 2021	Lynda H	<p>Development in the city needs to be sustainable and include people and the environment over profits.</p> <p>It is more economical to develop unused space within the existing Hamilton city.</p> <p>We are in a climate emergency so growth needs to focus on the above (to preserving farm land) and not expand the build into existing farm land...which will increase cost and dependency on cars for transportation this result in Locking in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, car-dependent subdivisions</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will</p>

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			<p>Land use planning needs to reflect sustainable planning. The Climate emergency trumps all.</p> <p>Put the environment a living ecosystem we depend on for our health, at the forefront of your decision making. Then communities will thrive, the city will have health and only then be the best place to raise a child.</p>	<p>provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
32.	August 13, 2021	Adrienne T	<p>I want to add my voice to advocate that the current climate emergency must be taken into highest account when developing the framework to evaluate the land boundary expansion in Hamilton. As a resident of Hamilton my whole life, the thought of more suburban sprawl is making prospect of staying in this city less attractive. We need walk-able neighborhoods with great cycling infrastructure and transit; these are are cities of the future.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
33.	August 13, 2021	Barbara D	<p>When creating your 10 Criteria framework for the expansion of Hamilton, PLEASE put considerations for Climate Change at the top of your list. Suburbs are not the way to go - losing trees and farmland in favour of commuting is extremely short sighted. Focusing on affordable and population dense urban housing is. We are in a climate crisis - please be role models for how growth should happen!</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary</p>

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				<p>Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
34.	August 13, 2021	Jill M	<p>I am writing in response to the 10-day window for feedback on the evaluation framework for the City's boundary expansion. The proposed framework is far from rigorous, putting the evaluation of climate crisis impacts on par with all other evaluation themes. Urban sprawl fuels climate change and the planet is facing a climate emergency. The evaluation of these urban growth scenarios must be done in a manner that prioritizes climate impacts - our future depends on it!</p> <p>Given that your framework doesn't weigh climate and climate impacts on all other factors, I ask that the City and its Councillors undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' VS the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a climate lens.</p> <p>City of Hamilton Councillors unanimously declared a climate emergency back in March of 2019. Now is the time to put that declaration into practice. I urge you to heed the dire warnings just released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - the panel of the world's leading climate scientists - that has warned that urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is required to avert climate disaster. Based on the IPCC's warnings, now is the worst possible time to be sprawling Hamilton out into rural farmland.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

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35.	August 13, 2021	Michael K	<p>As a reminder, Hamilton has declared a climate change emergency on March 27, 2019. I believe that the Evaluation Framework city staff is developing that will guide Council toward the choice of expanding or not expanding our urban boundary must prioritize climate change if we are to achieve the city's stated goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Expanding our urban boundary will lock us into greenhouse gas emissions to 2050 and beyond. You have the power to enable Hamilton to lead the world in battling this climate change emergency. Please take positive action for the future of the human race.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
36.	August 13, 2021	Angela W	<p>I am emailing as I believe that climate change should be prioritized in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow currently and over the coming years. If it is not I am seriously concerned that we will be endangering the food security of Hamilton and Ontario for generations to come. We will also be increasing toxic emissions for centuries to come as further development and expansion will heavily depend on the usage of cars and loss of farmland leads to more transportation emissions in the supply chain. The city has the chance to lead Ontario, Canada, and the world in the climate crisis. The new IPCC report is jarring and it will be a failure to the planet and to citizens if Hamilton does not take the IPCC report and the overall crisis into consideration.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with</p>

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			<p>Please also consult with the local Indigenous community as Indigenous land stewardship protects and preserves the lands and waters. Inherent rights as well as treaty rights and responsibilities should be upheld.</p>	<p>balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>Consultation with indigenous communities is an ongoing component of the GRIDS 2 / MCR process.</p>
37.	August 13, 2021	Gail M	<p>I am a resident of Ancaster. I submitted my vote ...Option #2...no boundary expansion. Now I would like to implore you and council to reconsider the 10 evaluation criteria for evaluation of these options. Our focus, and YOUR focus, should be on CLIMATE CHANGE. The other criteria are not significant until climate change can be addressed. In March 2019 Council unanimously declared a climate emergency. Now it is time TO REAFFIRM that commitment. In the last few days the World Health has released its dire projections for the critical impact of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change has issued its warnings. Please use climate change as your lens in considering any future development in the Hamilton Region.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
38.	August 13, 2021	Carmen C	<p>The preservation of “Prime Agricultural” areas should be one of the most important considerations of the “Phasing of Development” of an urban boundary expansion. The Ministry of Agriculture developed the rigorous LEAR Process to be used by municipalities across the GGH using consistent factors, Datasets, and Weightings to identify the “Prime” and non-prime agricultural areas. The city conducted a LEAR Study as part of</p>	<p>The framework addresses the protection of the Agricultural System in alignment with the directions of the Provincial Policy</p>

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			<p>the Grids 1 Growth Process and the Rural Hamilton Official Plan Schedule “D” Map has the LEAR agricultural designations of all the Ambitious Density Whitebelt Candidate areas. PPS Growth Plan Policy 2.2.8.3 directs municipalities to develop the non-prime agricultural areas before the Prime Agricultural areas.</p> <p><u>Any Phasing or Staging of development of the Candidate areas should prioritize the non-prime agricultural designated areas before the Prime Agricultural areas for development.</u></p> <p>Climate Change, the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the reduction of our Carbon Footprint should be the other important consideration for any urban boundary expansion. The August 4th GIC Meeting stated that there would be a GHG Emissions Study to compare the impact on Climate Change between the “No Urban Expansion” and the “Ambitious Density Scenario”. Why doesn’t the city also conduct the GHG Emission Study for the Whitebelt Candidate areas to determine what is the “Climate Change” impact of development of each candidate area of the “Ambitious Density Scenario” Growth Option?</p> <p><u>The results of the GHG Study of the Whitebelt Candidate Areas of the Ambitious Density Scenario could be used as part of the “Phasing” of development of the Candidate areas.</u></p> <p>The city of Hamilton commenced the Grids 2 MCR Process, and the Background Studies associated with the MCR Process in 2016. The city of Hamilton included the Twenty Road East area as part of the MCR Process in October of 2019. The city has stated that the Grids 2 MCR Process will assess all the Whitebelt areas equally as part of this process. The question is why hasn’t the city approved or initiated the same Grids 2 MCR</p>	<p>Statement and Provincial Growth Plan.</p> <p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>Parts 3 and 4 of the framework, including consideration of phasing, also include GHG emissions analysis, if those portions of the framework are required.</p>

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			<p>Background Studies for the Twenty Road East area as are being conducted in the Elfrida area?</p> <p><u>The city should approve and initiate the Grids 2 MCR Background Studies for the Twenty Road East area. This would ensure that the “Phasing” of Development of the “Ambitious Density Scenario” Growth Option is a fair process.</u></p>	
39.	August 13, 2021	Paula G	<p>This email is to express my concern that climate change be prioritized in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow currently and over the coming years.</p> <p>If it is not we endanger the food security of Hamilton and Ontario for generations to come. We will also be increasing toxic emissions for centuries to come as further development and expansion will heavily depend on the usage of cars and loss of farmland leads to more transportation emissions in the supply chain.</p> <p>The city has the chance to lead Ontario, Canada, and the world in the climate crisis. The new IPCC report is jarring and it will be a failure to the planet and to citizens if Hamilton does not take the IPCC report and the overall crisis into consideration.</p> <p>Also, and very importantly, we need to consult with the local Indigenous community as Indigenous land stewardship protects and preserves the lands and waters. Inherent rights as well as treaty rights and responsibilities should be upheld.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>Consultation with indigenous communities is an ongoing component of the GRIDS 2 / MCR process.</p>

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40.	August 13, 2021	Frances M	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important – perhaps the *most* important – Planning Department document and decision by Hamilton City Council during our lifetime.</p> <p>As you are aware the IPCC recently released a terrifying report on the consequences of our reckless disregard for the environment and the resulting change in climate we are headed towards. The disastrous results are already being felt all over the world. We in Hamilton are not immune to climate change consequences, despite the theme of “business as usual” displayed so far, although City Council did declare a <u>Climate Emergency</u> in March 2019.</p> <p>Land Use planning is key to lowering GHG emissions. That is the foundational lens which should be used to evaluate all options for future development. Land use can no longer be based on a mid-20th century sprawl mentality and MUST opt for compact, dense, transit and active transportation models. Our current built-up areas are not even close to the density that will be required in the future. As long as green fields are offered for development, builders will build on green fields. When there are no green fields left, builders will innovate and start developing infill projects. Hamilton has to stop offering green fields for development before we mess up food-growing land that our children and grandchildren will need.</p> <p>We do not currently have the information that is needed and should wait for the report from the CEEP – Community Emissions and Energy Plan (due in Spring 2021) -- before land use planning decisions, which will lock us into sprawl until 2051, are made by council.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

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			CLIMATE CHANGE is <u>the</u> lens through which all plans for future should be considered, and should therefore be given the most weight in this decision and recommendation to council.	
41.	August 13, 2021	Claire B	<p>In light of this week’s IPCC report and wildfires raging across Canada, I hope the City of Hamilton considers the climate emergency as the number one priority/framework theme when deciding about urban boundary expansion. I am not understating things when I say it feels like the future of humanity is at stake.</p> <p>I also hope the city takes into account all of the survey results in developing their framework.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to consider in their decision making.</p>
42.	August 13, 2021	Lyn F	Your "Evaluation Framework" for deciding on a growth approach for the City of Hamilton is sorely flawed. This is obvious to anyone who is	The City is required to complete the Municipal

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			<p>informed about the science surrounding the climate crisis. Hamilton is better than this poor attempt by the province to force us into their pro-development scheme. It makes me wonder how many politicians are getting kickbacks from development corporations? I am an environmental scientist with a Master's degree from the University of Waterloo, and I see no sense at all in this blatant attempt by the province to bully Hamilton into making bad choices concerning urban sprawl.</p> <p>Honestly, how stupid does the province think we are? This evaluation framework does nothing but (AGAIN) eliminate the two most important criteria in making this decision -- the effects of the climate crisis and public opinion! We live here and we know what is good for us -- Doug Ford definitely does not.</p> <p>If the City agrees to this kind of low quality decision-making 'scheme', then you are slapping the public in the face, no less. I am truly insulted and horrified that the province is trying to manipulate good municipal governments (like you!) in this way. Please stand up to the provincial PCs because if we don't, what kind of precedent will this set for the future here? Will we ever be able to make a beneficial decision of our own again if politicians get away with this kind of harassment?</p> <p>There must be some good moral legal argument against harming our City's inhabitants just because the province tells us to do so. It's crazy that we have allowed Ontario to even get to this place in our decision making. I can't believe that the PCs have been allowed to continue using MZO when it is clearly completely immoral and illegal because they are just using outdated policies to take advantage of taxpayers and eliminate public opinions from politics -- that is supposed to be illegal!</p>	<p>Comprehensive Review in accordance with the Provincial Growth Plan, including provincial growth projections.</p> <p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to</p>

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			<p>This kind of bullying of the public simply should not be allowed. It is even worse abuse during an stressful emergency pandemic too! We're all sitting ducks and clearly many of us in Hamilton don't like it one bit -- for good reasons!</p> <p>I trust the Hamilton Council but I have zero faith that the Douglas Ford PC government has any of my best interests in mind, or those of any ordinary taxpayer here. He only wants to please large corporations which has been proven soundly by his track record as Premier. From his "A Place to Grow" licence fiasco to his use of illegal MZOs to pave over critical natural infrastructure for absolutely no justifiable reason, this Premier's decisions are nothing short of a complete disaster for the Ontario public.</p> <p>So please tell me why the Hamilton Council would agree to this scam which would harm all Hamiltonians in an irreversible way?????? Just say, "NO!"</p> <p>We want a sustainable future here, period. We can grow within the City boundaries that exist today as Linda Lukasik and Don McLean have described. And with the climate crisis worsening exponentially, many people may decide not to have children in the future, so the population projections decades from now may change radically. Why incorporate bad policies here when we aren't even sure if the population projections that have been made are even accurate decades from now? Much could change over the next decade just because of the climate crisis.</p> <p>The fact today, is that we are absolutely sure that we will need the prime farmland surrounding our City in order to secure our food supply in Ontario. We have the best agricultural land in Canada here, and the plan is to pave it all so we can create more impermeable surface areas to increase our already high flood potential? It is just crazy.</p>	<p>consider in their decision making.</p>

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			<p>Currently, these evaluation criteria are not weighted against each other. Emissions from land use will impact us for up to 1,000 years into the future! In fact, with no question, Climate should be the lens for all of the other criteria. In the wake of the latest IPCC report, we would be totally irresponsible to listen to the Premier's bad advice. He is a known climate crisis denier. What are we thinking? Please, just say "NO."</p> <p>What about the survey results? Will the survey results be used in this framework? It is clear to me that the results are not being made public because an overwhelming percentage of the population here said "No urban boundary expansion" and the province wants to hide that result. This is extremely disappointing to me.</p> <p>In fact, the survey results should be the number one factor in making any boundary change decision in Hamilton -- the people have spoken! Why are we being ignored? Greedy profiteers don't care about what the public thinks as long as they are lining their pockets with dollars -- again, we are not that naive! The province is certainly not thinking of me when they are bullying my political representatives around. I should hope that this poor taste in tactics is illegal in Canada.</p> <p>Hamilton taxpayers are not ignorant and I will hold this against Council if you fail to stand up for Hamilton taxpayers who NEED clean drinking water, clean air to breathe and good healthy prime agricultural land to grow our food -- these are our most basic needs! Not warehouses! This may be our last chance to start making GOOD decisions about our future that are based on the well-being of citizens rather than making the rich more wealthy.</p>	

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			<p>So please, tell the Premier that his process is not just and we won't stand for being bullied into bad decisions being forced onto innocent taxpayers who deserve much much better!</p> <p>Hamiltonians have overwhelmingly said NO to an urban boundary expansion of any kind. I heard that over 8,000 people said NO and only 4 said yes. How could you ever ignore that???? Make it public knowledge today or else democracy is dead in Hamilton.</p> <p>Relieve some of our terrible stress and please stand up for your electorate. Say NO to any urban boundary expansion. This provincial government is not a popular one in Ontario. Our schools have a zero tolerance of bullying policy -- shouldn't the City too?</p> <p>With respect for Hamilton Council but concerned about the fate of Ontarians today,</p>	
43.	August 13, 2021	Jackie W	<p>I write to you this evening as a Ward 1 Constituant, a local teacher, and a mother, who is more than concerned about the current state of our climate, it's decline and the ramifications that climate change is having on our whole world.</p> <p>Not expanding our current city boundaries means more people living in walkable, transit oriented Neighbourhoods, enhanced connection to community and more of a guarantee of a future for our youngest citizens. Expanding our boundaries means paving over some of the most rich, fertile, viable soil in the world. Soil that nourishes our bodies and souls with its fruit and vegetables, soil that allows us to pick apples on a crisp fall afternoon and pick raspberries under the summer sun. Expanding our boundaries also means we are locking in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, car (and school bus) dependent suburbs for centuries to come.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities,</p>

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			<p>Your 10 criteria framework for how Hamilton should grow NEEDS TO PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE. We are IN a Climate Emergency, and our land use planning MUST reflect that. For all Hamiltonians, namely our youngest who will be inheriting (or dying from) your decisions today.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency trumps all.</p>	<p>Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
44.	August 13, 2021	Donald W	<p>I am writing to urge you to prioritize climate change issues in making a decision on the location for growth in Hamilton. For this reason I implore you to choose the “NO Urban Boundary Expansion” option; maintaining agricultural land, and intensifying Hamilton’s population. That will provide the best basis for a viable public transit system, and eliminate the need for expenditure on water, sewer, road and electrical services to newly created residential suburbs. Ontario needs to curtail the enormous urban boundary expansion that has been going on for years, in favour of climate-friendly, transit-friendly cities with real boundaries.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p>

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				The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
45.	August 14, 2021	Jennifer S	I am writing to express my concern over the planning for future growth. Hamilton decided to make climate change an important issue in 2019 yet proposes growth that ignores the impacts of covering farmland and green space with concrete. Please start to incorporate climate change factors into Hamilton’s planning immediately	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
46.	August 14, 2021	Susan W	I urge you and those working in your department to do a rigorous evaluation of the No Boundary Expansion vs. Ambitious Density Scenario using A CLIMATE LENS. In March 2019, in good faith, the councilors unanimously agreed on a climate emergency. Therefore, not expanding the boundary is the only logical solution.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
47.	August 14, 2021	Robert P	The city of Hamilton has already gobbled up numerous nice sized communities and now apparently consider it's necessary to convert our remaining green farm lands to urban sprawl. GreenHouse gases are already being created by our major industries and existing homes and numerous auto, trucks and busses and even aircraft. This can not continue without resulting in major emissions and serious climate	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of

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			<p>change. We now likely are dealing with the issues of present garbage and recyclables being suitably disposed of, what major new issues will be created by urban expansion.</p> <p>An interesting and informative article entitled "BOUNDARY EXPANSION VS. CLIMATE FIGHT appeared in last week's Glanbrook Gazette. August 12th. I hope those wanting Urban Sprawl.</p> <p>Mr. Mayor, our councillors and city staff, as requested, please undertake to rigorously deal with the evaluations themes at hand.</p>	<p>both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
48.	August 14, 2021	Judith B	<p>I am writing to you today to indicate I want the city to undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' VS the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a climate lens.</p> <p>The city previously declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the new report from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change indicates how dire our global situation is with regard to climate change. Sprawling cities add to global warming in many ways. Like many citizens I am very concerned and wish to see meaningful change in the way our city responds and acts to global warming..</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
49.	August 14, 2021	Caroline H	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Evaluation Framework for GRIDS 2. As a delegate at the GIC August 4th, I emphasized that the Climate change, municipal finance and infrastructure frameworks are inadequate as presented in Appendix A. Those are the areas in which I have expertise. While I appreciate skills required as a planner are multidisciplinary, they do not extend to Economics and Science. The municipal process to ensure sustainable future growth while continuing urban expansion is untenable. At present even with no urban expansion the city is not addressing the state of its current crumbling infrastructure, huge municipal fiscal deficits and the climate emergency as it was announced in 2019.</p>	<p>As noted in the framework, consideration of GHG emissions modelling will be undertaken by the City's Community Energy & Emissions Plan consultant team. Consideration of infrastructure and financial impacts will be undertaken by the consultant teams completing the Infrastructure Master Plans and fiscal</p>

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			<p>That being said, there is a housing supply shortage. The path forward is nuanced and needs to challenge Infrastructure Ontario and its outdated mandate to build in whitebelt areas. Cultural values have shifted away from the isolation of suburban living and its associated toll on well being and the natural environment. Nimbyism has historically driven the agenda to build in open space away from existing neighbourhoods. Citizens are now better aware of the damage of urban sprawl and how infill development can contribute to improved quality of place. The pandemic has reinforced the crucial role of natural spaces. It is a planner's responsibility to address and reconcile those issues. The majority of the council does not have the expertise to see what is at stake. The delegates that spoke out at the GIC are very well informed and know the urgency required to pivot away from urban expansion.</p> <p>Parts 3 and 4 of the framework are therefore redundant.</p>	<p>impact assessment, respectively.</p>
50.	August 15, 2021	David C	<p>I've reviewed the 'How Should Hamilton Grow?' evaluation framework proposed by city planning staff & their consultants and am concerned on a number of fronts.</p> <p>To summarize, the framework is imprecise – with virtually no quantitative measures for comparison and as a result, is very subjective. It would get an “F” in any college paper on measurement methodology.</p> <p>But overriding this is the almost complete absence of regard for the climate emergency that Council declared in 2019. Just today, I read in the UK Guardian that “we need a new planning act that ensures that all local authorities have to take climate change into account every time they make a planning decision”. UK or Canada, we are all affected by the looming impacts of climate change. Just look at the fires across Canada.</p> <p>As a businessman, I would expect you would require proper measurements throughout any evaluation process.</p>	<p>The framework is designed as a qualitative tool and does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary</p>

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			<p>So on two counts, you need to send this back when discussing it this in Council or committee.</p>	<p>Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
51.	August 15, 2021	Joyce M	<p>It wasn't that long ago that I stood before you at a Board of Health Council Meeting with a photo of my grandchildren as a backdrop. March 27, 2019 was a day I will never forget because that was the day that Hamilton City Council made the courageous and wise decision to declare a climate emergency. It was a momentous moment for me and I couldn't wait to get home and share the good news with my family. However, I have discovered that admitting there is a problem is the easy bit. Action and results driven by fearless, passionate and innovative city leaders is quite another matter.</p> <p>Since then, the situation has become even more urgent. After reviewing a summary of the IPCC Report earlier this week detailing the environmental catastrophe that is ahead if we don't act quickly and decisively, my first thought was of my beloved grandchildren and the uncertain and quite possibly terrifying future they might well face.</p> <p>Urban sprawl feeds climate change! It claims farmland, forests and other valuable ecosystems. I would hate to see asphalt and concrete replace trees, streams and wetlands here in Hamilton. In short, sprawl is bad news for our health, nature and climate!</p> <p>Having said that, I am concerned about the evaluation framework city staff have proposed to assess the 'No Urban Boundary Expansion' option up against the 'Ambitious Density Scenario'. The proposed framework is not rigorous enough and places the evaluation of climate crisis impacts on par with all other evaluation themes.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

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			<p>I am requesting that you please do all you can to make sure these urban growth scenarios are considered in a manner that prioritizes the impact on our climate. To be honest, it is my belief that every decision you make as a council needs to be first viewed through a climate lens – the future of all the children who live in Hamilton depends on the decisions you make today.</p> <p>I am confident that you, along with other members of council will be the climate champions that we need right now!</p>	
52.	August 15, 2021	Anka C	<p>I am writing to you to state that Hamilton has declared a climate emergency and it should prioritize this in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow. Hamilton should be focusing on actions and decisions that will not exacerbate the crisis but create a sustainable, carbon neutral clean city. Hamilton cannot be looking at actions that will increase the release of carbon into our atmosphere by creating more car dependant communities by expanding its boundary onto prime agricultural lands. Large stores of carbon will be released when wildlife, wetlands, trees, plants, and farmland are destroyed and paved over. Hamilton has a 3 billion dollar infrastructure deficit and is dumping raw sewage into our waterways. Creating more impervious surfaces not only heats up the city but also increases rainwater runoff that overwhelms our already degraded sewer system. The city needs to look to the future success of our children and grandchildren who will be living with the outcome of the decisions made today and focusing on fixing the climate crisis in the key..</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
53.	August 15, 2021	Lyndsay C	<p>I have several comments after receiving the email related to the Criteria document:</p> <p>- Will the various themes be weighted? i.e. climate change, natural heritage/water resources, agriculture weighted as more important in general compared to financial concerns. These natural ecosystems</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which</p>

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			<p>provide services such as clean water, lower heat island effects, that if not considered higher at the outset, with climate change, these will be further threatened. Also, conformity with provincial methodology shouldn't be included if you mean the MCR process in general. If it is a thorough evaluation of whether or not each theme under each option meets provincial policy (e.g. Provincial Policy Statement, etc.) that would be worthwhile.</p> <p>- I would suggest adding that a thorough review of the scientific literature should be conducted to assess the two options for each theme as available. There are many studies that have compared these growth options and their impacts on natural ecosystems (and intensification is generally favoured).</p> <p>- I suggest more detail is provided on the definition of "consultation with Indigenous groups". How will the input of those groups be included? Are you just going to ask those groups what they think just because you have to? I think more details on what consultation means should be included. Hopefully there is already an Indigenous representative on the steering committee for the project and if there isn't, there should be (even if it's last minute).</p> <p>Overall, as a scientist and ecologist, it is quite clear that intensification is the right decision. There may need to be some financial investment to retrofit existing infrastructure or increase transit to handle extra needs within the existing urban boundary. With the GO train there and LRT planned, many of these needs are covered for those moving from Toronto. Preserving the agricultural lands will not lead to any increases in urban heat island impacts, preserve headwaters to ensure clean drinking water and groundwater recharge, conserve landscape-level connectivity for wildlife, not cause any increases in road density which directly affects</p>	<p>Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>Conformity with the provincial methodology is a requirement as per section 2.2.1.5 of the Growth Plan and will be evaluated against both options.</p> <p>Indigenous consultation has been and continues to be undertaken as part of the input into the process.</p>

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			water quality, and would not require the City to spend a lot of money to create new roads, sewers, clean water sources, electricity, etc.	
54.	August 16, 2021	Tyler U	<p>I'm writing to you this morning to urge you to push the city of Hamilton to undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' vs. the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a climate focused lens. We are in a climate emergency. You, along with the rest of council, unanimously declared this back in March 2019. Climate change has only gotten worse since then as shown by the air advisories that we saw early this summer due to Ontario forest fires. Urban sprawl fuels climate change. We can't be in a climate emergency AND sprawl out across thousands of acres at the same time.</p> <p>Please undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' vs. the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a <u>climate focused lens</u>.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
55.	August 16, 2021	Hilary A	<p>My comments are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no indication of whether or not the assessment criteria are of equal value or if some are more important than others. 2. There is little attempt to weigh both options about urban expansion equally and fairly. 3. The overall picture from this document is that it is strongly slanted in favour of urban expansion beyond the current boundaries. <p>I AM MOST UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.

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56.	August 16, 2021	James A	<p>My comments are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no indication of whether or not the assessment criteria are of equal value or if some are more important than others. 2. There is little attempt to weigh both options about urban expansion equally and fairly. 3. The overall picture from this document is that it is strongly slanted in favour of urban expansion beyond the current boundaries. <p>I AM MOST UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. There is a huge amount of vacant land and derelict property within current City boundaries that could be easily used for expansion without any need to expand utilities. 5. The current public transport system with BLAST and the proposed LRT would be of no use to lands that are being proposed for use beyond current boundaries. 6. The future of the city should be within the current boundaries and the expansion should be UP rather than OUT. 	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
57.	August 16, 2021	Gord M	<p>I would like to add my support to Environment Hamilton's call for a rigorous evaluation of the GRIDS2 planning evaluation framework discussed by the General Issues Committee recently.</p> <p>In particular, I urge the city to underline the importance of evaluating potential expansion of the urban boundary through a climate change lens, especially in view of city council's unanimous declaration of a climate emergency in March of 2019.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary</p>

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			<p>I'm not in favour of an urban boundary expansion. My concern about urban sprawl and its detrimental environmental impacts, such as increasing greenhouse gas emissions, loss of agricultural land and other drawbacks were mentioned in the letter I sent to the GIC on behalf of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club on Aug. 1.</p> <p>Regarding discussion of Natural Resources and Natural Heritage in the framework, I again underline the opposition of the Bird Friendly Cities Hamilton-Burlington team to proposed development in Elfrida in particular. The fields, streams and woodlots of Elfrida provide significant habitat for a large population of year-round resident birds and migratory bird species, as mentioned in my letter.</p> <p>It's essential to protect the Elfrida area as it makes a major contribution to Hamilton's rich natural biodiversity. At least 96 bird species, 43 mammals, 100 butterflies and 87 fish species have been identified in the city. The welfare of all of these species is important in ensuring that Hamilton will offer an excellent quality of life, based on planning that's compatible with a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future.</p>	<p>Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework addresses the themes noted in the comments including protection of the Agricultural system and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p>
58.	August 16, 2021	Miriam S	<p>I am writing to tell you that 10 criteria framework for deciding how Hamilton should grow needs to prioritize climate change.</p> <p>If it does not, we will lock in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, car-dependent subdivisions for centuries.</p> <p>If you have not yet read the last IPCC report, please at least read the summary for policy makers. Every decision you make now is truly is critical for the future of life for humans and other species. The climate emergency</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will</p>

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			<p>you have declared is turning into a climate disaster before our very eyes as humanity has not acted early enough. Now we have little wriggle room and no time to lose on political or business considerations. I beseech you to do the right thing.</p>	<p>provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
59.	August 16, 2021	Norman N	<p>Please share these comments with the councillors before the next General Issues Committee.</p> <p>I carefully read about the New Tool that staff developed for the next General Issues Committee with some dismay. The Climate Emergency (that the City of Hamilton declared) and concerns regarding Climate Change are given equal weight with other factors in your 'New Tool'. However, unfortunately, this completely misses the point.</p> <p>Measures to reduce CO2 equivalent emissions and to adapt to the impacts are not just individual considerations. Instead, climate change affects the entire picture and needs to be handled differently.</p> <p>We have been asked to look at climate change through a 'Climate Lens'. That means that the impacts of climate change and its impacts needs to be understood by applying that lens to every other tool in your toolkit.</p> <p>Another way to understand it, is that in order to respond appropriately to climate change we need to understand it as if we were seeing everything with a particular filter.</p> <p>There are many issues that need to be addressed as a result of climate change and they need to be dealt with in a different manner. It is no longer appropriate or acceptable to simply use more of the same infrastructure that we have used in the past to adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

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			<p>For example, relying upon sewers to collect all of our runoff water and to pipe it to the water plant is wrong headed and unrealistic. We are presently seeing the development of more intense rains and droughts. As our city expands and grows we are paving over more and more areas with hardscaping. However, insofar that more intense precipitation overwhelms our sewer system we will continue to have more untreated effluent combining human waste, toxic chemicals from fertilizers pesticides and industrial operations human sewage being released into Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour.</p> <p>How can we plan for climate change? We have heard it stated that the 100 year storm is now about every ten years....and going forward this means that water volumes from storms will become considerably larger and unpredictable.</p> <p>In addition to newer and better infrastructure, we need at least 3 other things to happen.</p> <p>We need to stop sprawl from happening where lower densities and longer frontages are allowed...yet requiring more roads; sewers; electrical supply lines and water mains than in using more compact forms.</p> <p>We need to mandate permeable paving on the majority of streets or side roads. We need to require new developments to also avoid hardscaping as a new normal.</p> <p>We need to require all new housing and buildings to reach higher LEED like standards...For instance collecting rainwater to flush toilets. We need to use rainwater as a resource, not a waste product. Rain gardens should be mandated. Where compact forms are used rainwater and other precipitation could be collected from several buildings and processed by a</p>	

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			<p>combined raingarden. Furthermore, once rain water has been processed by rain gardens it may be collected and reused for watering plants...etc.</p> <p>The built forms of the future need to be adapted to climate change much more efficiently. This is not an option.</p> <p>It should never be an option to 'relocate' a swamp; lake; river or pond.</p> <p>We must take into account the life forms that develop around water. Native plants feed native fauna. Insects feed birds. Indeed the whole chain of life depends upon the presence of water; soil; plants; trees; fungi; and animals. Water is cleansed and purified when it is taken up by plants or when it is filtered through the soil.</p> <p>In a different vein Prime Agricultural lands need to be protected and preserved. They will prove to be seen as even more vital as droughts; fires, floods and other natural disasters disrupt chains of supply. Paving or cementing over prime agricultural lands should not be negotiable.</p> <p>The missing 'middle' of housing forms needs to be developed in Hamilton. Buildings 6 or 7 stories may be built safely and strongly with lumber thanks to new techniques of building wooden beams and fire rating to withstand loads and fire.</p> <p>All new buildings, whether residential or commercial which are heated or air conditioned should be built to the passive standard. Such superinsulated and sealed buildings will reduce energy use and costs dramatically. It has been estimated that buildings use 30 to 40 percent of our total energy. Heating and cooling with new green electricity using heat pumps (ground source preferred) will result in nearly zero energy needed to heat or cool before solar energy or wind energy produced in the building is calculated.</p>	

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			<p>Multi-unit dwellings, can also provide a multiplier effect of energy saving by reducing areas exposed to the elements. These dwellings, 6 - 7 stories will also be appropriate for mixed use with stores, supplies and services offered making the 15 minute walkable city a reality.</p> <p>It is often claimed that there is too much push back against 'the missing middle' housing for it to become a reality. Why don't we start with 6 - 7 story housing on all of our major arterial roadways. Much of Main and King Streets is still low density outside the downtown core. However building upwards on our major streets will provide a greater sense of privacy in existing residential areas...and also using compact forms will also make the 10 - 15 minute city possible.</p> <p>The most frequent claim that we used to hear in our neighbourhood was (they are taking away our parking). The reality of more compact forms for development is that it will no longer be necessary for as many people to drive to shop for groceries; to get to work or to visit a doctor. Fewer cars will also mean safer streets and less air and water pollution</p> <p>Are all of these factors as alternative examples of growth being considered as alternatives to continued Sprawl? We are supposed to support market driven housing - but the markets will embrace more housing - especially housing that is affordable and liveable.</p> <p>Let's not continue to build infrastructure that we cannot sustain. Build what we need and end sprawl.</p>	

60.	August 16, 2021	Don M	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The draft evaluation framework to compare conflicting growth strategies that will determine the next 30 years of Hamilton’s future is deeply problematic for many reasons. The outcome will also have implications far beyond that timeframe.</p> <p>Firstly, the framework and its process completely ignore that we are on treaty lands with very definite treaty obligations. How are our Indigenous sisters and brothers included in these plans? How are Indigenous rights fully respected? They have been the land and water keepers for millenia. They must be central decision-makers in land and water use planning into the future.</p> <p>While I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments, it is very short window and it is very disappointing that staff attempted to win council approval for this framework without any formal public consultation period. It is also disturbing that the department that has pursued this framework in this way has repeatedly declared that only one of the options to be examined is feasible. Consequently the <u>fairness and objectivity of this process have a very steep hill to climb.</u></p> <p>An additional shortcoming is that the design of the city’s future rests in the hands of only one city department and especially one with a conflicting mandate. It is unclear whether planning principles or economic development objectives are in charge here. Both can provide important inputs, but even combined they clearly don’t have the expertise to determine such an important decision. Sadly, no details are provided in the framework as to how other city staff will be involved, but it seems clear that they will only be providing some inputs, not making the key decisions.</p>	<p>Indigenous consultation has been and continues to be undertaken as part of the input into the process.</p> <p>Multiple City departments will have input into the evaluation framework and the evaluation process and it will not lie in the hands of one department.</p> <p>Response to comments by number:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growth allocation: the criteria, including the language ‘vast’ majority, is from the Growth Plan section 2.2.1 Managing Growth. Numerical percentages will be provided in the evaluation response. <p>Definitions and mapping of built up area and strategic growth areas will be provided in the evaluation response. The terms are not asking the opposite question which</p>
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		<p>I've tried below to respond to each of the ten criteria and the individual proposed questions as well as the anticipated data sources, both of which I've copied for clarity. My comments can be found after each of the ten.</p> <p>1. Growth Allocation For criteria one, Growth Allocation, the draft framework asks: “Does the growth option direct the vast majority of growth to the settlement area?” It indicates the data sources will be “Anticipated growth allocations based on identified intensification rates and density targets.” The second question asks: “Does the growth option focus growth in: a) Delineated built-up areas b) Strategic growth areas c) Locations with existing or planned transit, with a priority on higher order transit where it exists or is planned d) Areas with existing or planned public services facilities” No data sources are identified for this second question.</p> <p>Comments: This first question is compromised by the inclusion of the modifier “vast majority”. There is no indication of what percentage constitutes “vast majority”, so no means of measurement. We know that one option directs ALL of the growth to the existing settlement area, while the “ambitious density” option directs SOME of the growth there. So is the latter considered “vast majority” and therefore will score the same as the former? That seems to be the reason for the compromised wording. A more reasonable and obvious question is: “What percentage of the growth is not directed to the settlement area?” That allows objective numerical comparison of the two options.</p> <p>The second question is divided into four parts which are really four separate questions, so it is immediately <u>unclear how the answers will be compared – as one composite answer collection or as individual questions.</u> It does appear that the four are considered desirable objectives, but that is compromised by the modifier “focus” which is undefined and unexplained. How much of each constitutes a “focus”? Again, the answer sought is not</p>	<p>will be clarified in the response.</p> <p>The consideration of existing and planned transit and public services is from the Growth Plan.</p> <p>Information on transit impacts will be included as well as input from HSR and transportation planning staff. LRT will be reported separately.</p> <p>2. Climate Change – the intent of the first question is to measure the GHG impacts from both options.</p> <p>There are many risks associated with climate change and the question allows all risks to be identified and considered. Opportunities will be considered separately.</p> <p>3. Natural Hazards consideration of direction development away from</p>
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		<p>numerical. So it is subjective rather than objective. This is a repeated feature that undermines virtually all of the proposed framework.</p> <p>The sub list presents serious contradictions. Part a) presumably asks if the growth is “focused” in delineated built up areas; while part b) appears to ask the opposite question of whether the growth is “focused” on strategic growth areas. So which is the metric – “delineated built-up areas”, or “strategic growth areas”? How can this be scored? It’s one or the other, not both. And which is the desirable metric/outcome? There is no indication so the answer can only be subjective. And what constitutes a “strategic” growth area, and how does that differ from a “non-strategic” growth area. A reasonable alternative question would ask “how much” of the growth “will occur” in “delineated built up areas” and “how much will occur in “strategic growth areas”, along with clear definitions of each.</p> <p>Part c) appears to be more precise, but the wording fails us again. Both “existing or planned transit” are apparently given equal weight. Why is that? Surely the current existence of transit is quite different from planned (hoped for) transit, and reasonably the existing should score higher than the hoped for. We know the current ridership and cost for existing transit; we have no real idea of those metrics for “planned transit”. We may be able to guess the latter based on the experience of existing transit, but both metrics are strongly influenced by location.</p> <p>For example, transit use from proposed white belt growth areas will certainly be affected by distance and time to reach major destinations. We know all the existing major destinations, such as downtown, educational institutions, employment areas, GO system, etc. We also know that the further the user has to travel, the less likely the user will choose transit. It’s nice that there is “priority” to be given to higher order transit, but again it is negated by contradictory “where it exists” or “is planned”. Priority for existing or certain higher order transit is of particular importance because Hamilton has been offered federal and provincial funding for</p>	<p>hazardous lands is a provincial requirement and is appropriate to address in the framework.</p> <p>4. The FIA will be completed by Watson & Associates and will consider infrastructure, transportation and public service facility impacts from each growth option and risks to the City from each option.</p> <p>5. Consideration of existing and planned infrastructure is a requirement of the Growth Plan.</p> <p>6. Transportation system – network review being undertaken by AECOM.</p> <p>Transportation analysis will include metrics related to transit usage including LRT and will include active transportation.</p>
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		<p>public transit – around \$4 billion in the last couple of months alone! That commitment and its realistically expected future continuation is transformational. It should be re-writing the city’s plans!</p> <p>More reasonable questions could much more objectively compare the two growth options. These might include how many additional transit riders can be expected from each option? What will be the likely cost per rider to provide transit service for each option? And specifically what will the impact of each option be on the ridership for the LRT that is already funded? Planning more transit, including more higher order, is nice but dreaming can’t be equated with reality.</p> <p>We also know that Hamilton’s long-standing practice is NOT to provide transit service until sufficient demand is demonstrated. As a result new housing subdivisions are constructed and occupied long before transit service is provided to them, and long after the residents have purchased their own vehicles deeply undermining the likelihood of utilizing transit. This important determinant of transit ridership does not appear to be accounted for in the current evaluation framework.</p> <p>Part d) again combines two very different questions. Remembering that the overarching question is about the “focus” of the growth option, what possible use is there to use the metric “areas with existing or planned public services facilities”. Are these equally desirable objectives? Municipal government is required to provide public service facilities so that will occur with either option. Why not compare the options on simple and obvious metrics such as capital and operating costs, and “extent to which it utilizes existing public service facilities” against the metric of “extent to which new or expanded public services” will be required?</p> <p>The data sources for the growth allocation theme are vague – “identified intensification rates and density targets”. The two options being compared have different rates and targets that we already know. If this is the data</p>	<p>7. Complete communities – evaluation will include input from several city departments. Affordable housing is included as a consideration.</p> <p>Access to local food is addressed in the agriculture theme.</p> <p>8. Agriculture – the evaluation will include an indication of the amount of prime agricultural land lost under the options.</p> <p>The extent to which the growth option can avoid, minimize, mitigate impacts will be assessed.</p> <p>Opportunities for urban agriculture will be considered in both expansion areas and the built up area given the extensive forecasted growth.</p> <p>9. Natural Heritage and Water Resources – the extent of impacts will be</p>
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		<p>source, the answers appear already known before the evaluation starts. Are some preferred over others? Surely HSR staff should be a data source.</p> <p>2. Climate Change For criteria two, Climate Change, the draft framework asks: “Does the growth scenario contribute to the City’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 by providing opportunities for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions?” The data sources identified are “GHG Emissions Analysis” and “Input from City staff and stakeholders.” The second question asks: “Does the growth option present any significant opportunities or risks associated with climate change?” No data sources are identified for this second question.</p> <p>Comments: More than two years ago the city declared a climate emergency. The extreme events so far in 2021 suggest emergency is a considerable understatement. In June for example the Canadian record temperature was smashed by an unbelievable FIVE Celsius degrees resulting in hundreds of heat-related deaths, and accompanied by record numbers of wildfires. It used to be news if the new record was a tenth of a degree higher than the previous one. Similar extremities of heat have already been recorded in the western US, in Greece, Turkey, Italy, Libya and other parts of the world where temperatures are reaching levels where it is impossible for humans to survive. So the ‘theme’ of climate change is unlike any of the others. This is widely acknowledged as an “existential threat”. In an evaluation framework <u>climate change must be treated as the most fundamental ‘theme’ and given far more weight than other factors in the evaluation.</u></p> <p>The first question is bizarre. The obvious essential climate imperative is to get carbon emissions to zero as quickly as possible. City council has promised to get to zero emissions though so far only by 2050. Which option will get us there fastest or at least closest to that goal? What does</p>	<p>evaluated. Water Resource system is the terminology from the Growth plan. All conservation authorities can and will be consulted as well as indigenous communities.</p> <p>10. Conformity – this is a question that needs to be considered given provincial approval authority.</p>
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		<p>“providing opportunities” mean? If the option might allow a developer and new home owner the “opportunities” to install rooftop solar panels, does that qualify as providing opportunities? How about if the new resident has the “opportunities” to purchase an electric vehicle or a heat pump? Does that meet the current metric? And how can “opportunities” be measured?</p> <p>Obvious measurable questions about climate are “how much reduction in GHG emissions will result” from each option and “how much increase in GHG emissions will occur” with each option as well as when will this occur.</p> <p>These measurements would include the emissions and from constructing required new infrastructure (buildings as well as municipal services), emissions arising from the provision of materials, the emissions from resulting resident travel distances, and the emissions from heating and other energy uses. There are, for example, quite drastic differences in the energy consumption of free-standing housing and more compact forms. It now appears highly likely that the planet will exceed 2C increase by the 2051 end of planning period. In that situation it is likely that we will have to ban construction of free-standing houses because of their energy consumption.</p> <p>We would also need to calculate and then compare such things as carbon storage and sequestration in vegetation and soils. Indeed most if not all of the other proposed theme areas will include substantial climatic impacts and consideration in light of the likely intensity of the climate crisis.</p> <p>The second question also seeks subjective rather than objective answers. Climate change seems unlikely to generate opportunities, but there are lots of obvious risks. How is “significant” defined? The heat waves this summer (and earlier in the Montreal area) demonstrate conclusively that they are deadly. When the next one of this magnitude occurs in Hamilton, <i>people will certainly die</i>. How can we best prevent or minimize</p>	
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		<p>this risk? An obvious major factor is the urban heat island effect. Another is the energy consumption, vehicle use and air conditioning for example, which currently both generate excess heat. The extent of farm and rural land are a significant countervailing factor, as are tree and vegetation cover.</p> <p>Flooding from extreme rainfall is another obvious risk where Hamilton has already experienced large public and private costs. Which option will result in the most impervious surface? Which will impose the biggest impacts on stormwater flows and accompanying costs? And depending on the affected watersheds, many of those impacts may occur outside Hamilton’s municipal borders, but are our responsibility too.</p> <p>3. Natural Hazards</p> <p>For criteria three, Natural Hazards, the draft framework only asks: “Does the growth option direct development away from hazardous lands?” and indicates the data sources will be “Input from City staff and Conservation Authorities.”</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>I understand that provincial law requires that development be directed away from hazardous lands. So why is this a criteria question? It must be done irregardless of the option chosen. How can it be quantified? A better question is “how much does the growth option increase hazardous lands” such as by bringing them closer to population centres where they meet the current definition of hazardous. Will it result in higher stream flows, for example, and therefore more likelihood of flooding? Hazardous is primarily defined as prone to flooding or resulting erosion. This question is made vague by the “away from” modifier. How far away? Will credit be given for being further away? Unfortunately flood plain mapping for much of Hamilton has not been updated, and also will certainly require repeated updating as weather becomes more extreme as a result of climate change. Urbanization is also recognized as a source of</p>	
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			<p>changed stream flows. That will continuously change the working definition of “away from”.</p> <p>4. Municipal Finance For criteria four, Municipal Finance, the draft framework only asks: “Are there any significant municipal financial risks associated with the growth option?” and indicates the data sources will be “Fiscal Impact Assessment and Input from City staff.”</p> <p>Comments: Who will conduct the fiscal impact assessment? It appears that won’t be city staff. What qualifies as a financial risk and what qualifies it as “significant”? And why stop at identifying these risks; why not measure them in actual dollars? A better metric would compare the expected total municipal financial costs of each option. And an additional question would compare the likely costs to the individual residents – costs such as transportation, heating and other energy costs which might be expected to be quite different depending on where they live.</p> <p>Is it safe to assume that municipal infrastructure costs will be the key metric here? We know the city has long been unable to eliminate or even reduce its shortfall in the maintenance of existing infrastructure that is now approaching \$4 billion. That certainly qualifies as a major financial risk. It is also obvious that a substantial part of that shortfall (maybe all of it) is an inability to collect sufficient tax revenue from the existing set of taxpayers to maintain the services on which those taxpayers depend. There simply aren’t sufficient taxpayers to maintain the infrastructure in place where they live. Will that be alleviated by increased density, or by boundary expansion? So will the two options be compared for their relative effect on the maintenance shortfall? That obviously must include the complete lifecycle costs of affected municipal infrastructure and not just the immediate capital costs.</p>	
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		<p>Finance staff have repeatedly warned city council of the financial risks associated with growth. Where infrastructure doesn't exist or is inadequate, it must be put in place by the public purse before planned growth occurs and that investment can't be recovered if the anticipated growth doesn't occur. Which option is most likely to aggravate this risk? A curious notion has been tossed around that all growth costs are the same irrespective of whether they involve upgrading existing infrastructure or building new stuff. However, the maintenance and replacement of existing infrastructure must be done irregardless unless we plan to abandon parts of the existing urban area. The addition of brand new infrastructure is, of course, an option with a definite cost.</p> <p>5. Infrastructure and public service facilities For criteria five, Infrastructure and public service facilities, the draft framework only asks: “Does the growth option result in significant impacts to the City’s existing or planned infrastructure and public service facilities?” and indicates the data sources will only be “Assessment of infrastructure and public service facility requirements.”</p> <p>Comments: Again there is the question of what is considered “significant” which undermines the objectivity of the process. The inclusion of “planned infrastructure and public service facilities” along with existing is curious. City staff have already done quite a bit of planning, for example, of the proposed Elfrida growth expansion area. Does that planning count as equivalent to the already existing infrastructure? That seems quite unreasonable, but by <i>conflating the two (existing and planned) the current metric is wide open to abuse.</i></p> <p>There is sometimes a tendency to focus on the ‘risks’ from sunk costs, but it seems doubtful that will be useful. The two options offer two different futures and their full future costs should be compared including lifecycle costs and comparative ability of residents to pay for those</p>	
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		<p>costs. By such an actual measurement, the ‘significance’ of the impacts can be easily compared.</p> <p>The data source information is effectively not provided, given that it takes the form of ‘trying to answer the question asked’. It certainly doesn’t inform us of <i>who</i> will conduct this assessment. What is required is a well documented financial cost for each option, including ability of resulting taxpayers to pay for this cost.</p> <p>An important factor that must be considered is the source of the new residents accommodated by each option. Historically, the vast majority of new suburban growth has come from existing residents shifting to the new growth areas. Over the last half century, for example, we know that the older parts of the city north of Mohawk Road have lost population to the tune of over 60,000 residents. So most of the new ‘growth’ has in fact been a shift of taxpayers rather than an addition. This likelihood needs to be a key part of the metrics for this criteria.</p> <p>6. Transportation system For criteria six, Transportation system, the draft framework asks three questions: “Does the growth option result in in significant impacts to the City’s existing or planned transportation infrastructure?”; “Does the growth option provide an urban form that will expand convenient access to a range of transportation options including active transportation, to promote complete communities?”; and “Does the growth option prioritize development of areas that would be connected to the planned BLAST network or existing transit?” Data source is only provided for the first question, namely “Transportation network review” and “input from city staff”.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	
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		<p>Again one of the data sources is not identified in a meaningful way. Who exactly will conduct the transportation network review, since it seems obvious this is not city staff?</p> <p>There are some very obvious transportation questions not being asked such as “how much will the growth option increase ridership of the HSR”, and “how much will each option increase the use of higher order transit (with a significant weighting on funded higher order transit, not dreamed of”, and “what amount of modal shift will likely occur with each option”. Senior levels of government are now financially committed to higher order transit in Hamilton. To what extent does each option support that senior government commitment to higher order transit?</p> <p>The proposed criteria of “prioritizing development of areas that would be connected to the planned BLAST network or existing transit” is another everything but the kitchen sink criteria. It also is loaded with the expansion bias in Elfrida built into the BLAST plans. The reality is that BLAST was designed <i>assuming</i> massive expansion in Elfrida and that assumption now appears to be being used to justify that expansion.</p> <p>The reality is that higher order transit will arrive first as an LRT line from Eastgate to McMaster (and then with possible extensions). The identified second priority (likely bus rapid transit) is from downtown to the airport. The other three BLAST lines exist on paper but currently have minimal or no actual ridership. Actual recent enhancement of elements of the BLAST network have been limited to the B and A lines. That is where the investment is going so the key metric is the extent to which each option bolsters ridership on those two lines, and especially on the LRT route.</p> <p>Another major transportation concern is congestion. How much additional (or reduced) congestion will likely result from each option? Which</p>	
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			<p>option is most likely to require or generate demand for expansion of the road network including widening that will divert road funding away from the greatly underfunded maintenance of the existing road system?</p> <p>The use of <u>active transportation</u> is another metric that should be calculated as part of the transportation theme. While there definitely are public health benefits and quality of life benefits from active transportation facilities, the key metric is how many kilometres of active transportation travel will each option likely result in. Additionally, to what extent will new active transportation replace single-occupancy vehicle travel? Again these are actual measurable quantities. Important to this component of transportation is the likely cost of providing active transportation facilities that will actually be used, and measuring the extent to which they will be used. The objective here is not just to offer opportunities. It is to achieve a significant modal shift towards lower-energy transportation choices.</p> <p><u>Missing entirely from this section are pedestrians, including children and the disabled.</u> To what extent does each option offer the most people the most opportunity to walk or get around successfully with assistive mobility devices? This needs to consider accessible destinations. While recreational walking is desirable, actually increasing the amount travelled by active transportation modes is the most important metric to be considered.</p> <p>7. Complete communities For criteria seven, Complete communities, the draft framework again asks three questions: “Does the growth option provide a diverse mix of land uses in a compact built form, with a range of housing options to accommodate people at all stages of life and to accommodate the needs of all household sizes and incomes?”; “Does the growth option improve social equity and overall quality of life, including human health, for people of all ages, abilities and incomes?”; and “Does the growth option expand convenient access to an appropriate supply of open spaces, parks, trails</p>	
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		<p>and recreation facilities?” Data source is only provided for the first question, namely “Proposed housing mix” and “Anticipated growth allocations based on identified intensification rates and density targets” and “Input from city staff”.</p> <p>Comments: All three questions need quantification, not just the subjective phrasing used here. To the greatest extent possible, answers must be objective, not subjective. The data sources are questionable or at least non-specific. The target of complete communities must include ALL city departments, and should also include outside expertise.</p> <p>The first question is an important one, but it’s unclear how the city can ensure it occurs for either growth option, especially the expansion one, and especially since the latter has already been designated as only ‘ground-based housing’. That doesn’t seem to include a full range of housing options or accommodating residents at all stages of life.</p> <p>We do know that Hamilton desperately needs more affordable housing, so the criteria should ask which option is more likely to provide that, keeping in mind that the cost of the housing is only one factor in providing appropriate accommodation to lower income residents. Low income precludes private automobile ownership making these residents dependent mainly on transit or active transportation. Distance from suitable employment, social services, essential shopping and other city services are additional key factors affecting the actual useability of housing options for low-income residents.</p> <p>The second question is also important but lacking clear objective metrics. It also rolls together multiple criteria that should be considered individually. This is the only reference, for example, to health. Surely this deserves separate evaluation instead of being lumped into the amorphous terminology of ‘complete’ communities. Missing entirely is the critical</p>	
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			<p>element of access to safe, healthy food. Which option improves or reduces that element?</p> <p>The third question is another in the bizarre category. The focus seems to be on “expand” which seems to load the question. Any boundary expansion would be required to add open spaces, parks, trails and recreation facilities. Does that make such facilities more accessible for more residents?</p> <p>Further on the data sources provided, the first two aren’t sources that allow assessment; they are already determined positions articulated by planning staff. All could be modified, but that doesn’t seem to be permitted. Housing mix has been declared by the Land Needs Assessment consultant. Intensification rates and density targets shift in the wind depending on which party is in power at Queen’s Park. From that source both have changed twice in the last three years. But both are fully within the decision purview of the municipal government. So at best the choice of which target to adopt is subjective. The two options are already understood to rely on different targets. So how are they to be compared if these targets are not explicitly identified AND are not fixed in stone?</p> <p>8. Agriculture system</p> <p>For criteria eight, Agriculture system, the draft framework again asks three questions: “Does the growth option prioritize development of areas that are non-prime agricultural?”; “Does the growth option avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts on the Agricultural System?”; and “Does the growth option promote healthy, local and affordable food options, including urban agriculture?” Data source is only provided for the first question, namely “Agricultural Impact Assessment”.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>The first question is bizarre. Provincial law requires that the city avoid prime agricultural land as much as possible, so every option MUST</p>	
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		<p>“prioritize development of areas that are non-prime agricultural” ensuring that the current question can only be answered “yes”. That doesn’t help us compare the two options. The obvious replacement is “how much agricultural land will be lost with each option, and how much of that will be prime agricultural land?”</p> <p>The second question also must be answered “yes” since it includes pretty much every possible option – avoid, minimize (don’t avoid) and mitigate (reduce impacts when agricultural land is not avoided). It’s hard not to conclude that the first two questions were intentionally constructed to avoid revealing actual impacts on the agricultural system.</p> <p>The questions are further complicated by the addition of “including urban agriculture”. How is the promotion of urban agriculture measured against the loss of agricultural land? Does this refer to the amount of land used for agriculture in comparing the two options? Or is the option that includes urban agriculture to be assessed as better than an option which doesn’t specifically include this? There are a couple of existing examples of urban agriculture in Hamilton – one is the McQuesten farm owned by the city, and others are cooperative or private efforts to use backyard gardens for production of edible products. Both came into existence and persist independent of an urban boundary expansion.</p> <p>Other parts of the third question are confusing. The obvious option that will promote “local” food options is the one that avoids the use of agricultural land. Is that the measurement being used? It’s unclear what the modifier “healthy” refers to – the agricultural system, agricultural land or the actual food available to Hamilton residents. How is this applied to the two options?</p> <p>And will the evaluation consider the considerable and rapidly growing risks of disruption to food supplies imported from California and other lands that climate change is turning into deserts? How is ‘affordability’ affected by</p>	
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			<p>such obvious risks? Probably much before 2051, Hamiltonians will be desperately scrambling for at least affordable food, and quite likely for adequate food (something too many in our community are already struggling to obtain).</p> <p>9. Natural heritage and water resources For criteria nine, Natural heritage and water resources, the draft framework asks two questions: “Does the growth option avoid and protect Natural Heritage Systems as identified by the City and the Growth Plan?” and “Does the growth option demonstrate an avoidance and / or mitigation of potential negative impacts on watershed conditions and the water resource system including quality and quantity of water?” Data source is only provided for the first question, namely “Input from City staff and Conservation Authorities”, and “Available mapping (UHOP / RHOP) and information /studies”.</p> <p>Comments: This theme seems to combine two quite different criteria – natural heritage on one hand, and water “resources” on the other. The term “water resources” suggests use of water for some purpose. The conflation is underlined by reference to “quantity of water” suggesting this relates to stormwater management. The latter deserves its own category.</p> <p>The first metric is already governed by city and provincial law. Natural Heritage Systems as identified by the city and the Growth Plan MUST be avoided and protected. However these laws do not successfully protect the ecological integrity of natural heritage features because they allow isolation of these features, cutting them off from the ecological system. So a more appropriate question would be: “which growth option ensures the maximum ecological integrity for wetlands, streams, forests and other natural heritage features.”</p>	
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			<p>Comments: This theme appears designed to have only one possible answer. City planning staff and their Land Needs Assessment consultant have already provided that answer, and claim that expansion is required by the province. So why is this question here? <u>It appears that it’s purpose is to trump all the other criteria</u> – hence its representation by a check mark – and ensure that the boundary expansion option will be adopted irrespective of the outcome from the other criteria in the evaluation framework. Or at minimum it is here to give the expansion option an advantage over the no expansion option.</p> <p><u>It is particularly revealing that this is one of the two themes that does not appear in the evaluation framework for where to expand the urban area.</u> Since it is dealing with an actual ‘quantity’ it would appear to be exactly the question that would be applied – comparing various expansion options on the basis of whether they will meet the already decided (as far as staff are concerned) required outcome.</p>	
61.	August 16, 2021	Amy N	<p>As a resident of Hamilton, I would like to express my opinion with regards to the Evaluation Framework currently being developed in response to the Urban Boundary Expansion survey. I believe Climate Change must be a lens through which other aspects of the framework are viewed. The impacts of poor or hasty decision-making regarding increased urban sprawl could result in costs that will be felt for generations, both financially and environmentally. Given the preliminary results of the survey, it is obvious that other residents feel much the same. Furthermore: many residents, myself included, are concerned about the impact sprawl has on public transportation (which also impacts climate), as well as gentrification and housing prices/accessible social housing. All of these issues are interconnected, and consulting with the public while making careful, transparent deliberations could give our city the potential to develop infrastructure that supports both our environment, and our citizens.</p> <p>Again, I ask that every pillar of your framework be viewed through the overarching lens of climate change and sustainability. And that justice -- for</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural</p>

			housing, healthcare and transportation -- be a crucial priority in your decision-making process.	Heritage and Water Resources. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
62.	August 16, 2021	Cynthia M	Please consider uppermost the impact on our climate and the comparison of Green House Gas Emissions in your choices of how Hamilton should grow. Economically (cost of extending infrastructure) and environmentally, the dice fall on the side of intensification. Think of Moishe Safdie’s Habitat for Humanity in Montreal... low rise, high density with lots of access to terrasses . Beautiful architecture. We could do this in hamilton too.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
63.	August 16, 2021	Holly B	I was very surprised to see that “Climate Change”, and “Food Security” were not included in the list of 10 factors being considered as Evaluation Criteria Themes. In light of the fires, floods, supply chain disruptions, and the latest IPCC report, surely these are much more important factors to consider than any other. Natural areas, and agricultural land are essential carbon sinks, air and water filters, that protect our existing city from a changing climate, and the dangers to our health and safety that come with that. For the sake of our city, please make Climate Change a primary factor in your decision making.	Climate change and the promotion of local food opportunities / food security are included in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework.
64.	August 16, 2021	Laurie P	I am writing to express my concern about the growth evaluation framework. Specifically, my concern is that not enough weight is being given to climate crises. While climate change is one of the 10 themes to be evaluated, it needs to be given more weight than the other themes. In fact, I believe	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including

			<p>climate impact should be the lens that all of the other themes are viewed through.</p> <p>In light of the recent IPCC report on climate change, it is crucial we take transformative action NOW. Building houses on prime agricultural land is NOT transformative action. It's more of the same action that has got us to where we are now.</p> <p>I understand that growing our city without expanding the urban boundary is hard - really hard. I understand there are federal/provincial drivers and fiscal restraints that make it difficult to take a different path. But a different path is what is required if our grandchildren are going to have local food to eat, clean air to breathe and affordable housing to live in.</p> <p>Council voted unanimously in March 2019 to declare a climate emergency. Making climate crises the highest priority of the entire growth evaluation framework is, I believe, in keeping with council's declaration.</p>	<p>GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
65.	August 16, 2021	Lisa P	<p>Regarding the attached proposal, Please ensure that all available lands currently in Hamilton's urban boundary are used efficiently, ie., no brownfield, no vacant property. Ensure consideration is given to the type of housing needed. Too often, the type of dwellings built ate neither functional or affordable. Sprawl is not to be done to accommodate developers.</p> <p>What are the variables used to base projected growth? The LRT serves the downtown core.. Why does this require urban sprawl into farmland? What is the connection. There is too much hyperbole to serve business interest, many of which have no connection to Hamilton. Hamilton has to many missteps, Redhill expressway, Tim Hortons field, the Cootes Paradise cess pool. How are the residents to benefit?</p>	<p>The framework considers growth allocations to the built up area and strategic growth areas and the provision of a range of housing types.</p>

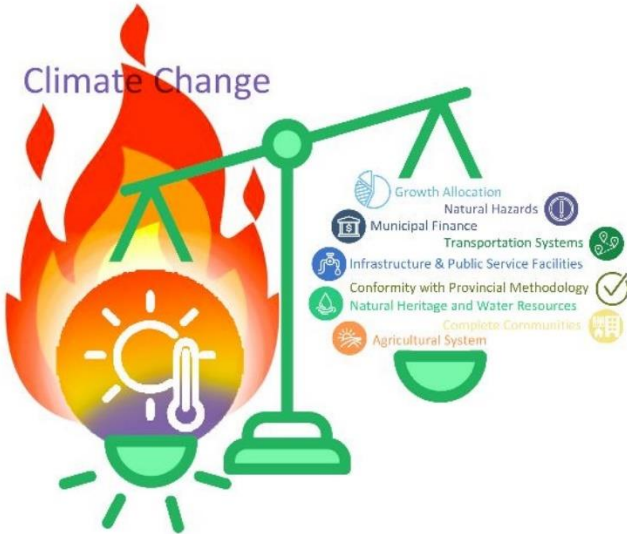
			I would hope that drainage, water contamination, erosion etc, basically any environmental consideration is being made. An environmental assessment by the Federal government is in order.	
66.	August 16, 2021	Andy	<p>Please get serious on your criteria to review urban expansion (and any other issues the City might be dealing with). We're burning up or flooding out or killing our future currently due to consumption and carbon threats and associated impacts (per observation by the IPCC, or others --- even Exxon realized this might occur before choosing PProfits vs. life on earth).</p> <p>I realized the need to take climate change seriously nearly 30 years ago when a right wing (by CDN standards) University of Idaho glaciologist who had studied the Juneau Icefield since WWII (our landlord near the field at the time) told me it was the only concept that made sense of what they were seeing out there. Now I see the state of the icefield and want to weep. It's almost gone / super lessened compared to when we lived near it. Glacier tongues are falling nearly weekly. Similar tragedies are happening locally.</p> <p>Delaying recognition and respect AND ACTION for what we're facing is a crime. We could have put some serious brakes on this if we'd considered the future, <i>and science</i>, then vs. considering current Q* profits, re-election issues and/or job keep.</p> <p>We can't use traditional measures when faced with extraordinary threats (caused by many of the issues I've tried to flag above). I hope all of you will consider this and act accordingly. I've got kids who I'd like to have great-grandkids.</p> <p>P.S. Didn't Hamilton City Council, via the Board of Health, already unanimously recognize that we have a Climate Emergency here in 2019 (2+ years ago)??? Was that real or to grab headlines? Needing to send e-mails like this so long after that erodes everyone's faith in the democratic/bureaucratic process.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
67.	August 17, 2021	Zoe G	Hamilton declared a climate emergency over two years ago. Taking climate action is not a 'nice to have', it is imperative. Now.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area

		<p>The recently released "How should Hamilton grow" evaluation framework - seen by the public for the very first time as part of the August 4 GIC Agenda - is woefully inadequate in the current climate, pun intended.</p> <p>It was long overdue, yet very much welcomed, to see a tool for comparing "Urban boundary expansion" vs "No urban boundary expansion". Staff have been advancing the GRIDS2 and MCR processes forward for such a long time however on the unilateral premise and with singular focus that an urban boundary expansion was the only way. So it's not unexpected to unfortunately find inherent bias throughout the proposed evaluation framework.</p> <p>The ten (10) themes in this tool appear on the surface to cover an adequate range of topics but knowing that (1) there is no weighting applied, and (2) very simple qualitative comparators are all that are applied, I am not confident in results that will be produced by the current tool.</p> <p>At the very minimum, a comparison of growth options must include a quantitative and thorough comparison of GHG emissions under the different scenarios. I understand the City has hired SSG Consulting to model some GHG scenario(s). The terms of reference defined for that work are critical to ensuring the output is both usable and of value. It is my hope that a neutral third party was consulted when defining these TOR. And were the City's CEEP staff involved.</p> <p>Also, what was the role of the City's climate staff when developing material like this. I would be interested to know what resulted from their review of the proposed evaluation framework and if they were consulted when setting the TOR for work by SSG.</p> <p>Addressing climate change is crucial. It's widely recognized that land use planning will have significant impact on the climate future of a municipality.</p>	<p>in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. I</p>
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			<p>We cannot continue to do things the same way and expect any change to come about. Pushing out the urban boundary and paving over greenfields is a case in point. Again, this speaks to the importance of engaging neutral parties (i.e. non-GRIDS/MCR staff) when applying a climate lens to key land use planning policies and decisions.</p> <p>In the past the 3-legged stool metaphor was used: social, economic, environmental. This simplicity is a thing of the past. The current climate crisis demands that land use planning decisions are made through a climate lens.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment, although I do fear that very few are even aware that this framework exists nor that they can comment on it. I would have provided detailed comments on aspects of the current evaluation framework but the short comment period does not permit me to complete that in time.</p> <p>I look forward to the next iteration of this important tool for comparing growth scenarios and ask that climate considerations be given the weighted majority which they demand. It's critical if Hamilton is to address the climate emergency with the urgency needed.</p>	
68.	August 17, 2021	John P	<p>I am emailing as I believe that climate change should be prioritized in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow currently and over the coming years. If it is not I am seriously concerned that we will be endangering the food security of Hamilton and Ontario for generations to come. We will also be increasing toxic emissions for centuries to come as further development and expansion will heavily depend on the usage of cars and loss of farmland leads to more transportation emissions in the supply chain. The city has the chance to lead Ontario, Canada, and the world in the climate crisis. The new IPCC report is jarring and it will be a failure to the planet and to citizens if Hamilton does not take the IPCC report and the overall crisis into consideration.</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

			Please also consult with the local Indigenous community as Indigenous land stewardship protects and preserves the lands and waters. Inherent rights as well as treaty rights and responsibilities should be upheld.	
69.	August 17, 2021	Miriam R	<p>Going forward, please consider the impact upon the environment and the effect upon climate change prior to making decisions. Valuing the environment and making changes which reflect that environment is of the utmost importance needs to be a priority. Please for the sake of the current and future generations - let's preserve and protect the environment: Say “no” to urban sprawl. Building more houses and more roads is a a short sited intervention which will cause more harm in the long run. Please consider the environment first. Let's make Hamilton a leader in prioritizing the environment.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
70.	August 17, 2021	Danya F	<p>I am writing to express my concern about the application of the framework themes within the evaluation process connected to the City's GRIDS 2 and Municipal Comprehensive Review process.</p> <p>I understand that the criteria are weighted equally, and I am writing to urge city staff and city council to reconsider and revise their weightings. As most recently addressed by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, climate change poses the greatest threat to our future, noting that "recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, unprecedented in thousands of years," All of the other criteria, then, must be seen and considered through the lens of climate change. The remaining criteria are effectively rendered immaterial if priority is not given to assessing the effect of potential GRIDS 2 and Municipal</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

			<p>Comprehensive Review decisions and outcomes on our climate. Without a livable world, the other considerations are irrelevant.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.</p>	
71.	August 17, 2021	Fatima R	<p>I am writing to you as I believe climate change should be the top priority in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow currently and over the coming years.</p> <p>If climate change is not our top priority when evaluating urban growth, I am seriously concerned that we will be endangering the food security of Hamilton and Ontario for generations to come. We will also be increasing toxic emissions for centuries to come as further development and expansion will heavily depend on the usage of cars and loss of farmland leads to more transportation emissions in the supply chain. The city has the chance to lead Ontario, Canada, and the world in the climate crisis. The UN's new IPCC report, released last week, is jarring and it will be a failure to the planet and to citizens if Hamilton does not take the IPCC report and the overall crisis into consideration.</p> <p><i>"Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach...For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows."</i></p> <p>Please also consult with the local Indigenous community as Indigenous land stewardship protects and preserves the lands and waters. Inherent rights, as well as treaty rights and responsibilities, should be upheld.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to consider in their decision making.</p>

<p>72.</p>	<p>August 17, 2021</p>	<p>Nancy C</p>	<p>I am writing to provide input on the evaluation criteria for development in Hamilton. I strongly support the “no expansion of the urban boundary” approach to this critical issue.</p> <p>The 10 themes in the Evaluation Framework are not currently weighted against each other. We need a comparison of greenhouse gas emissions to be driving decisions! I think it is critical that the City to take our Climate Emergency and farmland protection seriously by giving them priority.</p> <p>In fact, Climate should be the lens for all of the other 9!</p>  <p>The 10 criteria framework for deciding how Hamilton should grow needs to prioritize climate change or we will lock in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, suburban sprawl areas for a very long time.</p>	
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			<p>I am writing to remind staff and all our Councillors that we are in a Climate Emergency and land use planning needs to reflect that! The Climate emergency trumps all.</p> <p>Also, what about the survey results? Will the survey results be used in this framework?</p> <p>The Mayor suggesting during a recent Council hearing on this issue that citizens do not have the knowledge to understand the issues in this survey vote is insulting and condescending. There are lots of informed, engaged and passionate residents who can connect the dots between development of healthy, compact, walkable urban communities, planning to support that, food security, climate change and protecting irreplaceable farmland. They are interconnected.</p> <p>While temperatures soar, towns and forests burn, and sewage leaks into Cootes Paradise, let's focus spending on infrastructure that urgently needs upgrading, not wasting it creating new greenfield infrastructure.</p> <p>Further I would ask the Mayor, who noted that not much information was provided with the survey: why not? Why didn't staff provide more information with this survey? The whole survey approach was poorly done from public consultation perspective.</p> <p>We need deep and genuine community engagement on the City's future development.</p>	
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			Despite the weakness of the survey distribution by the City, thanks o informed citizens the vote appears to have been a landslide on the “no expansion” side. Our elected officials need to listen!	
73.	August 17, 2021	Alexandra G	<p>Your evaluation framework for deciding whether or not to expand the city boundaries is severely lacking.</p> <p>We are in a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. All urban planning decisions need responsible environmental policy as one of the primary criteria.</p> <p>Urban sprawl is the worst thing for responsible climate policy. People need cars to get anywhere. Whereas densification of the too-spread out city creates ACTUAL NEIGHBOURHOODS. People can walk to groceries and schools and friends. To restaurants and bars. It enhances business for small businesses instead of taking away business from the core as sprawl does.</p> <p>Please realize that extending the city boundaries is THE EXACT OPPOSITE DIRECTION THAT URBAN PLANNING NEEDS TO GO.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
74.	August 17, 2021	Noam E	<p>There is no issue more important for us and our children than Climate Change.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/15/its-now-or-never-scientists-warn-time-of-reckoning-has-come-for-the-planet</p> <p>Every single decision made needs to take into account Climate Change, including the issue of sprawl.</p> <p>Please Stop Sprawl: https://www.ssho.ca/</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
75.	August 17, 2021	Rose J	<p>Our feedback on Hamilton expansion is that every aspect of plans must be evaluated through the climate emergency lens.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area</p>

			<p>Extreme weather is happening everywhere, and Hamilton is not immune. Dundas had lots of flooding just last week!</p> <p>We are committed to the firm boundary option because it is best for Hamilton: financially, for transportation, for vibrant communities, and for reducing emissions, which MUST be done-</p>	<p>in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
76.	August 17, 2021	Christopher S	<p>I am writing to you as I believe climate change should be the top priority in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow currently and over the coming years.</p> <p>If climate change is not our top priority when evaluating urban growth, I am seriously concerned that we will be endangering the food security of Hamilton and Ontario for generations to come. We will also be increasing toxic emissions for centuries to come as further development and expansion will heavily depend on the usage of cars and loss of farmland leads to more transportation emissions in the supply chain. The city has the chance to lead Ontario, Canada, and the world in the climate crisis. The UN's new IPCC report, released last week, is jarring and it will be a failure to the planet and to citizens if Hamilton does not take the IPCC report and the overall crisis into consideration.</p> <p><i>“Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach...For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows.”</i></p> <p>Please also consult with the local Indigenous community as Indigenous land stewardship protects and preserves the lands and waters. Inherent rights, as well as treaty rights and responsibilities, should be upheld.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

77.	August 17, 2021	Spencer B	<p>I am writing to express my opinion that the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundary must be based on Climate Change considerations. In order to reduce GHG emissions, the city should vote against urban growth/sprawl and pick Option 2.</p> <p>Please consider our precious environment, help preserve our agriculture, and promote better urban infrastructure when making this decision for your city and it's people.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
78.	August 17, 2021	Ellen M	<p>To everyone who will influence and/or have a direct hand in the final decision about urban boundaries:</p> <p>Please, please please make the climate crisis your overarching lens from which to make your decision about urban boundaries. Clearly, expansion of urban boundaries puts money at the centre of the equation. We can no longer afford this shortsighted point of view. Retaining and even regaining</p>	

			<p>green space is becoming a matter of life a death. Maybe not for baby boomers, of which I am one, but for our children and our grandchildren.</p> <p>Reclaiming land within our present urban boundaries is definitely the way to go. For example, you can inspire developers invest in building small and medium sized multi-family living spaces (2 to 6 storeys) that are energy efficient, affordable spaces. Density draws small retailers and creates demand for fresh produce and other important food sources for the community at large. Just one good reason to build in and up, rather than out. Councillor Nann, please circulate to the Mayor, other councillors and anyone else you deem appropriate. Thank you!</p>	
79.	August 17, 2021	Michel P	want the city to undertake a rigorous evaluation of the 'No Boundary Expansion' VS the 'Ambitious Density Scenario' using a climate lens.	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
80.	August 17, 2021	Sue M	<p>I am very concerned that the 10 themes in the evaluation criteria created for the proposed city boundary options are not weighted against each other. It is vital that the comparison between the options be driven by a comparison of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Urban sprawl increases carbon dioxide emissions and fuels the climate crisis. We have a climate emergency happening across the planet including Canada and we need to put this foremost in planning decisions. The village of Rech, Western Germany, became the epicentre of a devastating mega flood recently. The village mayor said " I have never felt so small and powerless. We have to rebuild, but we have to rebuild differently. We have to completely rethink how we live with our environment" (New York Times International Weekly, August 14th 2021.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will</p>

			<p>We are living in unprecedented times but we have a chance to make better decisions. Urban growth scenarios must be evaluated taking into account the impacts on climate. The lives of future generations depend on it.</p>	<p>provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
81.	August 17, 2021	D Watkins	<p>The decision on whether or not to expand Hamilton's urban boundary *MUST* be based on Climate Change considerations.</p> <p>Will the chosen growth option (expand / don't expand) increase or decrease our Greenhouse Gas emissions?</p> <p>Sprawl = increased GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>
82.	August 17, 2021	Patricia B	<p>I trust you will be using Climate Change Effect for the evaluation of each of your 10 Framework Themes on this subject. Time is desperately short and you will have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to limiting further negative effects on climate change. Existing infrastructure is there for much better transit to reduce car transmissions and to encourage trucks to use the roads designed for them rather than the downtown core. I assume the results of the recent survey will also play a part in your decisions.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p>

				The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
83.	August 17, 2021	Rick T	<p>Growth Allocation - this tough issue should have a much greater redevelopment and intensification weighting than any boundary expansion.</p> <p>Natural Hazards - the greatest hazard that we face today is climate change. Expansion of the urban boundary will lead to a much greater dependance on the single worst source of pollution - the private vehicle.</p> <p>Municipal Finance - even though developers are on the hook for servicing their projects, the long-term costs are borne by the taxpayers.</p> <p>Intensification is the kindest option to my tax bill.</p> <p>Transportation Systems (see Natural Hazards and Municipal Finance) - even extending public transportation to new urban areas comes with environmental costs. We also cannot expect senior levels of Government to pay for these systems.</p> <p>Infrastructure & Public Service Facilities (see Municipal Financing) - Intensification would require little investment in service facilities and allow the City to concentrate on repairing/renewing existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Conformity with Provincial Methodology - we all know this is a moving target depending on the politics of the party in power. We must do what is best for all of the citizens of Hamilton, not just the urban dwellers.</p> <p>Hamilton has just gone through a thorough planning process that is yet incomplete. The Provincial Government has added this late initiative to satiate its developer buddies and should not have any impact on the current, incomplete process.</p> <p>Natural Heritage and Water Resources - Chedoke Creek should be a reminder of the impact that urbanization has on our natural resources. Not adding potential for the same to other natural areas within the City’s borders is our responsibility for maintaining the air, water, and soil quality.</p>	Comments noted.

			<p>Complete Communities - none of our “communities” can be considered complete until they are more people oriented (less automobile oriented) and cease their contributions to climate change. We have a lot of work to do with the currently developed areas without having to rein in the developers’ lust for easy profit.</p> <p>Agricultural System - historically, the best agricultural lands have been the easiest to develop. This means that much of Ontario’s food production has been paved over and built upon. I read a letter to the editor, this past week, where a person claimed that “there’s no problem with our losing farmland as there will always be other places to supply our food.” The droughts in California (a huge agricultural producer), and wild weather patterns (due to climate change) in other parts of the world, make it imperative that we protect the remaining productive lands and seek to grow agribusiness in Ontario so that we all have something to eat.</p> <p>If the Province is hell bent on adding developable land to the stock, they should be looking in areas where agricultural land isn’t even marginal. Any of that in the Hamilton area where we don’t pave over other naturally sensitive lands?</p>	
84.	August 17, 2021	Liz K	<p>Thank you for pushing back against provincial pressure to open up greenspace and farmland for housing developments, when such developments would clearly undermine environmental health and local food security. Given the potentially-overwhelming IPCC report, I hope that you’re willing to take things to the next step, and make consideration of greenhouse gas emissions part of all proposals - not just of the immediate development project, but of the GHG emissions of projects over their lifetime. Not only would this be an environmental win - it would also likely lead to more of the "missing middle" housing that Hamilton needs: affordable and higher-density housing within easy reach of public transit. It’s interesting to think of the City as it is now, poised between different futures. Thank you for helping to guide the City towards a more inclusive future that doesn’t sacrifice the environment for the sake of a handful of houses for the few.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p>

85.	August 17, 2021	Reece E	Your 10 criteria framework for deciding how Hamilton should grow needs to prioritize climate change or we will lock in high GHG emissions in poorly planned, car-dependent subdivisions. Please listen to what the climate is telling us!	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.
86.	August 17, 2021	Debbie E, Rick C	<p>As Grids 2 continues through the Committee and Council approval process, we would like to comment on the proposed growth evaluation framework and phasing criteria. In particular, given the increasing urgency of the issue of climate change, as identified in the recently released report from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we would strongly urge Committee and Council to ensure that any decision it makes regarding the potential expansion of the urban boundary considers climate change. In our view, climate change cannot be simply one theme area but rather must be an overarching theme that needs to be addressed seriously and completely. In fact climate change should be the lens through which all of the other theme areas are evaluated.</p> <p>As we have all seen, action on climate change can no longer be deferred or only considered to be one of several areas to be considered. It must be given priority consideration for not only the decisions associated with Grids 2, but for all Hamilton Council decisions.</p> <p>Lastly, as a point of information, our household did not receive the City of Hamilton mail-out survey, and nor did any of our neighbours with whom we spoke. We live in an established neighbourhood in Ward 8.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with</p>

				balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
87.	August 17, 2021	Alex W	<p>This email is in response to the ongoing consultation on the MCR-GRIDS-II Evaluation Framework. Consistently citizen input has improved the MCR-GRIDS-II process. Resident input led to the inclusion of the Firm Urban Boundary option, which is now being evaluated against the "ambitious density scenario" which would result in loss of substantial areas of prime agricultural soils. Planning staff when presenting the draft evaluation framework to council remarked on the value of the comments received from Engage Hamilton feedback. I have been reading through the IPCC's most recent report and continue to believe more urgency is needed from governments of all levels in taking leadership on the emergencies we face.</p> <p>As planning staff work on the evaluation framework to present to council, I am requesting that the draft framework be presented again to residents in a series of town halls/public consultations and that planning staff work wherever possible to incorporate public consultations into the structure of the evaluation as well as a part of the evaluation of options.</p>	Public consultation has been undertaken on the evaluation framework through the Engage Hamilton page and additional consultation on the How Should Hamilton Grow framework. The evaluation process must proceed to meet provincial deadlines.
88.	August 17, 2021	Joseph M	<p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>Remains the best outcome for the "GRID2/MCR/Growth Evaluation Framework" process.</p> <p>On August 6, 2021, I received a "Request for Comments" on the "Growth Evaluation Framework" for the "GRIDS 2 / MCR" process. I was directed to provide my comments by August 17th. This short response time in the middle of a pandemic in the middle of summer has come at a really bad time for me and my family. As a result, any shortcomings that may occur in these comments is the fault of the "GRIDS2/MCR/GEF" process.</p>	<p>Comments are noted and have not been ignored. The evaluation of the No Urban Boundary Expansion option against the Ambitious Density option has not taken place.</p> <p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including</p>

		<p>I have read over the “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” eMAIL sent by planning staff on August 6th, and my response is that the best course of action is:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>In the August 6th eMAIL, staff seem to be directing me to discuss their particular ideas about how to proceed with an Urban Boundary Expansion. These directives directly contradict statements made elsewhere in the August 6th eMAIL that “no decision with respect to UBE has been made”. The professionals involved in this process had 16 days to produce this “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” in response to the comments I sent (as a volunteer) on July 21st. As a volunteer in this process, 11 days in the middle of the summer is grossly insufficient for me to provide detailed comment.</p> <p>It is impossible for me, as a volunteer in this process, to have any actual knowledge of the insides the Black Box of multi-level government that is the “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” process. I can say that the public consultation has been badly mangled. I am guessing that the majority of the problems have been imposed on local staff by higher levels of government, in part by continuing to change the rules about the process in the middle of the process.</p> <p>But my added frustration with local staff is that most of the comments I have made are continuing to be ignored.</p> <p>Because of this, I have reproduced the entirety of my July 21st comments below.</p> <p>In my July 21st comments (copied below), I was crystal clear about the reasons why the best course of action in response to the flawed “GRIDS2/MCR” process was:</p>	<p>GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>Information on prime agricultural land areas will be provided in the Agricultural Impact Assessment.</p>
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			<p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>Sixteen days later (August 6th) the response I receive tells me that I have just 11 days to respond with my comments to details with respect to how planning staff are planning to proceed with an UBE.</p> <p>It is a waste of my time (as a volunteer) to help staff try to cobble together a fig leaf to try to cover the inevitable problems that will occur if the Urban Boundary is expanded. Once the correct course of action:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>Is taken all of the hand-waving that is occurring to trying to convince the public that the damage that an UBE will do can be reasonably "mitigated" is moot.</p> <p>There seems to be a deficiency of comprehension at all levels of government about the enormity of the problems headed our way.</p> <p>Please, I implore you:</p> <p>WAKE UP!!!!!!</p> <p>I covered some of these problems in my July 21st comments (below), but I was just scratching the surface.</p> <p>The "1000 year" "extreme D3" and "exceptional D4" drought continues over much of western North America. (Many areas are so much WORSE than EXTREME that they are EXCEPTIONAL and have not been seen IN THE LAST 1000 YEARS). The largest reservoir in the USA is at its lowest level EVER. For the first time EVER, a drought contingency plan has kicked in that will decrease water supplies from the Colorado River. The experts say that it would take a decade of wet years to refill the reservoir, and due to climate change this is unlikely to happen. Please note that the extreme/exceptional drought areas include many areas that usually export</p>	
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		<p>food to Ontario. Some of the largest wildfires EVER seen are burning across widespread areas of the Northern Hemisphere. The combination of increased heat and reduced air quality is KILLING PEOPLE.</p> <p>Due to added energy being added by global warming to the atmosphere, while some areas dry out more quickly, in other areas torrential rains are causing 1000 year flooding events – way too often. The increased ocean temperatures are producing more frequent, and more severe, tropical storms and hurricanes.</p> <p>Global losses due to natural disasters are at all time highs, stressing the ability of the insurance industry to function.</p> <p>“Never before in over 1000 years the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), also known as Gulf Stream System, has been as weak as in the last decades. Researchers compiled proxy data, reaching back hundreds of years to reconstruct the AMOC flow history. They found consistent evidence that its slowdown in the 20th century is unprecedented in the past millennium.” https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/02/210225113357.htm</p> <p>So, another 1000 year event. This one ought to get the attention of people “planning” for the government. The Gulf Stream is a critical part of the heat balancing system for the planet. If it continues to slow, in the short term western Europe might get some short-term relief from increased heating (but also colder winters). But something will have to give with all of the excess heat that will accumulate in the Gulf of Mexico. Increases in tropical storms and hurricanes, and in particular increased intensity of storms, are likely.</p> <p>Oh, by the way, the best contribution the “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” process can make to help with this problem?</p>	
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		<p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>The cause of all of this chaos has been known to scientists for many decades now. I mark widespread public knowledge of the problem with the age of my 29 year old son. The year he was born (1992) was also the year of the publication of the book "Earth in the Balance". In that book the cause of the current chaos was unambiguously shown to be due to increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to the burning of fossil fuels. The dominant greenhouse gas is CO2. For the past 60+ years, CO2 levels have been measured at a reference location at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. Due to our failure to plan properly, levels of CO2 continue to increase in the atmosphere at about 2.5 ppm per year. This year (2021) they were measured at 419 ppm, which exceeds a new milestone – they are now 50% higher than they were in 1800 (280ppm). We crossed the "safe" threshold of 350 ppm in 1986 and we are being warned that unless we take significant actions NOW to curb our use of fossil fuels we will soon pass the threshold of 450 ppm at which time the harm will become intolerable. (I.e., even worse than the 1000 year droughts, fires, floods, and storms that we are currently "enjoying" due to poor government planning.)</p> <p>At the current 2.5 ppm per year CO2 increase, we will hit that 450 ppm threshold in just 12 years (2033). Rather than "planning" for an uncertain forecast "desire" for more "ground based detached units" in the year 2051, I am begging the planners to focus their efforts on the more immediate 2033 problem of keeping our existing home habitable.</p> <p>With respect to the current "GRIDS2/MCR/GEF" process, the very first thing to be done is adopting:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p>	
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			<p>I would encourage the planning professionals involved to obtain and provide to the public (before future public consultations) the data for the area of: Prime Agricultural Lands, and Prime Agricultural Lands in each subtype (class One soils, class Two soils, class Three soils, and Specialty Crop Areas) in both Hamilton and in Ontario as a whole.</p> <p>As a volunteer in this process, with other demands on my time, the only related information I have is with respect to Canada as a whole:</p> <p>Prime Agricultural Land is rare and precious – only 5% of the land area qualifies as "Prime Agricultural Land". Class 1 soil Prime Agricultural Land is the top 10% of Prime farmland (only 0.5% of land in Canada has Class 1 soil).</p> <p>I suspect that these numbers approximate the situation in Ontario, but I would like to know. Since these numbers were not collected and shared with the public as part of the public consultation, I think the public consultation should be done properly after these very important numbers can be professionally collected and shared with the public.</p> <p>For purposes of the current discussion, I will take the Canada numbers above as representative for Ontario. I would like to be given the opportunity to revise my statements in a future public consultation after the actual numbers for both Hamilton and Ontario are made public.</p> <p>On August 6th, I was asked to comment on the "CITY OF HAMILTON GRIDS 2 / MCR – PLANNING FOR GROWTH TO 2051: FINAL GROWTH EVALUATION FRAMEWORK AND PHASING CRITERIA PREPARED BY DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED". But the pdf file provided is so lacking in detail that it is not possible to provide meaningful input. In contrast, there was some useful information in the staff report, including:</p>	
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		<p>“Based on Rural Hamilton Official Plan designations, all phasing options under the Ambitious Density scenario would require the inclusion of whitebelt lands that are designated prime agricultural being added to the urban boundary. The City’s draft Land Needs Assessment has identified that 1,340 ha of land is required under the Ambitious Density scenario, so there is no phasing option that avoids prime agricultural lands.”</p> <p>This is really crucial information that should have been front and center at the beginning of the public consultation process. Rather than having vague billboards that said something like “We want your comments on MCR/GRIDS2” (when nobody knows what that is, or why they should care), more meaningful public input could have been obtained if the billboards simply asked: “Should be pave over Prime Agricultural Land to make way for more ground based detached units in 2051?”</p> <p>Since this more honest approach was not taken, the public consultation needs to be done properly after the professional staff have gathered the information requested above and made it public. Since this critical information apparently was not considered before the recommendation to expand the urban boundary was made, it raises the question: On what basis did the “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” process conclude that thirty years from now “ground based detached units” will be more important than food?</p> <p>Coming back to the proposed GEF question: “Does the growth option avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts on the Agricultural System, including Prime Agricultural Lands classifications 1, 2 and 3?”</p> <p>While there might be some value in preserving class 1 Prime Agricultural Land over class 2 and 3 Agricultural Land, the fact remains that they are all Prime Agricultural Land. Only 5% of the land is Prime Agricultural Land, while only about 0.5% is class 1 Prime Agricultural Land. “Ground based detached units” do not need to be on top of Prime Agricultural Land. They could be put on the 95% of the land that is not Prime Agricultural Land or</p>	
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		<p>on top of the 99.5% of the land that is not Class 1 Prime Agricultural Land. If we are interested in planning intelligently 30 years into the future we have to look beyond the myopic “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” process that is short-sighted with respect to both its focus on “ground based detached units” and that GBDU “must” be on Prime Agricultural Land in Hamilton. In thirty years it is highly unlikely that the fad for GBDU’s will exceed the need for food. And, if the fad for GBDUs persists, intelligent long range planning must include finding places to locate the GBDUs so that building the GBDUs does not compromise food security.</p> <p>So, it is highly stupid (at the 95% level) to expand the Urban Boundary for “ground based detached units” on Prime Agricultural Land, and approaching maximally stupid (at the 99.5% level) to expand the Urban Boundary for “ground based detached units” on class 1 Prime Agricultural Land.</p> <p>I find it perplexing that the Dillon “GEF” is spending its time (and is wasting my time by asking me to comment) on its efforts to parse out differences between “highly stupid” and “maximally stupid”. It seems a much better use of my time if I stick to my July 21st request to avoid “stupid” altogether.</p> <p>The only way I can see out of this Kafkaesque “GRIDS2/MCR/GEF” process is to adopt:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>Even before the 11th hour changes to the MCR/GRIDS process tacked on by the Ford government, the process suffered from the fact that it is a long range planning process that places a single purpose (land use allocation) above all others. All other concerns might (or might not) be considered after the land use allocation is made. Worse still, it limited land use allocation to a subset of human needs: property for housing and businesses. After the late Ford tack-ons, in the context of Hamilton the</p>	
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		<p>entire process devolved into the rather shockingly narrow issue of how much Prime Agricultural Land should be sacrificed for a predicted "want" for GBDUs thirty years in the future.</p> <p>What went wrong, and how could we do better in the future?</p> <p>While the public consultation in Hamilton was botched badly (in no small part due to the pandemic combined with the Ford government's refusal to acknowledge the pandemic and extend the time frames), that is only part of the problem. The core of the problem is well known to mathematicians: you can only truly optimize for a single variable at a time. If you want to optimize for more, you have to specify the balance is between the variables you wish to maximize. That balance relationship becomes the variable that can then be maximized.</p> <p>In the current MCR/GRIDS2/GEF process, the effort to consider other concerns (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, food security, wildlife habitat protection) that should constrain the consumption of land and what those constraints should be appears to not have happened. If you turn people loose with the instructions to provide land for a thirty year supply of GBDUs, then that is what will happen.</p> <p>I think the main failure to consider other constraints on land use, and to properly weight them, is due to the fact that the MCR/GRIDS2/GEF process did not adequately consider the difference between "wants" and "needs".</p> <p>The cliché is that "basic human needs" are "food, clothing, and shelter".</p> <p>Even as a child in Boy Scouts, I was taught that more immediate "needs" are air and water. Although mileage varies, there is the "rule of threes". Three weeks without food, three days without water, three hours</p>	
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			<p>without shelter in a harsh environment, three minutes without breathable air.</p> <p>These are needs.</p> <p>The best way to protect those needs is:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>In contrast, ground based detached units are a "want". Yes, GBDUs fall within the Venn diagram of shelter, but please do not make the freshman logic error of confusing a single member of a set with the entirety of the set. GBDUs are an example of shelter, but they are only one of many. You "need" shelter, but your wish for a particular type of shelter is clearly a "want" and not a "need".</p> <p>Where the current MCR/GRIDS2/GEF process failed (badly) was in its failure to identify what our "needs" will be thirty years in the future and to protect them before and above trying to provide more of what is patently just a "want".</p> <p>If we are serious about intelligent planning, the current MCR/GRIDS2/GEF process should be scrapped and replaced with a process that clearly places "needs" above "wants".</p> <p>The first step out of the Kafkaesque MCR/GRIDS2/GEF process:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>(Below this line)</p> <p>(are the comments I sent on July 21st, 2021. They are repeated here because they seem to have been mostly ignored by the "MCR/GRIDS2/GEF" process. There are important issues here that remain unaddressed.)</p>	
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			<p>In response to the “MCR/GRIDS” survey, I am writing to express my preference for:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion.</p> <p>The land proposed for Urban Boundary expansion (e.g., Option 1) should be protected from development because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The land has high quality soils for farming, and farmland is in short supply in Ontario 2) The land is in the middle of Ecoregion 7E, which has THE MOST DIVERSE FLORA AND FAUNA IN ALL OF CANADA 3) The sprawl that could occur on this land would undermine the efforts the make Hamilton a livable city by placing detached units away from the infrastructure Hamilton has developed and is developing (e.g., transit) <p>We are currently living in uncertain times with respect to both the Covid crisis and the climate change crisis. In the face of this uncertainty, predicting 20 years into the future is very problematic. In the middle of this uncertainty, the Ford government made matters much worse by: 1) extending the forecast period to 30 years, 2) doubling the projected increase in population, and 3) adding a new “market based” assessment rule. These 11th hour intrusions have turned the MCR/GRIDS process into a total farce.</p> <p>Whats worse the Province is “requiring” that the recommendations of this farce be set in stone, so that local taxpayers will be forced to fund this ongoing destruction of the environment for the next thirty years.</p> <p>The latest perturbation added to the process, the government mandated “market based” assessment, is a very odd Orwellian oxymoron.</p> <p>When Adam Smith wrote the “The Wealth of Nations” in 1776, he did so because governments were stifling the economy (and innovation) with their heavy handed intrusions into the market place. Smith (and most</p>	
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		<p>economists for the next 225 years....) think that the best results are obtained when "the invisible hand of the market" acts to regulate the economy – without government interference. Government intrusion (like the current MCR/GRIDS process) directly undermines the operation of the market by replacing the invisible hand of the market with the heavy fist of government. By changing the rules to force an Urban Boundary expansion, the Ford government is interfering with the market's ability to assign the highest value use to the land by mandating that the land must be used for detached units.</p> <p>Instead of letting the market operate, the Ford government commands that vast sums of public money be spent to pre-provision a guess about how many detached units might be wanted 30 years from now. Highly oxymoronic.</p> <p>In order to intelligently plan for what our children and grandchildren will need in 2051, we need to go beyond the current MCR/GRIDS/"Market" process that is constrained by a guess about how many detached units we might want 30 years from now.</p> <p>More important things to consider include:</p> <p>Q1: What is best for people?</p> <p>A1: Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>The romantic notion of Ontario is that it is a vast unpopulated land: "A Place to Grow - Ontario". At a simple-minded level, this is true.</p> <p>The numbers with respect to land area:</p> <p>There are 7.9 billion people on the planet. The total land area is 153 million square kilometers. This means that on a world average basis there are 52 people for every square kilometer of land on the Earth.</p>	
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		<p>There are 14 million people in Ontario. Ontario's land area is 1.08 million square kilometers. This means that there are 13 people for every square kilometer of land in Ontario.</p> <p>There are 584,000 people in Hamilton. There are 1,138 square kilometers of land in Hamilton. This means that there are 512 people for every square kilometer of land in Hamilton.</p> <p>There is a lot of land in Ontario (bigger than Texas, eh?). Ontario is currently occupied at about 25% of the world average. Ontario could easily be "A Place to Grow". By comparison, Hamilton is 9.8 times (980%) more crowded than the world average and 39.4 times (3940%) more crowded than the Ontario average. This crowding results in the disputes over land use that occur during these planning processes.</p> <p>But - these numbers do not take into account the quality of the land.</p> <p>The survival of people depends on agriculture, and hence farmland. Growing up in Texas, I was told "Don't cuss a farmer with your mouth full". Considering farmland is crucial to intelligent planning.</p> <p>The numbers with respect to farmland:</p> <p>There are 7.9 billion people on the planet. There is about 49 million square kilometers of farmland to support them. This means that on a world average basis there are 160 people for every square kilometer of farmland.</p> <p>There are 14 million people in Ontario. There is about 51 thousand square kilometers of farmland to support them. This means that there are 275 people for every square kilometer of farmland in Ontario.</p> <p>In stark contrast to the general land numbers, with respect to farmland Ontario is now looking crowded. Ontario is 1.7 times (170%) more crowded than the world average with respect to farmland.</p>	
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			<p>The reasons that a somewhat "empty" Ontario is so short on farmland are due to the last Ice Age and the Canadian Shield. The last Ice Age scoured most of the soil off of the rocks across most of Ontario north of Hamilton. The rocks that were left exposed are Canadian Shield rocks, some of the oldest rocks on the planet. Much of the useful nutrients for plant growth were weathered out of these rocks long ago. So not only is soil largely absent, the underlying exposed rocks are not a good source for producing quality soil.</p> <p>Ontario has done a poor job of protecting the scarce farmland that it has. In the current planning process, the central government of Ontario erred badly by assigning most of the planned growth to areas with the best soils.</p> <p>Ontario is already a net food importer (we import twice as much as we export). Because of climate change, it would be unwise to assume that we can continue to rely on other jurisdictions to protect enough of their farmland to feed us while we continue to pave ours.</p> <p>Right now 11 states in the United States are experiencing "extreme drought conditions": New Mexico; Arizona; California; Nevada; Utah; Oregon; Washington; Montana; North Dakota; Colorado; and Wyoming. In more normal times, many of these states send copious food to Ontario. Climate change means droughts like this will be more numerous in the future. Right now, heat waves are killing farm workers in the fields. Both the number and duration of these heat waves has increased every decade for the last five decades.</p> <p>We need to be thinking in terms of protecting our ability to produce enough food to feed ourselves. Ideally, if we cared about people in the rest of the world we would protect all of our farmland so that we can help out these other areas when they are in distress.</p>	
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			<p>The crowding with respect to farmland is much worse in Hamilton than it is in Ontario as a whole.</p> <p>There are 584,000 people in Hamilton. There is about 560 square kilometers of farmland to support them. This means that there are 1,039 people for every square kilometer of farmland in Hamilton.</p> <p>With respect to farmland, Hamilton is 3.8 times (380%) more crowded than Ontario, and Hamilton is 6.5 times (650%) more crowded than the world average.</p> <p>So, Ontario is short on farmland, and Hamilton is even shorter on farmland. It is important to protect farmland in Ontario, but it is even more important to protect it in Hamilton.</p> <p>The numbers discussed above are for farmland in general. It is important to add that the farmland in Hamilton is way above average in quality - literally the best of Prime. Most of the farmland in Hamilton is "Prime Agricultural Land". Prime Agricultural Land is rare and precious – only 5% of the land area in Canada qualifies as "Prime Agricultural Land". Furthermore, the Prime Agricultural Land in Hamilton is mostly Class 1 soils. Class 1 soil Prime Agricultural Land is the top 10% of Prime farmland (only 0.5% of land in Canada has Class 1 soil).</p> <p>Paving over the best of the best farmland in Ontario based on a guess that in thirty years someone might want to put a detached unit on it would be horribly misguided. In the future, the need to eat is certain. Much, much less certain is what the "market" might want in 2051 – and that is a preference, not a requirement. To be clear: we are not talking about whether or not there will be enough housing units to live in. The MCR/GRIDS/"Market" basis for wanting to pave farmland is the guess that in 30 years "the market" might prefer a certain number of detached units. In thirty years it will not matter if you can get the dwelling shape of</p>	
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			<p>your choice if you starve to death inside of it. The fact that the MCR/GRIDS/”Market” process places a guess about future desires about dwelling shape before and above considerations of food security underscores just how badly the Ford government has broken the planning process.</p> <p>Q2: What is best for everybody else?</p> <p>A2: Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p> <p>The lack of balance in the MCR/GRIDS/”market” process is shameful. A small army of public and private sector planners have toiled away exuding a mountain of paperwork that is singularly focused on trying to anticipate the “wants” 30 years into the future of a single species whose numbers are increasing.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the current “needs” (for survival) of all of the other species that live in the area have been ignored. Many of these species are suffering population declines due in no small part to past bad decision making. As a result, unless balance is restored in the planning process the numbers of many species will continue to dwindle until they are extirpated (made “locally extinct”).</p> <p>Hamilton is in Ecoregion 7E. According to the OMNRF, “The flora and fauna in Ecoregion 7E are the most diverse in Canada”. Environment Canada used to have on the web an interactive map that showed that Ecoregion 7E had the most Species At Risk of any Ecoregion in Canada (that map has since disappeared due to lack of funding).</p> <p>The area proposed for Urban “Boundary” Expansion falls within the smaller subregion of 7E known as Ecodistrict 7E5. According to the OMNRF, “Less than 1% of the ecodistrict comprises protected areas.”</p>	
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			<p>we cannot be certain that our understanding is complete. (And even less certain is what conditions are best for the long term survival of <i>Homo sapiens</i>.) Until our understanding of the ecosystem that supports life on earth improves, it would be prudent to curtail killing parts of the surface of the planet with pavement based on the patently misguided guess that in thirty years that our "want" for detached units will be more important than our "need" for food, water, and oxygen.</p> <p>Look, I understand that Hamilton and Ontario are in a difficult box with respect to planning in this area. Land is already in short supply. Compounding the short supply, this land is of the highest quality in all of Ontario with respect to climate and soils. It can support either farming or wildlife better than most other land in Ontario. While the soil and the wildlife cannot easily be transplanted, housing can easily be built elsewhere.</p> <p>If we insist on killing the goose that killed the golden egg by paving this farmland, then we may find that the population guesses were wrong. Or worse still, people might arrive and sit in detached units and find they don't have anything to eat.</p> <p>This is the problem with the MCR/GRIDS/"market" process. By myopically focusing on the single issue of dwelling type, it entirely misses the big picture. Detached units are a "want"; food, water, and clean air are "needs". Planning for "needs" must take precedence over planning for "wants".</p> <p>Until the planning process can be fixed to reflect this reality, we all must act to protect our future.</p> <p>Right now, that means:</p> <p>Option 2: No Urban Boundary Expansion</p>	
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89.	August 17, 2021	Rob F	<p>Has the City released the survey results, and how if at all are the survey results to be used in the City’s framework themes?</p> <p>Infill development is not gentrification, and recent reported commercial lower city growth supports infill development.</p>	<p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to consider in their decision making.</p>
90.	August 17, 2021	Lilly N	<p>Here is my input for the evaluation framework.</p> <p>My main concern about any framework regarding growth is making sure that the outcome of growth makes the city more liveable for the most people.</p> <p>Therefore, in any decision-making, having a stable climate is crucial to making Hamilton more liveable. As such, it makes sense to use a climate lens on these types of decisions. I’m glad to see GHG emissions for the two scenarios will be looked at.</p> <p>Also what makes a city more liveable is whether the city is built with the health of its people in mind.</p> <p>The health aspects of the built environment are buried in the Complete Community theme and I would have preferred that it had its own theme. Hamilton Public Health Services could comment on which growth option is better for the health of Hamiltonians.</p>	<p>Healthy complete communities is considered in the framework.</p>
91.	August 17, 2021	Doris K	<p>Regarding Hamilton’s framework themes driving the decision to expand the urban boundary or not, the number 1 priority must be CLIMATE CHANGE. We are in a climate crisis. Better to reimagine what can be done within the existing boundary, remove barriers to intensifying the core and converting empty buildings, parking lots and vacant land within the boundary to address the housing crisis. All development must be measured by the</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

			impact it has on climate change and the environment. NO URBAN SPRAWL!	
92.	August 17, 2021	Ria K	I am writing to request that climate change be prioritized in the urban boundary expansion decision. As a Hamilton youth, I am scared for my future as well as people whose lives are already affected by the impacts of climate change. Given the recent IPCC report and your declaration of a climate emergency, it is your duty especially now to ensure we treat climate change like the crisis it is.	The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
93.	August 17, 2021	Craig C	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The process to determine land use for the next 30 years - with implications for centuries to come - has implications beyond anything else the City does. This is my feedback:</p> <p>PUBLIC INPUT (???) My first observation is that there are no evaluation criteria for the overwhelming feedback citizens of Hamilton have provided. Councillor Clark shared that 8,258 e-mails supporting a ‘no urban boundary expansion’ decision. And that does NOT include responses that were physically mailed to the City. Further, the Mayor has commented that “to have an expectation that the public at large is informed enough to make a decision around all the variables ... is a little unfair”. What I hope the Mayor and everyone else have all learned from the past few months is that Hamiltonians are highly engaged, understand what is happening, and need to be part of the decision-making process. For the City to ask Hamiltonians to speak their mind, have thousands of people respond, and then to IGNORE their voice would be a huge injustice.</p> <p>CLIMATE CHANGE The City has already declared a climate emergency and the latest report from the IPCC just confirms the dire situation our planet is in. As leaders in our community, you should be doing everything in your power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To that end, the proposed criteria are much</p>	<p>The survey results will be released publicly in mid-September once data tallying is complete. Council will have the benefit of the survey results available to consider in their decision making.</p> <p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. Clarity on this measurement will be provided.</p> <p>Municipal financial assessment is being</p>

			<p>too loose and climate change is not given the highly weighted priority it should have.</p> <p>To quote the proposed framework “opportunities for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions” is weak. This criterion needs to explicitly evaluate options based on whether they will ADD or REDUCE emissions. Sprawl only adds to emissions and we need to be working very quickly to get to net-zero emissions. Considered in this evaluation should be emissions from the construction process for new infrastructure, the ongoing emissions from the growing population, and the addition or reduction of carbon sequestration from land-use decisions. Paving over farmland will greatly reduce carbon sequestration. Sprawling not only makes GHG emissions harder to reach but will increase them. The evaluation framework needs to measure that impact and have the heavy weighting that a climate emergency warrants.</p> <p>MUNICIPAL FINANCE</p> <p>The wording of ‘are there significant risks’ is unclear and weak. If you are a City Planner or City Councillor you already know that we are somewhere between \$3 and \$4 billion behind on maintaining existing - EXISTING! - infrastructure. Adding additional infrastructure to support sprawl is just going to add more cost now, and more cost down the road because more maintenance will be required. Further, what timeframe is being considered for ‘risk’ to municipal finances? 10 years? 30 years? 50 years? 100 years? It needs to be a long-term view but the timeline evaluated is not clear based on the vague wording provided.</p> <p>Additionally, this criteria needs to focus on how our tax dollars should best be spent. Money spent on upgrading existing infrastructure to support growth within the current urban boundary is much more efficient than building new infrastructure to enable sprawl.</p>	<p>undertaken and will be reported with results.</p> <p>Infrastructure analysis is being undertaken and will be reported with results.</p>
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			<p>Burlington has done on Plains rd, just east of Waterdown Rd with residences built on top of businesses.</p> <p>Please watch this 4-minute video about Greenville County in the U.S.</p> <p><i>(Summary: Greenville County is growing rapidly, with 160,000+ new residents projected by 2040. Our current sprawling, low-density growth pattern is not fiscally or environmentally sustainable — but we have an opportunity right now to grow in a smarter way)</i></p> <p>This type of thinking is exactly what we need within Hamilton’s current urban boundaries.</p> <p>And we already have this kind of thinking in HamiltonL the plans to transform an area like the West Harbour Key / Pier 8 into a vibrant community are a shining example of what great can look like! We should be accommodating more growth like this!</p>	
94.	August 17, 2021	Olivia O	<p><i>ACORN Submission - Evaluation Framework</i></p> <p>ACORN joins our allies in calling for the city to prioritize climate change in the evaluation framework. We are in a Climate Emergency and land use planning needs to reflect that!</p> <p>Please consult with the local environment and community groups on this important matter. See attached ACORN Hamilton's earlier submission for the city to not grow into farmland and create more urban sprawl.</p> <p>ACORN Hamilton is an independent community organization with a membership of low and moderate income individuals & families. We join our allies at Environment Hamilton in our submission.</p> <p>ACORN joining our ally Environment Hamilton in advocating for:</p>	<p>The framework is assessing the themes noted in the comments.</p> <p>The survey results will be reported in September for Council’s consideration and information.</p>

			<p>1) The city needs to have a rigorous evaluation framework and planning criteria applied from the start – so that we are assessing the implications of urban sprawl on the climate emergency, municipal finances, our local agricultural system, natural heritage and water resources,</p> <p>2) It is inappropriate that staff are consulting on this framework and associated criteria now, given that public input is pending regarding what community members prefer and support where urban growth management in our city is concerned.</p> <p>3) ACORN is strongly opposed to any urban expansion into the Greenbelt. During the pandemic we have realised how important green space, parks and farmland is essential to strong communities. People need these spaces in their neighbourhoods to have gatherings and local food for food security. We need our local produce, we are trading food for money and properties for money and we are forgetting about the people and community.</p> <p>Every neighbourhood and ward should be consulted, this is a Hamilton expansion. Only having these 2 options is not sufficient for all neighbourhoods, people also need affordable housing not just development boxes which is intended to maximize profit for developers. What kinds of jobs will these areas generate? We need affordable units for the people that work in Hamilton and stay in Hamilton! We need to build a climate resilient city that accommodates all the people in Hamilton.</p>	
95.	August 17, 2021	Kevin S	<p>The evaluation criteria are not weighted against each other. Climate needs to be the lens for all of the other 9. No Urban Boundary Expansion, please.</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
96.	August 17, 2021	Nessa O	<p>You asked for input re the urban sprawl problem. I’m writing with my input.</p>	<p>The survey results will be reported in September for</p>

			<p>I’m against expanding Hamilton’s urban boundaries, and in favour of developing/intensifying existing urban areas.</p> <p>You conducted a survey, but have not announced if and how the survey results are being taken into account in your decision about which option (“Ambitious Density” [expanding greenlands beyond current urban boundaries] or “No Urban Boundary Expansion”) to choose.</p> <p>According to the evaluation criteria you have publicized, your decision will be based on 10 criteria, but these criteria are not of equal importance. Climate change has not been given due weight. In my opinion, it’s not just “a” consideration, it’s a key consideration. Concerns about natural hazards and transportation systems, for instance, can be addressed by planning and engineering measures, but climate change is too pervasive to be controllable by engineering.</p> <p>Thanks for taking your constituents’ views into account.</p>	<p>Council’s consideration and information.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
97.	August 17, 2021	Amy A	<p>I’m writing to express my dismay that Climate Change is not included in the City of Hamilton’s Evaluation Framework for the decision on whether or not to expand the urban boundary. We will never address Climate Change without addressing suburban sprawl. The UN climate report released last week is a dire wake up call to every society on earth. How can Climate Change not be the primary lens through which we evaluate every decision that influences how we run our city and create liveable spaces for citizens of Hamilton?</p> <p>Make mitigation and resiliency to Climate Change the top priority in the evaluation framework for the urban boundary decision.</p>	Climate change is addressed in the framework.
98.	August 17, 2021	Katryna B	<p>No boundary expansion! Any decision should be based on the most important and all encompassing Climate Change issue.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including

				GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
99.	August 17, 2021	Gloria E	Please protect the farmland and the green spaces in Hamilton. The protection of the environment for both our own sakes and that of wildlife should be our first priority in considering any land use or expansion.	Agricultural system and natural heritage are themes within the framework.
100.	August 17, 2021	Katie K	<p>I am aware that the city is currently creating an evaluation framework to help decide whether or not to expand the city’s urban boundary. Please, please, please consider climate change first and foremost when creating the evaluation. National and international public consciousness has shifted starkly since the release of the 6th IPCC report last week. I have seen this shift in my intimate communities. I am a member of Hamilton 350 (the environmental advocacy group) and we have seen an increase in folks engaging with us since the report came out. I am sure you have had conversations with family and friends that are in distress since the release of the report.</p> <p>Now is the perfect time to take the brave step to prioritize climate change in our city planning. I think that it will take brave city in Southern Ontario to say no to sprawl and freeze their urban boundary, then others will follow. Hamilton can set this precedent. We can be the underdog industrial city who takes the first step that everyone is talking about... freezing the urban boundary and building strength from within. I care so much about this city and I do not want to see the young people around me suffer. Frankly, I don’t want it to be worse than it could be. I do not have</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.

			<p>children and I will not. I am deeply afraid. There is so much literature on why sprawl is not sustainable. Urban sprawl literally creates heat sinks. More heat is the last thing we need. And okay, maybe you would say that expansion doesn't necessarily mean sprawl... But we know better. Hamiltonians know better. We have been paying attention to the subtle, intricate movements that the Conservative provincial government has been taking to expand urban sprawl. There are thousands of Hamiltonians living without a home or adequate homes. Please consider these people. Consider these people that have been living here perhaps before you or fellow councillors have lived here. I know that Councillor Wilson and Councillor Nann have been advocating for the well being of our community fiercely. I have Cc'd them because I want them to know that you have received this email, because I trust they will support the content of this email.</p>	
101.	August 17, 2021	Rick J	<p>The committee needs to look at the boundary expansion from the climate crisis point of view. This is the primary consideration for the committee to concern itself with as expanding the city boundaries will only work against the dire need to stop the use of fossil fuels before it is too late. The fact that population growth can be accommodated within the current city boundaries is clearly the variable that should demonstrate that boundary expansion is not necessary at all. I don't wish to comment further on all of the 10 framework themes which may suggest planning committee responsibility from a public perception but really is just overkill when you look at the fact that human lives are at stake with the looming climate crisis. I have already addressed councillors, the mayor and the committee itself at length so going over old ground is unnecessary. Do not let the vested wealthy interests promoting expansion for their own gain colour the decision making process, please. Do the right thing for Hamiltonians - NO BOUNDARY EXPANSION! Thank you for your kind attention.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p>

				The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
102.	August 17, 2021	Mary L	<p>As treaty people, I hope we will listen to Indigenous knowledge and protect Mother Earth for the 7 generations and beyond by fixing an urban boundary now.</p> <p>The “dish with one spoon” - the land (which includes wetlands)- is infinitely important to our survival as a species and that of our fellow creatures (thought of as “our relatives” in an Indigenous world view). We all depend on it for food, water, shelter, and a sense of belonging to all the gifts of the Earth.</p> <p>But the capacity of the dish itself is finite: it can only take so much, and settler society has brought our ecosystem, our Mother, to the brink of extinction. If we’re to have any hope for our descendants, now is the time to fix an urban boundary around Hamilton to protect the last acres of prime farmland and carbon-sinking wetlands we have, along with their irreplaceable inhabitants. It is the least we can do to honour the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt agreement, and the only way to hope for #ClimateSurvival ...</p> <p>Because Canada is on fire this summer, Dundas has been flooding again, and 2025 fast approaches! This is the timeline the UK scientists attached to XR say is crucial for much of the deep system change needed for survival of human and animal life beyond this century. And it’s not just XR or 350.org saying this!</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

		<p>Even conservative bodies such as the International Energy Agency and the UN IPCC have flatly stated we must immediately begin seriously leaving the Fossil Fuel age behind in order for life on earth to continue beyond the 21st century. How does this relate to you? Locking in more urban sprawl while people are still driving Fossil cars and heating their new big houses with Fossil Fuels would be irresponsible of you all, councillors and staff alike. A majority of your electors would frown on such dereliction of duty to their grandchildren!</p> <p>We hope you will enthusiastically and quickly embrace evolution: this includes changing building code regulations so that the gentle intensification we urge ensures that all housing, whether high rise, attractive low rise infill, townhouses, or laneway dwellings for young people and those currently unhoused are ALL built to net zero code that greatly reduces if not eliminates entirely the need for fossil fuel. No new housing developments can be allowed to put in gas or oil infrastructure, given the reality voiced by the IPCC and the IEA.</p> <p>Why not? Because as Seth Klein urges in his selling like hot cakes book A Good War, a mobilization such as our grandparents and parents participated in during WWII is the only way we can stop runaway climate breakdown with its terrifying consequences. You may not have planned on this grave responsibility, but it is yours to accept, or to "get out of the new road if you can't lend your hand," as Bob Dylan suggested long ago.</p> <p>In conclusion, we urge you to listen to Indigenous voices of those whose ancestors survived wintry weather on this cold land for millennia. May we ask you: instead of distrusting and resisting change, that "one of these mornings" you might ALL "rise up singing" out of the fossilized rut it's so easy (yet 🤖!) to stay in? Wouldn't it be more fun for you and more inspiring for your constituents if you were ALL to get excited about the new much more ambitious city we can build based on Indigenous principles? Coupled with innovative, people-centered, Climate-lensed city planning,</p>	
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			Hamilton truly could live up to its motto, which sadly, with 4,000 families STILL waiting for decent housing they can afford, we are not. Stunning real-world examples of these “old yet new again” things we can do right now (and leading up to 2051) abound all over the world, and are there for you, staff and councillors alike, to adapt to our place here around the Great Lakes where our treaty responsibilities lie. But only if we embrace a fixed urban boundary first!	
103.	August 17, 2021	Ken S	<p>No boundary extension please.</p> <p>Please use climate change (and the climate crisis in which we now find ourselves) as the PRIMARY lens for making your decision NOT to expand the urban boundary.</p>	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
104.	August 17, 2021	Nancy H	The time to act on Climate Change passed 40 years ago. We kicked the can down the street for four decades and now we are in the midst of an emergency. Hamilton is either part of the problem or part of the solution. I am calling on City Hall to make the Climate Emergency the overarching criterion by which the decision of whether or not to expand our urban boundary is decided. Listen to the experts: Dr. Lynda Lukasik and Mr. Don McLean for instance. Understand that they know more than any of you do about Climate Change. I know that each of them have written exhaustive critiques about how you can make this framework far, far better. Better to the degree that Hamilton might become a climate leader rather than a	Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is

		<p>laggard that continues to kick the can down the road. Here are some takeaways from Mr. McLean's submission to you, which I echo:</p> <p>-It is disturbing that the department that has pursued this framework in this way has repeatedly declared that only one of the options to be examined is feasible. Consequently the fairness and objectivity of this process have a very steep hill to climb.</p> <p>-An additional shortcoming is that the design of the city's future rests in the hands of only one city department and especially one with a conflicting mandate. It is unclear whether planning principles or economic development objectives are in charge here. Both can provide important inputs, but even combined they clearly don't have the expertise to determine such an important decision.</p> <p>-Growth Allocation, the draft framework asks: "Does the growth option direct the vast majority of growth to the settlement area?" Comments: This first question is compromised by the inclusion of the modifier "vast majority". There is no indication of what percentage constitutes "vast majority", so no means of measurement. Obviously both options could tick the box with this wording.</p> <p>-The second question asks: "Does the growth option focus growth in: a) Delineated built-up areas b) Strategic growth areas c) Locations with existing or planned transit, with a priority on higher order transit where it exists or is planned d) Areas with existing or planned public services facilities" Comments: These four questions are compromised by the modifier "focus" which is undefined and unexplained. How much of each constitutes a "focus"? Again, the answer sought is not numerical. So it is subjective rather than objective. This is a repeated feature that undermines virtually all of the proposed framework. A reasonable alternative question would</p>	<p>also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
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			<p>ask “how much” of the growth “will occur” in “delineated built up areas” and “how much will occur in “strategic growth areas”, along with clear definitions of each.</p> <p>-Priority for existing or certain higher order transit is of particular importance because Hamilton has been offered federal and provincial funding for public transit – around \$4 billion in the last couple of months alone! That commitment and its realistically expected future continuation is transformational. It should be re-writing the city’s plans!</p> <p>-Both “existing or planned transit” are apparently given equal weight. Why is that? Surely the current existence of transit is quite different from planned (hoped for) transit, and reasonably the existing should score higher than the hoped for. We know the current ridership and cost for existing transit; we have no real idea of those metrics for “planned transit”. We may be able to guess the latter based on the experience of existing transit, but both metrics are strongly influenced by location</p> <p>-More reasonable questions could much more objectively compare the two growth options. These might include how many additional transit riders can be expected from each option? What will be the likely cost per rider to provide transit service for each option? And specifically what will the impact of each option be on the ridership for the LRT that is already funded? Planning more transit, including more higher order, is nice but dreaming can’t be equated with reality.</p> <p>-Remembering that the overarching question is about the “focus” of the growth option, what possible use is there to use the metric “areas with existing or planned public services facilities”. Are these equally desirable objectives? Municipal government is required to provide public service facilities so that will occur with either option. Why not compare the options on simple and obvious metrics such as capital and operating costs, and “extent to which it utilizes existing public service facilities” against the</p>	
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			<p>metric of “extent to which new or expanded public services” will be required?</p> <p>-Climate Change theme: The first question is bizarre. The obvious essential climate imperative is to get carbon emissions to zero as quickly as possible. City council has promised to get to zero emissions though so far only by 2050. Which option will get us there fastest or at least closest to that goal? What does “providing opportunities” mean? If the option might allow a developer and new home owner the “opportunities” to install rooftop solar panels, does that qualify as providing opportunities? How about if the new resident has the “opportunities” to purchase an electric vehicle or a heat pump? Does that meet the current metric? And how can “opportunities” be measured?</p> <p>-We would also need to calculate and then compare such things as carbon storage and sequestration in vegetation and soils. Indeed most if not all of the other proposed theme areas will include substantial climatic impacts and consideration in light of the likely intensity of the climate crisis.</p> <p>-Natural Hazards: A better question is “how much does the growth option increase hazardous lands” such as by bringing them closer to population centres where they meet the current definition of hazardous. Will it result in higher stream flows, for example, and therefore more likelihood of flooding? Hazardous is primarily defined as prone to flooding or resulting erosion. This question is made vague by the “away from” modifier. How far away?</p> <p>-City Finance: Finance staff have repeatedly warned city council of the financial risks associated with growth. Where infrastructure doesn’t exist or is inadequate, it must be put in place by the public purse before planned growth occurs and that investment can’t be recovered if the anticipated growth doesn’t occur. Which option is most likely to aggravate this risk? A curious notion has been tossed around that all growth costs are the same</p>	
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		<p>irrespective of whether they involve upgrading existing infrastructure or building new stuff. However, the maintenance and replacement of existing infrastructure must be done irregardless unless we plan to abandon parts of the existing urban area. The addition of brand new infrastructure is, of course, an option with a definite cost.</p> <p>Infrastructure and public service facilities: "Does the growth option result in significant impacts to the City's existing or planned infrastructure and public service facilities?" and indicates the data sources will only be "Assessment of infrastructure and public service facility requirements." Comments: Again there is the question of what is considered "significant" which undermines the objectivity of the process. The inclusion of "planned infrastructure and public service facilities" along with existing is curious. City staff have already done quite a bit of planning, for example, of the proposed Elfrida growth expansion area. Does that planning count as equivalent to the already existing infrastructure? That seems quite unreasonable, but by conflating the two (existing and planned) the current metric is wide open to abuse.</p> <p>-An important factor that must be considered is the source of the new residents accommodated by each option. Historically, the vast majority of new suburban growth has come from existing residents shifting to the new growth areas. Over the last half century, for example, we know that the older parts of the city north of Mohawk Road have lost population to the tune of over 60,000 residents. So most of the new 'growth' has in fact been a shift of taxpayers rather than an addition. This likelihood needs to be a key part of the metrics for this criteria.</p> <p>-Transit: There are some very obvious transportation questions not being asked such as "how much will the growth option increase ridership of the HSR", and "how much will each option increase the use of higher order transit (with a significant weighting on funded higher order transit, not dreamed of", and "what amount of modal shift will likely occur with each</p>	
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			<p>option”. Senior levels of government are now financially committed to higher order transit in Hamilton. To what extent does each option support that senior government commitment to higher order transit?</p> <p>-The reality is that higher order transit will arrive first as an LRT line from Eastgate to McMaster (and then with possible extensions). The identified second priority (likely bus rapid transit) is from downtown to the airport. The other three BLAST lines exist on paper but currently have minimal or no actual ridership. Actual recent enhancement of elements of the BLAST network have been limited to the B and A lines. That is where the investment is going so the key metric is the extent to which each option bolsters ridership on those two lines, and especially on the LRT route.</p> <p>-The key metric is how many kilometres of active transportation travel will each option likely result in. Additionally, to what extent will new active transportation replace single-occupancy vehicle travel? Again these are actual measurable quantities. Important to this component of transportation is the likely cost of providing active transportation facilities that will actually be used, and measuring the extent to which they will be used. The objective here is not just to offer opportunities. It is to achieve a significant modal shift towards lower-energy transportation choices.</p> <p>-Complete Communities: We do know that Hamilton desperately needs more affordable housing, so the criteria should ask which option is more likely to provide that, keeping in mind that the cost of the housing is only one factor in providing appropriate accommodation to lower income residents. Low income precludes private automobile ownership making these residents dependent mainly on transit or active transportation. Distance from suitable employment, social services, essential shopping and other city services are additional key factors affecting the actual useability of housing options for low-income residents.</p>	
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		<p>Agricultural System: Provincial law requires that the city avoid prime agricultural land as much as possible, so every option MUST “prioritize development of areas that are non-prime agricultural” ensuring that the current question can only be answered “yes”. That doesn’t help us compare the two options. The obvious replacement is “how much agricultural land will be lost with each option, and how much of that will be prime agricultural land?”</p> <p>-The second question also must be answered “yes” since it includes pretty much every possible option – avoid, minimize (don’t avoid) and mitigate (reduce impacts when agricultural land is not avoided). It’s hard not to conclude that the first two questions were intentionally constructed to avoid revealing actual impacts on the agricultural system.</p> <p>-And will the evaluation consider the considerable and rapidly growing risks of disruption to food supplies imported from California and other lands that climate change is turning into deserts? How is ‘affordability’ affected by such obvious risks? Probably much before 2051, Hamiltonians will be desperately scrambling for at least affordable food, and quite likely for adequate food (something too many in our community are already struggling to obtain).</p> <p>-The first metric is already governed by city and provincial law. Natural Heritage Systems as identified by the city and the Growth Plan MUST be avoided and protected. However these laws do not successfully protect the ecological integrity of natural heritage features because they allow isolation of these features, cutting them off from the ecological system. So a more appropriate question would be: “which growth option ensures the maximum ecological integrity for wetlands, streams, forests and other natural heritage features.”</p> <p>-Natural Heritage and water sources: Natural Heritage Systems as identified by the city and the Growth Plan MUST be avoided and protected.</p>	
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			<p>However these laws do not successfully protect the ecological integrity of natural heritage features because they allow isolation of these features, cutting them off from the ecological system. So a more appropriate question would be: “which growth option ensures the maximum ecological integrity for wetlands, streams, forests and other natural heritage features.”</p> <p>-Conformity For criteria ten, Conformity with provincial methodology, the draft framework asks just one question: “Has the growth option been assessed in accordance with the Provincial Land Needs Assessment Methodology to determine the quantity of land required to accommodate growth to the planning horizon?” Data source given is “input from city staff, consultant, and the province”.</p> <p>Comments: This theme appears designed to have only one possible answer. City planning staff and their Land Needs Assessment consultant have already provided that answer, and claim that expansion is required by the province. So why is this question here? It appears that it’s purpose is to trump all the other criteria – hence its representation by a check mark – and ensure that the boundary expansion option will be adopted irrespective of the outcome from the other criteria in the evaluation framework. Or at minimum it is here to give the expansion option an advantage over the no expansion option. It is particularly revealing that this is one of the two themes that does not appear in the evaluation framework for where to expand the urban area. Since it is dealing with an actual ‘quantity’ it would appear to be exactly the question that would be applied – comparing various expansion options on the basis of whether they will meet the already decided (as far as staff are concerned) required outcome.</p> <p>I’ve done my best to summarize the points that spoke the most to me. I believe this framework is deeply flawed and needs a complete overhaul. It really seems when reading this that the fix is in.</p>	
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105.	August 17, 2021	Jutten L	<p>I believe the city should strongly consider “climate change “ with regards to the growth and future planning for the city of Hamilton. Focusing on the city’s growth through redeveloping the down town core and limiting carbon emissions from vast car transit to move through the city.</p> <p>I would be interested in see the results of all surveys regarding the city’s growth</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The survey results will be released in September.</p>
106.	August 17, 2021	Megan S	<p>I would like to weigh in on the city of Hamilton's evaluation strategy for the boundary expansion proposal and demand that all development proposals and evaluation must be done not with the climate as a fraction of a whole strategy- but as the encompassing frame that holds all other evaluations.</p> <p>"The proposed framework is far from rigorous, putting the evaluation of climate crisis impacts on par with all other evaluation themes. Urban sprawl fuels climate change and the planet is facing a climate emergency." - Dr. Lynda Lukasik</p> <p>The IPCC declared we are in a "code red" for humanity just this past week. That means we are out of time to be evaluating options that do not immediately halt both emissions- and expansion.</p> <p>We do not need any more deliberation on how urban expansion into surrounding areas might affect our emissions and environment- we know it will be negative. The 10% response rate from the survey sent out on this proposal tells us that an overwhelming amount of your constituents know this. It helps that science also confirms us of this. But in our gut, we know.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>

			<p>The current criteria the city is evaluating seems to sideline the fact that the climate crisis is the biggest threat to humanity we will ever face. You can't weigh that against other themes- it must be what informs all else.</p>	
107.	August 17, 2021	Summer T	<p>The boundary expansion issue is a Climate Emergency issue. Please make no mistake in understanding that the more we pave the more emissions rise. Distant subdivisions are expensive and car dependent. We need more densification in the existing city, steps that Montreal, Calgary and Edmonton are currently undertaking. Poor land use is the key driver of greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of land use will last for centuries.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency should be the main view through which all land use decisions are viewed.</p> <p>The wording of the themes on this framework are so vague that both scenarios can easily earn a passing grade in pretty much every category. We need a much more robust examination than this! It really seems to be worded in such a way that 'ambitious density' will be the obvious choice. Really, it couldn't be more obvious that this is slanted!</p> <p>Both existing and planned transit / public service / infrastructure / transportation infrastructure are all considered equal. Existing and planned is the same as saying existant and non-existent. The only reason they would be given equal weight would be if the fix was in.</p> <p>I'm only 19 and in second year university but I know the difference between vague subjective outcomes and outcomes driven by actual data. Where are the percentages and actual measurements in this framework?</p> <p>EG: "The vast majority of growth will be within the settlement area" is ridiculously subjective. What's your idea of vast? 51%? 98%? Who knows. The question should be "what percentage of growth will occur within the settlement area in either scenario?"</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. In addition, climate change is also addressed in many other themes within the framework including Agricultural system, Complete communities, Natural hazards and Natural Heritage and Water Resources.</p> <p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>Existing and planned infrastructure and transit is the wording from the Growth</p>

			<p>Long and short is that this is an obvious attempt to make the "ambitious density" scenario appear to be on par with No boundary expansion in areas where anyone with a brain could see that Option 2 would be the obvious better choice.</p> <p>My suggestion is "back to the drawing board" and come back with a robust and unbiased framework that is not geared to the lowest common denominator with its grade school dumbing down when what we need is actual hard data.</p>	Plan which guides the evaluation framework.
108.	August 17, 2021	Karen M	<p>Please pass on these comments on the Evaluation Framework to guide Council regarding expanding or not expanding our urban boundary.</p> <p>Our current sprawling, low-density growth pattern in Ontario and Hamilton is not fiscally or environmentally sustainable nor sensible.</p> <p>The 10 categories should be prioritized in this order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural heritage and water resources 2. 3. Climate change 4. Agricultural system 5. 6. 7. Complete communities 8. Transportation system 9. Infrastructure and public services 10. Natural hazards 11. Conformity with provincial methodology 12. Municipal finance 13. Growth allocation 	The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.

			<p>Locking in high GHG emissions in sprawling, car-dependent subdivisions is poor planning for the future.</p> <p>Preserve natural heritage and water resources. Don't expand the City boundary: increase density <i>within</i> the current boundary, by building <i>mid-rise</i>, purpose-built housing in walkable neighbourhoods that regular people can afford.</p>	
109.	August 17, 2021	Ramona J	<p>I am emailing as I believe that "climate change" should be prioritized in the evaluation framework for how Hamilton should grow. If it isn't, I believe that we will be endangering the food security of Hamilton and the people of Ontario for generations. At the same time, we will also be increasing toxic emissions as further development/expansion will invariably lead to greater usage of cars as public transit will not be an option until there is a proven demand for it in these newly developed areas. Similarly, the invariable loss of farmland will also lead to more transportation emissions due to now having to transport goods further.</p> <p>Yes, the other 9 criteria in the evaluation framework are important but they are all linked with the common theme of how they are affecting or are affected by the climate change that we are presently facing.</p>	The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.
110.	August 17, 2021	Lynn G	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Guidelines selected to determine whether the existing Urban Boundary should be expanded to accommodate projected population growth. While I am pleased to see that Climate Change is recognized, it appears to be only one of the several categories being considered, rather than the prime factor. All of the guidelines must be assessed in terms of their impacts on either mitigating or worsening our present carbon footprint.</p> <p>In addition, the findings of the public survey need to be taken in to account in your decision. To ignore citizens input will just heighten community frustration with municipal politicians.</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p> <p>The survey results will be released in September.</p>

			<p>Hamilton's urban boundary needs to stay as it is. Any future decision to build on existing whitebelt farmland must be based on science and not the lobbying skills of developers.</p> <p>Our time has run out for continuing to; destroy agricultural land rather than in increasing national food security, adding to our financial infrastructure debt due to sprawl, and, creating more car dependent suburbs filled with expensive single family houses.</p>	
111.	August 17, 2021	Leo D	<p>I am writing to you as a concerned Hamiltonian.</p> <p>I would like to emphasize the fact regardless of what 'evaluation criteria' are used to determine the need for urban expansion in this community, the protection of our climate and the reality of climate change MUST be the lens through which ANY decisions on urban expansion are both viewed and evaluated.</p> <p>We cannot afford to gamble with the our future by allowing short term financial incentives to compromise the long term necessity of establishing Hamilton as a vibrant, green, livable city for generations to come.</p> <p>We must focus on development that is circumspect and sustainable. We must stop the sprawl.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
112.	August 17, 2021	Brody R	<p>Hello Heather and the GRIDS 2 / MCR team having only been able to briefly go through the report and associated documents, for which I apologize.</p> <p>I want to recognize all of the hard work that has been done so far and the pushes and pulls on the team in developing this project. I am glad it seems that many concerns I understood people to have had previously have been recognized in some way in the report.</p>	<p>Climate change is being considered and addressed as a stand-alone theme area in the How Should Hamilton Grow framework, including GHG emissions modelling of both the No Urban Boundary</p>

			<p>My main concern is that this team of people/contributors is able to keep the climate emergency/associated disruptions/planetary crises at the front of mind when making these assessments. This is so the result of this project is a community that can live as well as possible through some of the worst case scenarios that are being predicted by scientists while providing a healthy fulfilling place for all of our community members including the most vulnerable, which may require examining some of your/our anthropocentric paradigms and biases which can and have hindered this outcome.</p>	<p>Expansion option and the Ambitious Density option. The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
113.	August 18, 2021	G Jon	<p>I am writing to express deep concern for the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundaries. Hamilton can continue to grow sustainably within its existing boundaries.</p> <p>The key criterium to prioritize is climate change within the framework's ten criteria. Expanding into whitelands will negatively affect climate change because it produces more less densely populated suburban areas of predominantly single family homes, dependent on cars and expanded road infrastructure. It is less costly to service a more densely packed city than sparsely inhabited suburbs. Paving over farmland has severe consequences for the environment. Retaining the green belt and farmland will preserve our ecosystem and help feed everyone well into the future.</p> <p>I was born and raised in Hamilton and look forward Hamilton's continued transformation into a more vibrant, thoughtfully planned, more densely packed city, where the proximity of residents will lead to a vibrant street life, the cross-pollination of ideas, and more opportunities for diverse interests to flourish.</p>	<p>The framework does not assign priority to one theme over another, the tool will provide Council with balanced information which Council can use in their decision making process.</p>
114.	August 18, 2021	Alice P (Helping	<p>Thank you for you for considering my thoughts regarding Hamilton’s growth plans. I appreciated reading through the Final Growth Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria. All of the stated criteria are very</p>	<p>Housing affordability is an important factor to be addressed in all future</p>

		<p>Hands Street Mission)</p>	<p>important and I appreciate the thought being put into them all.</p> <p>My thoughts will focus on the Complete Communities Criteria, as that is where my expertise lies. As background, I work day to day with people who are often marginalized due to social and financial poverty issues. At Helping Hands Street Mission, we connect with people who are homeless, who are precariously housed, and living in unfit housing. Many people who are unhoused do not wish to live in a shelter, due to undignified rooming conditions as well as rules that are difficult for them to manage. Many people who are precariously housed face the daily threat of eviction because landlords want them out of their units so that they can renovate them and rent them at much higher rates. Unfit housing in Hamilton runs the range of bug-ridden, leaking, moldy rooms to large families living in small apartments with no private outdoor play areas for young children.</p> <p>As I mentioned in my comments regarding the survey options presented to citizens of Hamilton in July, we live in a country and city where our goal should be to allow each person and family to be able to choose a safe and fit home for themselves according to their preferences and values. For some, this means wanting to live in an apartment in the city, because it’s close to their support networks and other resources they need. These people deserve housing that is kept to humane standards, with hot and cold running water, ceilings or roofs that don’t leak, appliances/fixtures that work and bug treatments provided in a timely manner. Other people value bigger families and space for their children to play indoors and out in safety. These people deserve a house with a yard or neighbouring park, as well as access to public transportation to get to work, grocery shopping and school.</p> <p>This shouldn’t be wishful thinking or utopian dreams. In Canada, we should be able to provide our fellow citizens who are on disability support with a</p>	<p>planning processes. The framework addresses the need to provide housing options for all stages of life and all incomes.</p> <p>Future policy updates to the Official Plan will need to address this issue as well as future Secondary Planning exercise to the best of the City’s ability through the limited tools available.</p>
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			<p>dignified home. We should be able to offer recent immigrants space for their families to flourish.</p> <p>I believe that part of the growth plan for the City of Hamilton should focus on deeply affordable housing for people who are vulnerable and marginalized, in complete communities across the city. As we plan where new housing will go, the conversation should right away include what affordability options will be put in place, and how these options match with the affordability growth need for the city. These plans need to be integrally tied together, so that as we grow, the needs of our vulnerable constituents will be foundationally included in the growth plan. If this does not happen, we will naturally cater just to more and more people from outside our community coming in as housing issues in other cities find their solution in Hamilton. We can't just keep being the affordable option for people from neighbouring cities to come and buy a home. We need to ensure that the vulnerable people of our community find a home right here where they chose to live and/or want to continue to live.</p> <p>This means creating more deep affordability right in the city, by increasing densification in as many ways as possible. But this also means developing the white belt, along with transportation access and options for deep affordability there as well, so that families can choose to live further out as well.</p> <p>I don't have all the solutions, but I do know that something must be done in creative ways to ensure that all people have safe, healthy and flourishing options. No one wants to live in a shelter. No one wants to live in a broken-down, bug-infested room, apartment or house. Everyone wants to choose what is best for themselves and their family. That's not utopia, it's just what's right.</p> <p>Thank you again for the opportunity to share my thoughts. If I can provide further assistance, please feel free to contact me.</p>	
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115.	August 18, 2021	Megan L on behalf of Alectra Utilities and IESO	<p>The IESO and Alectra Utilities would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on your Growth Evaluation Framework. Understanding the limitations of existing service infrastructure is a critical consideration when evaluating approaches to accommodate long-term growth. While the proposed Growth Evaluation Framework identifies key considerations and information sources to account for limitations of water, stormwater, wastewater and waste management infrastructure it currently omits important considerations around the availability of electricity supply as it relates to the growth as well as future efforts in decarbonization (electrification of transportation, fuel switching).</p> <p>There are two regularly occurring electricity planning processes whose products may be suitable to leverage as inputs to your growth evaluation framework. Presently, these processes look to available information on the City’s growth plans and incorporate these, reactively, as inputs when determining the electricity demand forecast for the area for the purpose of assessing needs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Regional Planning Process – develops an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) for the Hamilton area. This process is initiated at least every 5 years, with the next cycle beginning in early 2022. This process involves the IESO, Alectra Utilities and Hydro One, and evaluates regional needs and recommends solutions (e.g. transformer stations, transmission lines, local resources, community based solutions) over a 20 year planning horizon. 2. The electrical Distribution System Planning (DSP) process – develops plans for addressing needs on the electrical distribution system, including work required to support growth and customer connections. This work is lead by Alectra Utilities and is conducted to facilitate customer connections, infrastructure expansion and 	Comments noted and will be considered as part of the future evaluation of growth options.
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			<p>renewal. The planning process is updated every 5 years to develop a five year capital investment plan that paces electrical infrastructure expansion and renewal investments.</p> <p>There are also opportunities, through your continued engagement in these regularly occurring planning processes, to help ensure the scope and outcome of these electricity planning activities can help better inform what distribution or transmission system expansion may be required to accommodate growth. Identifying the cost, timelines, and land-use requirements of any required electricity supply improvements may impact preferences for where and when growth occurs.</p> <p>We are available to discuss these comments, and any other opportunities to improve the integration of municipal and electricity planning, to help better meet the long-term needs of the City of Hamilton.</p>	
116.	August 18, 2021	Alissa D-R	<p>Thank you for forwarding this email to my attention as Chair of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee; which is an advisory committee to City Council. Please note that the following comments are mine alone and do not represent that of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, as neither the Committee nor its Working Groups have had the opportunity to meet to review and provide comment. These comments have also not been endorsed by City Council.</p> <p>After reviewing the <u>revised Final Growth Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria</u>, I would offer the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under Part 2 - “How Should Hamilton Grow?” Evaluation Criteria Themes - Natural Heritage and Water Resources – “Considerations” (page 7): 	Cultural heritage theme added.

			<p>a. Reference could also be made to Cultural Heritage Landscapes (<i>Cultural heritage landscape is defined as a geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Aboriginal community. The area may involve features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. Examples may include, but are not limited to, heritage conservation districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act; villages, parks, gardens, battlefields, mainstreets and neighbourhoods, cemeteries, trailways, viewsheds, natural areas and industrial complexes of heritage significance; and areas recognized by federal or international designation authorities (e.g. a National Historic Site or District designation, or a UNESCO World Heritage Site).</i>)</p> <p>2. Under Part 2 - “How Should Hamilton Grow?” Evaluation Criteria Themes - Natural Heritage and Water Resources – “Data Sources” (Page 7):</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Reference should include for in-put from Heritage Planning Staff and the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Reference should include for use of available heritage mapping, Inventories, Lists and the Municipal Register</p> <p>3. Under Part 3 – Evaluation Approach for Expansion Options, Whitebelt Lands – Step 2” – Whitebelt Evaluation Criteria Themes – Natural Heritage and Water Resources (Pg. 23-24):</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Reference should also include Cultural Heritage Landscapes (as defined above) - or if it would be more</p>	
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			<p style="text-align: center;">appropriate to be included as part of the theme of "Cultural Heritage Resources",</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b. Provide a definition of "Natural Heritage System" and note the difference from "Cultural Heritage Landscape"</p> <p>4. Under Part 3 – Evaluation Approach for Expansion Options, Whitebelt Lands – Step 2” – Whitebelt Evaluation Criteria Themes – Cultural Heritage (Pg. 29):</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. If not listed under Natural Heritage and Water Resources, reference could also include Cultural Heritage Landscapes (as defined above)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Under Cultural Heritage Resources</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. The term “significant” is used. What defines significant?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. The term “designated” heritage properties is currently used in this statement of theme only. This statement should include all status levels (Inventoried, properties located with a Heritage Conservation District and properties listed on the Municipal Register of Non-Designated properties).</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Under “What information will we use”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Include for engagement with local heritage societies and archives (for example: such as that which exists in Waterdown) – Whitebelt areas may have a rich local history that has not yet been fully documented by the City of Hamilton.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Should reference be made to governing law (i.e. The Ontario Heritage Act, etc.)?</p>	
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117.	August 18, 2021	Spence	I would like to express my opinion that the city should take into consideration the survey results that have just been completed by Hamiltonians. The mayor made a comment that this was only supposed to be a survey & not a "referendum" on the issue. If the survey lacks any teeth then why bother to ask citizens what they want. If results are not heeded & implemented then this becomes discouraging for citizen participation.	The survey results will be released in September for Council's information and consideration.
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Stakeholder Comment Summary (August 2021) - REVISED Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria (additional consultation as directed by Council)

Email/Mail Comments

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
1.	August 6, 2021	Bianca Caramento, Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC)	Really pleased to see “Does the growth scenario contribute to the City’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 by providing opportunities for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions?” included in the analysis criteria. Thank you for heeding our input.	Comments noted.
2	August 16, 2021	Michelle Diplock WEHBA	The West End Home Builders’ Association (WE HBA) is the voice of the land development, new housing and professional renovation industries in Hamilton and Halton Region. The WE HBA represents approximately 300 member companies made up of all disciplines involved in land development and residential construction, including: builders, developers, professional renovators, trade contractors, consultants, and suppliers. The residential construction industry employed over 20,180 people, paying \$1.3 billion in wages, and contributed over \$2.3 billion in investment value within the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area in 2020. The WE HBA appreciates the opportunity to provide further feedback on the City of Hamilton’s Final Growth Evaluation Framework. Since our submission on the draft Framework our association has commissioned research into Hamilton’s housing landscape we would like to see reflected in the work the City is doing through the GRIDS 2 / MCR process. In June 2021, our association funded research by the Smart Prosperity Institute, a national research network and policy think tank that delivers world-class research to advance practical policies and market solutions for a stronger, cleaner economy. The Smart Prosperity Institute report - <i>Ontarians on the Move - Local Intelligence Report – Hamilton’s</i> main findings are that:	Comments noted.

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Between 2016 and 2019, Hamilton CMA lost, on net, over 10,000 people to St. Catharines- Niagara, Brantford, and rural Ontario. 2. Despite Ontario’s population adding 80 percent more residents in 2015-20 relative to 2010-15, Hamilton CMA built 2,598 fewer homes (single, semi-detached and row) in 2015-20 relative to 2010-15. 3. Had the growth in housing completions kept up with the changes in Ontario’s population growth, Hamilton CMA would have seen an additional 11,536 single, semi-detached, and row homes built and 349 additional apartment units in 2015-20, relative to what was actually built. 4. Between 2010-15, over 3,500 children under the age of 15 moved to Hamilton CMA from other parts of Ontario. Between 2015-20, this number fell to just over 2,000, an indication that the Hamilton region is becoming a less attractive destination for families with young children. 5. Despite regional population increases, the number of houses built in the Hamilton CMA fell in 2015-20 relative to 2010-15. Too many families chasing too few homes has now led to Hamilton becoming the city with the third worst housing affordability in all of North America, relative to median incomes of households. <p>Our association maintains that the population pressures leading to this point are unlikely to diminish. The outlook for Hamilton region to continue growth in attracting international talent is bright given the Government of Canada’s recently announced immigration targets and the fact that it is home to two leading educational institutions (Mohawk and McMaster). Our concern is that as the housing shortage worsens, it will push up home prices in Hamilton even further, pricing out current residents and causing newcomers to move elsewhere in Ontario as well.</p> <p>A lack of long-term planning of residential housing can lead to pressures on the greenbelt through leapfrog development, transportation-related pollution, and the threat of</p>	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>diminishing protected areas. It also means that a continuous exodus of people from Hamilton to surrounding communities may threaten Hamilton’s ability to attract and retain talent, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and hinder our capacity to adapt to climate change caused by residential planning that does not consider an appropriate balance between our housing supply and growing demand.</p> <p>For this reason, the WE HBA would suggest that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the proposed greenhouse gas emissions modeling, consideration be given for emissions that may be caused by a density scenario—such as no urban boundary expansion—that would continue the existing trend of displacing residents further from their places of work due to a lack of housing that suits their lifecycle needs. • A priority is placed on quickly advancing new housing opportunities throughout the City— including through an urban boundary expansion—to ensure Hamilton continues to develop as a complete community that does not price out young students, families, and workers. <p>Thank you to the City of Hamilton for the work that has been done on this initiative so far. The WE HBA appreciates that planning for growth is a complex and multifaceted process that must balance a wide range of interests. A copy of the Smart Prosperity Institute report <i>Ontarians on the Move - Local Intelligence Report – Hamilton</i> is attached as Appendix A to this letter for your consideration as our city moves through this important growth planning process.</p>	
3	August 16, 2021	Nancy Mott NEC	Further to your emails of July 23 and August 6 regarding the City of Hamilton’s Growth Plan conformity exercise and consideration of options for future urban growth, staff of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) have reviewed City staff report PED17010(l) and Appendices.	Comments noted.

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			<p>NEC staff is not opposed to the evaluation framework proposed by the City as outlined in the staff report. We appreciate that City staff has incorporated the consideration of scenic resources and cultural heritage resources in the evaluation framework for possible urban expansions in Waterdown as these are important policy considerations in the Niagara Escarpment Plan for lands within the Plan Area.</p> <p>We note that a proposal to expand the urban area of Waterdown is included in Appendix D (513, 531 and 537 Dundas Street East). These properties were the subject of a proposed Amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan during the Co-ordinated Provincial Plan Review in 2015 (File No. UA 20). This application was not supported by the NEC and was refused by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. A copy of the staff analysis of the proposal from 2017 is attached for your reference. If the City determined that it did want to endorse adding these properties to the urban area, the Official Plan would have to contain a special policy indicating the land could not be designated as urban until an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan was approved as part of the next Provincial Plan Review in 2025, pursuant to the <i>Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, S.6.1(2.3)</i>.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the GRIDS2 and Municipal Comprehensive Review process.</p>	
4	August 17, 2021	Lynda Lukasik Environment Hamilton	<p>Environment Hamilton has deep concerns about the City of Hamilton Planning & Economic Development Department’s proposed ‘How Should Hamilton Grow’ framework for evaluating the ‘No Urban Boundary’ scenario VS the ‘Ambitious Density’ scenario for urban growth management to the year 2051.</p> <p>Our concerns are rooted in the reality that, up until now, the city has not undertaken any rigorous evaluation of the ‘No Urban Boundary Expansion’ option as a way to manage urban growth into the future, so there has definitely not been a rigorous assessment of this option utilizing a climate lens. In fact, the public has yet to see a rigorous assessment of the climate implications of city planning staff’s recommended</p>	Comments noted. The evaluation framework includes GHG emissions analysis being completed by the City’s Community Energy Plan consultant.

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>‘Ambitious Density Option’ that would see Hamilton expand into most of the municipality’s remaining rural whitebelt lands (an area that it is worth noting is made up of 80%+ prime agricultural land wedged between urban Hamilton and the provincially protected Greenbelt). As a result, the city is moving quickly in the direction of making a binding decision that will lock in urban growth patterns to the Year 2051 without having completed any rigorous evaluation of growth management options using a climate lens. Our deepest fear is that there is simply not the time at this stage to complete an adequately rigorous evaluation prior to the date by which the municipality must conform with provincial planning requirements (July 2022). However, we would argue that this is no reason not to undertake the necessary groundwork and thorough evaluations required to determine the most climate resilient pathway forward. The climate stakes are too high not to get this right!</p> <p>We stand by the process concerns we raised at the August 4th General Issues Committee meeting. The ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ framework was handled differently than the framework designed to facilitate phasing in of urban expansion areas. The public consultation process was a truncated version of the process followed for the expansion framework and, as far as we can tell from the staff report, the ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ framework was not subjected to the same internal staff reviews as the expansion framework. We see no indication that the internal GRIDS 2 MCR steering committee was consulted, nor do we see any indication that the city’s Corporate Climate Change Task Force was consulted regarding the evaluation framework and this concerns us greatly. Further, there were not outcomes emerging out of the August 4th GIC meeting to rectify this reality. Our understanding at this point is that the framework and any modifications to it will be handled by city planning staff responsible for urban growth management planning.</p>	

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			<p>While we appreciate the additional time offered to the public to provide more detailed input on the ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ framework, we remain concerned that it now appears to be down to the community to provide feedback in order to address the shortcomings of this critically important evaluation tool. And we note that the offer of 10 additional days in August for the same limited list of community members on the GRIDS2-MCR email list does not do anything to address the public consultation shortcomings we have identified above. But this is where we find ourselves with this process so we are providing additional input for planning staff to consider although we fear that our input will profoundly change the course of this process or its outcomes.</p> <p>Detailed Comments on the city’s proposed ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ Framework</p> <p>For detailed comments on the city’s proposed ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ framework, we refer to the very thorough submission prepared by Don McLean. We have reviewed and we concur with the questions and concerns raised by Don in his response to the draft framework prepared by city planning staff and consultants. The issue of the ‘How Should Hamilton Grow?’ evaluation framework is serving to amplify the troubling reality that the City of Hamilton’s efforts to date to explore the implications of the climate crisis, and to plan for effective mitigation and adaptation measures moving forward remain deeply inadequate at this point in time.</p> <p>In order to explain why we believe the position Hamilton finds itself in right now is so problematic, we have prepared a chronological case study of how the City of Edmonton has approached planning for climate mitigation and adaptation in a manner that integrates urban growth management as one of many critical components being assessed using a climate lens. The Edmonton approach to evaluating urban growth management has unfolded over many years and was built on several key foundational plans designed to inform and facilitate the ability of</p>	










#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>Edmonton to become a climate resilient city. In stark contrast, Hamilton is nearing the end of an urban growth management exercise without the benefit of the foundational pieces that jurisdictions like Edmonton have developed and utilized for the express purpose of guiding efforts to thoroughly evaluate various urban growth scenarios for climate implications. In Hamilton, foundational pieces like climate adaptation and action plans, or community energy & emissions plans either do not exist yet, are not being contemplated at all, or are currently underway but will not be completed in time to inform Hamilton’s urban growth management process. This, in our opinion, has resulted in the creation of a significant barrier to achieving a comprehensive and meaningful evaluation of the two growth management options at this moment in time. One need only look at the efforts that the City of Edmonton has undertaken since 2015 to see what we mean and why we are concerned. Hamilton should be charting a similar path that involves careful foundational work to understand the climate crisis context we find ourselves in, followed by efforts to map out an approach to urban growth management that is effectively informed by these understandings.</p> <p>Lessons learned from the City of Edmonton</p> <p>The City of Edmonton is growing and, subsequently, has taken a myriad of steps to figure out how best to proceed to accommodate that growth in light of the climate emergency our planet faces. Edmonton expects to reach a population of 2 million by 2065. Its carbon budget makes it clear that Edmonton cannot continue to grow in the manner that it has been growing. So Edmonton has made some bold decisions and bold plans. If these bold decisions and plans are adhered to, the city will accommodate 2 million people within a geographic area twice the size of Hamilton. That suggests that, if Hamilton embraced a similar approach, we could accommodate as many as 1 million people within our existing urban area. But we are being told that the idea of accommodating 820,000 people within our current urban area is untenable.</p>	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>We suspect that the in-depth planning and analysis undertaken by the City of Edmonton is what has led that city to recognize that a compact, climate resilient future is what makes most sense moving forward and that this future is totally viable, even essential. In glaring contrast, the City of Hamilton does not currently possess the in-depth understanding of what a climate resilient pathway forward could and must look like. We find ourselves without the in-depth information we need to effectively guide urban growth management planning via a climate lens at a point when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued the most dire report it ever has regarding the climate crisis and the need to realize significant greenhouse gas emission reductions immediately.</p> <p>The remainder of this submission focuses on plans and approaches embraced by the City of Edmonton. These efforts are presented chronologically to provide some understanding of how the pieces have evolved and been utilized over time. Some detail is provided regarding climate-related considerations that have been taken into account by Edmonton along the way. There are many considerations that we do not believe the City of Hamilton has even begun to look at and we are left wondering if and when such work will be done.</p> <p>Chronological Summary of Approach Utilized by City of Edmonton</p> <p>Right from the start of its urban growth management process, the City of Edmonton included a central focus on climate and on analysing the climate impacts of the various growth scenarios under consideration. But Edmonton’s urban growth evaluation process did not begin until <i>after some essential foundational work</i> was undertaken to develop an equivalent to Hamilton’s Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) and a climate adaptation and action plan.</p> <p>A chronology of key milestones in Edmonton is provided below along with climate and planning related highlights to to illustrate the point that planning for climate</p>	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>resilience requires an integrated approach supported by foundational climate-related plans. The City of Hamilton currently lacks these plans and is subsequently limited in its ability to undertake a rigorous assessment of urban growth management scenarios using a climate lens.</p> <p>2015 – City of Edmonton establishes Energy Transition Advisory Committee</p> <p>REPORT – April 2015 – first version of Community Energy Transition Strategy developed.</p> <p>Edmonton’s Community Energy Transition Strategy contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A DIAGNOSIS of the energy and climate challenges we face along with the related opportunities (Part 2); TWELVE STRATEGIC COURSES OF ACTION for addressing challenges and opportunities (Part 3); and, AN EIGHT-YEAR ACTION PLAN establishing the first step (2014-2017) and signaling the second step (2018-2021) of Edmonton’s energy transition journey. <p>The action plan establishes 7 opportunity areas – including ‘Land Use, Transportation & Development’ which comes with the following introduction:</p> <p><i>Research shows that energy used for transportation increases as a city becomes more spread-out and as housing, jobs, shopping, recreation and community destinations become more dispersed. Modeling performed for this strategy confirmed this relationship. It was determined that Edmonton could reduce its GHG emissions by 4% by 2035 (compared to the Reference Case) if it were able to attract a greater proportion of development to mixed-use and</i></p>	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p><i>transit-oriented neighbourhoods within already-developed areas of the City (with the aim that by 2050, 40% of new development would be occurring in already developed areas of the city).</i></p> <p>The opportunity areas include ‘tactics’ – detailed actions set out under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential Infill: Encourage and actively facilitate development of more new housing in Edmonton’s mature and established neighbourhoods -Transit Oriented Development: Capitalize on the opportunity for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to accommodate growth in Edmonton’s existing neighbourhoods. -Transformational Mixed-Use Developments: Capitalize on opportunities for transformational developments to accommodate growth in Edmonton’s mature areas – Downtown, Blatchford, The Quarters and West Rosedale. - Expand LRT: Encourage mode shift from single occupancy vehicles by expanding LRT - Biking: Expand on-street biking facilities to make active transportation safer and more convenient. - Sidewalks and Paths: Expand Edmonton’s sidewalks and shared-use paths to make active transportation safer and more convenient. - Transportation Marketing: Inform and influence Edmontonians about the advantages of sustainable transportation. - Parking Strategies: Assess and implement parking strategies in commercial corridors and transit oriented development areas. - Car Sharing: Encourage car-share programs in Edmonton 	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required
			<p>REPORT – November 2018 – Climate Resilient Edmonton – Adaptation Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>Note that planning-related factors are integrated throughout Edmonton’s Adaptation Strategy & Action Plan, with a commitment to consider climate mitigation and adaptation as a central goal of planning, design, and development approval policies. This foundational plan sets out 5 paths to a climate resilient Edmonton. Each path has associated actions and goals. Of particular note is Goal 2 – which falls under Path 1 – Science & Evidence Based Decisions.</p> <div data-bbox="661 675 1451 753" style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px;"> <p>GOAL 2: Edmonton is planned, designed, developed and built to be climate resilient today and for future Edmontonians</p> </div> <p>ACTION 4: The City of Edmonton in partnership with community stakeholders develops and integrates climate adaptation and resilience standards into urban and strategic planning, design, and development approval processes</p> <p>Description: To increase the resilience of our built urban environment, we will integrate climate adaptation and resilience into key city planning and development processes, policies and standards. This includes participation in federal and provincial initiatives such as building code updates.</p> <hr/> <p>ACTION 5: The City of Edmonton conducts climate change impact assessments on existing assets, ongoing maintenance programs, planned retrofits, and new infrastructure developments</p> <p>Description: We will develop a process for Edmonton to apply a climate lens risk management approach so that we can then access federal infrastructure funding. Beyond that, this action includes asset level climate resilient assessments and improvements to support climate resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Table 8 – Climate Resilient Edmonton Action Plan — see pages 37-38 in the report.</p>	

#	Date:	Name /Organization	Comment:	Staff Response / Action Required																				
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		<p>REPORT - August 2019 – Developing Three Distinct Evaluation Scenarios for City of Edmonton</p> <p>In each of the evaluation scenarios the allocation of land use and population was informed by these inputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Rationale for future land use allocation 2 Research on specific elements such as nodes and corridors, planning districts, climate impact analysis and mass transit <p>Land Use Rationale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Maintain population growth within existing urban boundary 2 Maintain & increase access to greenspace in Edmonton 3 Need for greater integration and connected thinking of/for places, systems, networks 4 Increase development potential within the city by rebuilding and repurposing spaces 5 Diversify Edmonton’s economy <p>The City Plan team incorporated the help of modelling software to understand the effects of the land use and transportation interaction for each of the evaluation scenarios. The modelling tools produced a range of conditions that could be expected if Edmonton followed a specific growth pattern set for each of the evaluation scenarios.</p> <p>In order to visualize the evaluation scenarios, the modelling tools use real-world data inputs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ existing plans and land use policies in effect that included approvals or targets, ▪ existing and proposed road and transit infrastructure, ▪ municipal survey and federal census data, and ▪ future projections for economic, demographic and employment growth. <p>These inputs were processed using several modelling software platforms in order to create a future projection of land use and transportation for each evaluation</p>	
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			<p>scenario. Once the modelling tools finished working through the data, City staff and consultants interpreted the information to inform the following topics relevant to the City Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ expected land use changes, ▪ housing mix at a district and city wide level, ▪ population distribution, ▪ transportation network performance, transit ridership, travel times, ▪ greenhouse gas emissions, and ▪ effects to natural areas and energy use. <p>August 2019 – Edmonton <i>declares a Climate Emergency</i> & Council directs staff to UPDATE the city’s 2015 ‘Community Energy Transition Strategy’.</p> <p>REPORT – November 2019 – Edmonton CityPlan Scenarios - Climate Vulnerability Cost Assessment</p> <p>‘In 2018 the City of Edmonton released <i>Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan</i>. This document outlines a pathway towards climate resilience for Edmonton—i.e., to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from the anticipated impacts of climate change. It is complementary to the <i>Community Energy Transition Strategy</i>, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Edmonton. As part of the evidence gathering process to inform <i>Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan</i>, an Edmonton-specific vulnerability and risk assessment was conducted, which measured potential risks and opportunities associated with current and future climate conditions in Edmonton. This included analyses of expected economic (damage) costs for Edmonton—estimated to amount to about \$18.2 billion (2016 dollars) annually by the end of the century.’</p> <p>The purpose of this document is to extend the analysis, where possible, to:</p>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the Evaluation Scenarios to determine the relative climate-related costs arising under each scenario, as well as relative to the Business As Usual (BAU) Scenario; and • Second, the Draft Recommended Land Use Concept to determine the relative climate-related costs arising under this scenario relative to the BAU Scenario. <p>Anticipated changes in Edmonton’s climate include:</p> <p>Warmer temperatures: Mean temperatures are projected to increase in all seasons, with the largest temperature increase projected for the winter months (December to February).</p> <p>Increased precipitation: Mean precipitation is projected to increase significantly in the spring season, and modestly in the winter and fall seasons; projected changes in summer precipitation are negligible.</p> <p>Hotter drier summers: Substantial increases in temperature, coupled with essentially no change in summer precipitation, and significant evapotranspiration, will result in hotter, drier summers.</p> <p>Warmer wetter winters: Both mean winter temperature and mean winter precipitation are projected to increase significantly, leading to warmer wetter winters.</p> <p>More extreme precipitation: Warming temperatures increase the water holding capacity of the atmosphere, which supply storms, resulting in more intense rainfall events and ultimately to flooding.</p> <p>Extreme weather events: Increasing frequency, and in some cases severity, of extreme weather events such as windstorms, lightning, freezing rain and heavy snow.</p> <p>These changes will have a range of consequences for Edmonton’s buildings, infrastructure, municipal services, public health & safety, natural environment, economy and quality of life. The severity and likelihood of a selection of future climate-related consequences for Edmonton were evaluated through a vulnerability</p>	

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			<p>and risk assessment (VRA), which also included analyses of associated economic costs (as mentioned above). Climate-related risks and associated costs were measured for three impact pathways, for 17 climate stressors (or ‘hazards’) and for 20 asset and service areas of the city (see Box 1). In addition, the impact of gradual climate change for projected space heating and cooling demand in Edmonton was quantified as part of the assessment.</p> <p>Scope of Vulnerability & Risk Assessment?</p> <p>The impact pathways considered were: direct physical damage to the exposed ‘asset’ (man-made, natural, people); indirect service losses resulting from damage to that exposed ‘asset’, where relevant; and direct service losses resulting from exposure of a vulnerable service flow to climate hazards irrespective of damage to the ‘asset’ which provides that service.</p> <p>The climate hazards considered were: extreme heat, urban flooding, timing of frost free season, wildland-urban interface fire, drought, low flow in river, extreme cold, freeze thaw cycles, heavy snow, rain on snow, freezing rain, blizzard, river flooding, high winds, hail, lightning strikes and tornado.</p> <p>Assets and services considered, included, for example: residential buildings, commercial premises, water and sanitation infrastructure, electricity infrastructure, people, ecosystems, urban forests, road transportation and LRT.</p> <p>The climate hazards considered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extreme heat, - urban flooding, - timing of frost-free season, - wildland-urban interface fire, - drought, - low flow in river, - extreme cold, - freeze thaw cycles, - heavy snow, 	

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			<p>The CityInSight model was used to calculate projections of GHG emissions and energy consumption for each of the scenarios. CityInSight uses activity data for buildings, transportation and energy generation by geographic areas in order to calculate energy consumption and GHG emissions annually until 2065. For this analysis, the City Plan team provided population and employment projections and travel demand origin-destination matrices at a traffic analysis zone level as inputs into CityInSight for each scenario.</p> <p>In addition to the population and employment projections, SSG also incorporated the actions developed and evaluated as a component of Edmonton’s Energy Transition Plan update into the Preferred Scenario analysis. In CityInSight these actions were modelled to take effect at various time horizons, with timelines reflecting an attempt to keep within the 1.5 degree budget. These actions² include the following assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the energy performance of new dwellings and non-residential space to net zero by 2030; - retrofitting all pre-2017 dwellings and commercial buildings with energy savings of 50% by 2050; - scaled fuel switching buildings to electric heat pumps; -scaled increase in solar and wind generation; -adding energy storage; -electrifying transit by 2030; -increasing walking and cycling infrastructure; -new personal vehicle sales are 100% electric by 2030; and -decreasing waste consumption. <p>Each scenario was then evaluated in terms of its impacts on buildings, transportation, energy systems and GHG emissions.</p>	

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			<p>REPORT – April 2021 – <u>REVISED Community Energy Transition Strategy</u></p> <p>Revised plan includes ‘four interconnected pathways which are built on a foundation of climate solution leadership’. ‘The pathways represent bold and brave actions, and are grounded in the principles of prosperity, just and equitable, urgent and dynamic, collaborative and transformative. The interconnected pathways are’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Renewable and Resilient Energy Transition that attracts the next generation of energy innovators to the region while transitioning Edmonton to 100% decarbonized energy. - A Low Carbon City and Transportation that continues to build on the transformative city building efforts outlined in The City Plan and those that are currently underway such as the Blatchford carbon neutral development. - Emission Neutral Buildings that are highly energy efficient, powered by renewable energy, and create a thriving energy efficiency industry. - Carbon Capture and Nature Based Solutions that catalyze innovative technology and efforts to make a greener and healthier city 	

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			<p>PATHWAY #3: LOW CARBON CITY AND TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Goal: Edmonton is planned, designed and built to be a vibrant carbon neutral city</p> <p>Strategy 14: Ensure sustainable urban planning practices to become a carbon neutral city.</p> <p>Strategy 15: Ensure low carbon districts with complete and compact communities</p> <p>Strategy 16: Support initiatives that allow all Edmontonians to have access to the benefits and opportunities of a vibrant low carbon city</p> <p>Goal: Safe and accessible zero emission mobility</p> <p>Strategy 17: Ensure a safe, accessible, and comfortable active transportation system that enhances walking and cycling.</p> <p>Strategy 18: Ensure the establishment and expansion of a zero emissions public transit system that is safe, convenient, reliable and connected across the Edmonton region.</p> <p>Strategy 19: Support the transition to electric and other zero emission vehicles.</p> <p>Strategy 20: Support the changing transportation system needs of a low carbon city.</p> <p>Goal: Edmontonians reduce consumption based emissions by supporting local businesses</p> <p>Strategy 21: Promote a circular economy that reduces consumption based carbon emissions.</p> <p>Strategy 22: Support a low carbon resilient food system.</p> <p>More on A Low Carbon City & Transportation:</p> <p>This pathway will see Edmonton with city districts that are carbon neutral by 2050, 50% of growth occurring as infill development, and the complete build out of the active transportation network by 2030. This pathway helps create the city that is attractive to top global employers by providing the lifestyle their employees are looking for. This pathway will see 50% of trips made by transit and active transportation by 2040, development and redevelopment that creates 15 minute communities with a nodes and corridor approach, and a city with a completed zero emission vehicle charging network by 2030. This pathway could achieve up to 28% of the needed emission reductions and would require an approximate average of \$45 million in annual public and private investment over the next 30 years, with a \$1.2</p>	

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			billion in local infrastructure investment required over the next 10 years. The level of public investment required will depend on the Levers of Change that are applied to achieve this pathway. (Excerpt from Page 21 of report – emphasis in original)	