




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	November 5, 2024
SUBJECT:	Public Consultation - Draft Framework for Processing & Evaluating Urban Boundary Expansion Applications
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Anita Fabac Acting Director of Planning, Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

Background:

The purpose of this Communications Update is to inform Council that engagement activities are moving forward following Council's approval on October 23, 2024, of a Consultation and Engagement Plan on the Draft Framework for Processing & Evaluating Urban Boundary Expansion Applications.

The City's dedicated webpage Urban Boundary Expansion (UBE) Application Framework on [Engage Hamilton](#) is now live and includes various infographics, a short video and opportunities for residents to comment directly on the Draft Framework. The consultation materials inform residents of the Provincial policy and legislative decisions that have opened the door for urban boundary expansion applications, how these changes undermine Council's position of maintaining a firm urban boundary and how the City is responding with the Draft Framework to create a rigorous review process that reflects the City's priorities.

Open House Locations and Times

The City will be holding four Open Houses on the following dates and locations:

In-Person Open House:

- Tuesday November 26, 2024: Hamilton Convention Centre, between 12:00pm and 9:00pm

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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- Thursday November 28, 2024: Ancaster High Secondary School, between 6:00pm and 9:00pm
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024: Gatestone Elementary School, between 6:00pm and 9:00pm

Virtual Open House:

- Thursday, December 5, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm (meeting link will be posted on the Engage Hamilton webpage)

Notification Methods

Public notification about the upcoming open houses will include:

- Letters to property owners within and near the white belt area (over 7,000 properties).
- E-mail to residents that participated in GRIDS2 consultations as well as Our Future Hamilton group.
- City of Hamilton social media posts.
- Paid advertisements/notices in newspapers.

Key Messages

The following key messages are provided for Council and will be discussed at the Open Houses:

- **Provincial Policy Changes Have Shifted How Urban Growth is Managed**
 - The Province of Ontario has changed the rules about urban growth, allowing applicants to attempt to expand urban boundaries and potentially making it harder for cities to manage growth according to their own plans.
- **The City of Hamilton Has Supported a Firm Urban Boundary and Responsible Growth**
 - Despite the numerous Provincial changes, the City of Hamilton has supported a firm urban boundary, prioritizing growth within the existing urban area.
- **Hamilton is Developing a Framework to Manage Urban Boundary Expansion Applications**
 - City staff have drafted a clear and rigorous process for reviewing urban boundary expansion applications, including opportunities for public input.

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- **The City Values Your Voice and Wants You to Help Shape Hamilton's Future**
 - The City wants to hear from residents about their priorities and concerns related to notice and engagement on urban boundary expansion applications and identifying additional studies required as part of the application process. The City will use that feedback to inform the final Framework.

Please contact Anita Fabac, Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner with any questions at Anita.Fabac@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1258 or Charlie Toman, Program Lead – Policy Planning & Municipal Comprehensive Review at Charlie.Toman@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5863.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES – N/A