

Public Engagement Summary

After the September 2023 presentation of Report PED23105 for the draft Major Transit Station Areas, Planning Division staff and Dillon Consulting initiated a period of hybrid consultation on the initial findings with the public, interested community organizations and committees, and internal City staff. The intent of the consultation activities was to:

- **INFORM:** provide details to interested parties about the Major Transit Station Area project, legislative context, relationship to other city initiatives, and how it has evolved over time
- **CONSULT:** gather feedback from participants about their impressions of the initial findings from Dillon's 2023 Major Transit Station Areas report (Appendix "A" to Report PED23105), including the boundary delineations, density outputs, as well as considerations that staff should keep in mind to ensure the areas develop as complete communities over time.

Notice of public engagement opportunities was shared through the following:

- Email to Councillors for Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 on October 3, 2023;
- Email to GRIDS2/MCR mailing list on October 4, 2023 (720 recipients);
- Digital signage at Hamilton Public Library locations starting October 3, 2023;
- Poster distribution to all municipal service centres, recreation centres, and library locations on October 4, 2023;
- Digital ads on TheSpec.com and TheWeatherNetwork.com from October 5, 2023 – November 1, 2023; and,
- Hamilton Spectator ads on October 7, 2023, and October 12, 2023.

The following sections describe the engagement methods utilized to share information and consult on the early Major Transit Station Areas findings in 2023:

Online Engagement – Engage Hamilton

An Engage Hamilton project webpage (<https://engage.hamilton.ca/mtsa>) was launched on September 26, 2023, and remained active with engagement tools until December 5, 2023. Approximately 1,550 page visits were made during the consultation timeframe. The Engage Hamilton webpage for Major Transit Station Areas included the following tools:

- Interactive StoryMap – Dillon Consulting created an ESRI Story Map to describe the Major Transit Station Areas project and opportunities for users to explore the layers of mapping boundaries for each Major Transit Station Area.
- Konveio Document Viewer – the Dillon Consulting 2023 Major Transit Station Areas report was posted for review, and the Konveio tool allowed for users to comment on specific elements of the document.
- Comment Submission Form: Staff provided a simple comment submission form that allowed individuals to comment on a specific Major Transit Station Area, or a general comment about the project itself.

Open House Meetings – Virtual and In-Person

Three Open House opportunities were held to share information about the Major Transit Station Areas project history and intent, provide opportunity for public comments on the initial density results, and a chance to discuss the project with City staff and Dillon Consulting. Information was shared through a series of printed panels, and a large roll-out map that illustrated the Major Transit Station Area delineations. Open house events were held on the following dates:

- October 10, 2023 - Virtual Open House, WebEx – 26 participants;
- October 12, 2023 - In-Person Open House #1, Hamilton Central Library – 8 participants; and,
- October 17, 2023 - In-Person Open House #2, Dr. John M. Perkins Centre – 10 participants.

At both the in-person and online meetings, staff from different project areas across the corporation were invited to attend, including Light Rail Transit staff, Zoning By-law Reform staff, and Hamilton Street Railway staff. The intent of providing these additional staff resources at the meetings was to ensure that engaged participants could ask a broad range of questions that related to development around transit, and transit services themselves.

Public Engagement - Key Insights

Public who participated in the various engagement methods provided a range of feedback to staff about the draft Major Transit Station Areas findings. The following is a summary of the key insights that were noted from participants:

- More opportunities for mid-rise development are needed in lower city;
- Some areas have more capacity for intensification than shown in the modelling;
- Boundaries should capture underutilized sites for development;
- Affordable housing needs to be prioritized in these areas as they redevelop, and collaboration is needed with housing service providers; and,
- Strategic planning permissions for the whole of the affected lower city area should be developed to streamline applications for development.

External Organization Consultation

Planning Division staff sought out feedback on the draft Major Transit Station Areas findings from interested community organizations and service providers, as well as the development industry and businesses.

Staff Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with staff in the Planning Division, Growth Management Division, Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Public Works Department and Legal Services.

Upcoming Consultation

Subsection 26(3)(b) requires that a Special Meeting of Council be held, open to the public, to discuss revisions that may be required. Notice of the Special Meeting must be published at least once a week in two separate weeks, with the last notice published at least 30 days before the date of the meeting in accordance with subsection 26(4).

At least one Open House shall also be held for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to review and ask questions about the information and material and shall be held no later than seven days before the public meeting.