

Attachment 1

December 2020 status of recommendations from the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild's report COVID-19: Impacts and Opportunities

This table provides updates on any significant changes to the status of the TORR recommendations attached to the City Manager's report to City Council in October 2020. Unless otherwise noted in the table below, the information in Attachment 3: Disposition of COVID-19: Impact and Opportunities Report Recommendations (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-157348.pdf>) remains current.

Recommendations referred to the Medical Officer of Health continue to be implemented with most recommendations already underway. Most updates describe preliminary work undertaken by staff since the October 2020. Some indicate intergovernmental or other developments, where Council direction or further research or engagement may be required and if reports are being prepared by City divisions for City Council.

TORR Recommendations

| # | Recommendation | Update |
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| 9 | Advocate for priority testing in high-needs areas and for the exploration of alternate testing methods in suitable circumstances, such as rapid tests or saliva tests. | PFR is supporting this recommendation through the provision of space at its recreational facilities in high needs areas of the City |
| 29 | Identify affordable housing projects with the provincial and federal governments and establish dedicated and appropriate funding to develop more modular housing units and accelerate the supply of additional housing units to assist in moving people from shelters into permanent and affordable housing. | <p>The Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) was announced by the Government of Canada on September 21, 2020. RHI will deliver \$1 billion in grant funding nationally to rapidly create new affordable rental housing in response to the urgent housing needs of vulnerable and marginalized individuals.</p> <p>On October 27, 2020 the Government of Canada announced \$203,265,729 in capital funding to the City of Toronto to create a minimum of 417 units of new permanent affordable housing. This funding will be transferred to the City in full upon the successful</p> |

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| | | <p>execution of an agreement with CMHC. City staff will need to develop and submit an investment plan before November 27, 2020 outlining the capital projects that will be built/secured with the RHI allocation in order to confirm the take-up of funds. Construction must be completed within 12 months (and by no later than December 31, 2021)</p> <p>The RHI program funding is required to be used to develop affordable housing through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of land and construction of modular housing; • Acquisition of land and existing buildings for the purpose of conversion; and • Acquisition of land and rehabilitation of housing. |
| 30 | Accelerate targeted funding towards identified affordable housing project opportunities for Indigenous people, as approved by Council in December 2019. | Priority groups to be housed in the Rapid Housing Initiative described above include women; seniors; people with disabilities; young adults; Indigenous Peoples (15% target); Black People; racialized groups; people dealing with mental health and addiction issues; veterans; LGBTQ2+ people; recent immigrants or refugees; and people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. |
| 31 | Explore opportunities to expand the definitions of "Municipal Uses" to include affordable housing, supportive housing, long-term care facilities and public schools, freeing space for additional housing by increasing density above existing and future community infrastructure to realize previously unavailable opportunities, while enhancing green space. | City Planning would need to undertake a review around the appropriateness of the intensification on a site by site basis prior to consideration of expansion of the "Municipal Uses". As noted in Rec. 31 sites that are not designated for Parks and Open space uses could be considered for a broader definition of Municipal Uses, assuming that City Planning supports the intensification. |
| 32 | Aim to fully deploy the City's assets to develop additional affordable housing units while also improving the conditions of assets, | City Planning and Parks, Forestry & Recreation will explore opportunities for intensification on existing community centre sites where such sites are not designated for Open Space purposes. |

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| | for example, identifying housing opportunities on existing community centre sites. | |
| 36. | Make it easier for vulnerable people and community groups in using City-owned spaces in a safe, inclusive manner, including office buildings, parks, Toronto Community Housing facilities, recreation centers and libraries, so that individuals can gain internet access, helping to bridge the digital divide that exists for many households and neighbourhoods, and so that there are spaces for groups to organize and engage communities in recovery. Work with school boards and faith groups to identify opportunities to combine programs and better utilize public assets and to create new opportunities for the accessible, safe and inclusive access to space for not-for profit groups and vulnerable community agencies, not just in the downtown core. | <p>The City's Technology Services Division will be making recommendations to Council on ConnectTO, a program that, through a collaboration with the private sector, aims to centralize stewardship of municipal resources and assets to deliver the City's goals on equity and connectivity. The goal of the program is to provide the City with a direct voice in where broadband internet is delivered and reduce internet costs for vulnerable residents. A report on this program is on the December 10 Executive Committee agenda.</p> <p>PFR is seeking to secure funding through the 2021 budget process to advance the WiFi in Community Centres Project.</p> <p>PFR has developed a Winter Plan with enhanced maintenance of destination and high profile parks, additional opportunities for residents to use parks and greenspaces safely and program activations for when the provincial and local restrictions are removed.</p> |
| 51 | Assess the feasibility and financial implications of creating a rate capping approach or other methods to address volatility impacts of MPAC tax assessments on small businesses | <p>In 2018 and each following year, Council, in adopting tax capping policies, took steps to mitigate extraordinary tax increases by limiting tax increases to 10% of the prior year's annualized taxes, and by offering tax capping protection to all non-residential properties, regardless of whether they had reached full CVA taxation levels in a prior year.</p> <p>Staff will evaluate capping options for 2021 with a view to addressing the volatility of tax assessments on small businesses, including the option of adopting a small commercial subclass, introduced by the Province in November.</p> |

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| 52 | Assess the feasibility and financial implications associated with creating additional tax bands for commercial properties to reduce or prevent additional tax burdens on main street locations | <p>The current 2 Bands graduated tax rates were adopted for the residual commercial tax class (which excludes large office towers, large shopping centres, parking lots and large sports facilities), in order to provide some relief to small properties. The tax rate differential between Band 1 (the first \$1 million) and Band 2 (assessment over \$1 million) rates in 2020 is approximately 10%.</p> <p>The provincial budget announcement provided a new authority for municipalities to adopt and design a special tax subclass for small business properties to allow reduced tax rates to apply to eligible properties. Municipalities have the option to establish the eligibility criteria and introduce a small business property tax subclass. Graduated tax rates are one of the options of providing relief to small business properties, which will be re-evaluated in 2021, together with the new option for establishing a small business tax subclass. Each of those options is to be revenue neutral for the City, and larger commercial properties are taxed at a higher rate in order to provide relief for the small ones.</p> <p>Staff will consult with stakeholders and evaluate the option of establishing a small business tax class and will assess the feasibility and implications of graduated tax rates versus adoption of a small business class and provide recommendations.</p> |
| 55 | Formalize the application of a climate lens, alongside equity analysis, in any decisions around infrastructure stimulus funding to ensure climate risks and opportunities are appropriately factored into decision-making in order to meet Toronto's net zero goals. | Development continues to apply a climate lens in City decision making with an initial focus on capital projects. Preliminary outputs from a foundational climate lens implementation will be presented as part of the 2021 budget process, and subsequent iterations will be applied in 2021. |
| 56 | Develop project ideas, with haste, from the City for infrastructure funding support from the federal government in its recently announced COVID-19 Resilience Funding Stream, which | Staff are reviewing the City's capital plan and opportunities to take advantage of the COVID-19 Resilience Funding Stream. |

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| | <p>should incorporate ideas quickly undertaken in the crisis as they address the mobility limitations for frontline workers and those over-represented in essential services, among other areas. Improving access to mobility solutions enhances ability to participate in the labour force and contributes to growth and prosperity.</p> | <p>The provincial intake for the COVID-19 Resilience Funding Stream opened the week of November 16th with single project submissions due by December 21, 2020 and multiple project applications are due by January 7, 2020.</p> <p>Eligible project categories include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community, recreation, health and education renovations 2. COVID-19 response infrastructure (e.g., to enable physical distancing) 3. Active transportation projects (e.g., parks, trails) 4. Disaster mitigation, adaptation, remediation (e.g., flood mitigation) |
| 57 | <p>In addition, proactively prepare a comprehensive infrastructure proposal for Toronto with projects that address resilience and equity, especially considering impacts on Indigenous communities and the Black community. The proposal should partner with labour and trade unions, City agencies and the TTC, among others. This proposal should have a retraining and reskilling component.</p> | <p>This recommendation is being considered as part of the development of the City's renewed intergovernmental strategy. Currently, staff are evaluating capital projects in the City's 10-year Capital Plan with a resilience and equity lens. City infrastructure project teams are also considering how to leverage community benefits including retraining and reskilling.</p> |
| 58 | <p>To be competitive in bandwidth-intensive industries, high speed, VPN infrastructure is needed in Toronto. The City can partner with industry leaders to deliver such infrastructure.</p> | <p>Same report as described in Rec #36 – this aspect would be covered in the overall connectivity work.</p> |
| 59 | <p>Accelerate or make permanent transit initiatives the City undertook quickly to support crisis response and restart, such as instituting priority bus lanes, improved cycling infrastructure, expansion of bike share and weekend recreational street closures, among others.</p> | <p>Infrastructure and Environment Committee at its meeting on November 5 considered the MoveTO 2021-25 – Congestion Management Interim Action Plan and Non-Competitive Contract for Smart Signals report. This plan proposes that staff build on the existing Smart Commute program to provide additional supports to employers and to develop a strategy to improve the toolset</p> |

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| | | available to the City of Toronto and boost the depth of engagement with major employers. |
| 60 | Consider initiating an effective and actionable partnership with all governments that recognizes the interconnected and regional nature of transit in the GTHA and investigates a more regionalized model of transit delivery, with enhance and dedicated revenue tools. | The Province through phase 2 of the Safe Restart transit funding has signalled an interest to discuss how to optimize transit through new regional approaches. The City is currently in discussions with municipal counterparts in the region. |
| 61 | Accelerate efforts and implementation on the City's surface transit network plan to identify transit priority corridors, applying an equity lens as a key siting criterion. | Executive Committee, at its meeting on November 18, 2020 will be considering the draft Surface Network Transit Plan. This sets out a proposed prioritization framework, draft proposed list and draft implementation schedule for surface transit priority corridors across the City. Consultation will be undertaken in the Spring of 2021 and the final report will be returning the Executive Committee and City Council for approval. |
| 66 | Look for opportunities to enhance future access for those least able to access greenspace. | PFR has enhanced washroom access in parks ahead of the Winter season. |
| 67 | Consider developing a Winter City Plan to expand winter use of public parks, expand the CaféTO plan and pursue winter solutions for ActiveTO to increase resilience on a year-round basis. | PFR has developed a Winter Plan with enhanced maintenance of destination and high profile parks, additional opportunities for residents to use parks and greenspaces safely and program activations for when the provincial and local restrictions are removed. |
| 68 | Build upon initiatives put in place during COVID-19 to accelerate progress toward a modern, green and less car dependent City, which is a network of connected complete communities, and includes a more extensive, integrated public transit system supporting complete streets – for all uses, all ages, all abilities – and public spaces with quality | This recommendation aligns with ongoing work with respect to area-based studies and development review. City Planning has initiated a review of Expanding Housing Opportunities in Neighbourhoods which provides increased opportunities to provide for 'gentle' density across the City. |

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| | <p>materials, shade, public art and green space.</p> <p>a. Apply a wellness lens to transportation planning, as both a preventive health measure and to ensure equitable access to green space, social opportunity and other contributors to well-being, emphasizing public transit and active transportation, including building on the additional cycling routes opened in the pandemic to accelerate progress toward increased provision of safe, protected cycle routes.</p> <p>b. Apply the principle of “build back better” to land-use planning and seek to improve the city's overall built form by prioritizing gentle density that places greater emphasis on a mix of building types and uses – including low-rise residential, retail and services – and that supports transit use.</p> <p>c. Improve and refine the use of curb lanes and other spaces for restaurant patios, the success of which has indicated a public appetite for a more European urban form in some parts of the city, with much more pedestrian space, good transit and fewer cars, but taking care to apply a broader equity lens, including impacts on access.</p> | |
| 69 | <p>Continue to closely monitor the implications on development charges and other growth funding tools, given the recent legislative changes introduced by the provincial government but not yet proclaimed into effect, and work to balance the revenue implications with the growth opportunities that additional</p> | <p>The Province proclaimed changes to the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i> and other growth funding tools under the <i>Planning Act</i> (section 42 parkland and the new community benefit charges) into effect on September 18, 2020. The City has two years to transition to the new framework (i.e. by September 2022). Staff will report to Council in 2021 to provide an overview of the</p> |

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| | development may bring during recovery and rebuild | <p>changes, its implications for the City and a work plan for the required bylaw updates.</p> <p>Corporate Financial Strategy and Policy, in collaboration with City Planning, Parks Forestry and Recreation and Legal, are in the process of retaining an external consultant to prepare the studies, strategies and analysis required to bring forward bylaws for Council consideration. The successful completion of this work requires staff resources and collaboration among all affected City Divisions, as well as extensive stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The review will evaluate the use of municipal growth funding tools to ensure that growth pays for growth and at the same time, support broader longer term Council priorities, including economic development, financial sustainability and land use planning objectives. This work will be coordinated with other strategic initiatives impacting the development industry (e.g. inclusionary zoning).</p> |
| 70 | Prioritize affordable housing appeals by requesting the provincial government and the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal to identify a process to fast track appeals that contain a significant portion of affordable ownership or rental units. | City Planning in conjunction with Legal Services has previously requested the provincial government to fast track applications that have the opportunity to increase affordable housing. City Planning will be advancing various opportunities to request both the provincial government and the LPAT to 'fast track' applications which contain a significant portion of affordable ownership or rental units which aligns with the Provincial Governments direction to increase housing supply. |
| 71 | Specify a base density/height without affordable rental housing from which increases may be permitted if affordable rental housing is provided. | City Planning has initiated an approach to increase the supply of affordable housing through the development of policies with respect to Inclusionary Zoning. The proposed recommendation is not aligned with Committee's direction. |

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| 72 | Implement different DCs across the city with emphasis on reducing in area experiencing slow growth | This work aligns with the development charges bylaw update work. Corporate Financial Strategy and Policy, in consultation with City Planning and other staff, will report to Council on the potential for differentiated development charges across the City as part of the next comprehensive review of the development charges bylaw. The review will be coordinated with changes to other growth funding tools (i.e. parkland bylaw and the new community benefits charge bylaw) that will be brought forward for Council consideration before the Provincial statutory transition deadline of September 2022. |
| 77 | Continue with modernization of the procurement system and continue to explore new programs and incentives for procurement solutions from Toronto-based companies | PMMD's transformation is ongoing. Staff are seeking Council approval to have an external consultant assist with Phase 2. Staff recruitment for the reorganization is ongoing. |
| 79 | Support businesses by using the City's purchasing power to competitively select companies that can provide end-to-end solutions, from procuring through to distribution of PPE, to businesses and not-for-profit agencies at lower prices. | <p>The City continues to explore this recommendation. In October, the City of Toronto announced that Mohawk Medbuy Corporation (MMC) will work with the City to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) products for the City as part of an innovative new agreement. We will continue to look for innovative approaches to also help businesses of the City.</p> <p>Like other major centres around the globe, COVID-19 has brought an overwhelming demand for PPE, calling for a reliable solution to ensure ongoing supply. The innovative partnership between Toronto and Mohawk Medbuy – a not-for-profit, shared services organization – will ensure frontline workers, emergency responders, those working with individuals experiencing homelessness, and staff at City-owned long-term care homes are equipped with needed PPE.</p> |
| 80 | Take enterprise side, horizontal approach to capital planning and budgeting, thereby identifying 'highest and best use' capital | Since April 2020, an external consultant has been engaged with the Office of the CFO and the Financial Planning Division to identify opportunities to improve the City's management of its |

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| | <p>priorities. In addition, undertake an extensive asset-condition assessment of owned assets and ensure that the resulting information is kept up to date.</p> | <p>capital budget and associated assets to both be compliant with recent provincial regulation and enable the City’s strategic priorities.</p> <p>Through current-state interviews and future-state visioning exercises over Summer and Fall 2020, it has been determined that a modernized capital management approach will involve multi-year, service-based capital budgeting, city-wide collaboration, central oversight, and standardization and consistency across City Divisions and Agencies</p> <p>Ontario Regulation 588/17 requires Asset Management Plans to be created for municipal infrastructure assets starting with “core infrastructure” for July 2021 and all municipal infrastructure assets by July 2023.</p> <p>The City is currently focused on the July 2021 regulatory deadline while prioritizing its approach to a multi-year capital modernization journey.</p> |
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