

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

May 13, 2002

To: Planning and Transportation Committee

From: Commissioner of Urban Development Services

Subject: New Official Plan - Consultation Strategy
All Wards

Purpose:

This report accompanies the draft of the first Official Plan for the new City of Toronto and recommends a four month consultation process for the Plan, a statutory hearing in September and adoption of the Plan by the end of 2002.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Funds to implement the consultation process outlined in this report are available in the Official Plan Capital Transition Budget.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Planning and Transportation Committee:

- (1) Refer this report and the attached draft new Official Plan to:
 - (a) The Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee and the Commissioner of Urban Development Services with a request that they conduct meetings in accordance with the consultation strategy outlined in this report across the City during the month of June 2002 and report back to the Planning and Transportation Committee at its meeting on September 24, 2002 on the outcome of these meetings; and
 - (b) The Commissioner of Urban Development Services with the request that she widely distribute this report to resident and ratepayer groups, business groups and associations, industry stakeholders and other groups that have previously expressed interest in the Plan, to surrounding regional municipalities and abutting local municipalities for comment, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing as required under the Planning Act; and

- (2) Hold a statutory public meeting to consider the new Official Plan at a Special Meeting of Planning and Transportation Committee on September 24, 2002.

Comments:

Toronto's First Official Plan

The draft new Official Plan for the City of Toronto is now complete. This is a significant event in the life of the new City. Three years after Council endorsed a framework for a new Official Plan, the draft of Toronto's first Official Plan provides a collective vision and strategy for the City to guide change and manage growth, addressing both today's issues and tomorrow's city building challenges. The process of developing this Plan has brought the people of Toronto together to consider its future as an integrated whole. The process has provided an unprecedented opportunity for us to think about, and now to act, on the choices facing the City and the region.

The new Official Plan is about shaping Toronto's future. Toronto is a great city that has attracted people from every corner of the world because it offers a quality of life envied worldwide. The future we face is a complex and challenging one, and the decisions made today will affect the quality of life of existing and future generations of Torontonians.

Toronto will grow and can benefit from growth. Making the right city building choices based on fundamental principles of sustainability will help to ensure a city that is both successful and healthy.

As directed by City Council in March 1999, this Plan does not resemble traditional plans. Its approach is visionary and strategic, focusing on opportunities for renewal and reinvestment in the three pillars of quality of life – community, economy and environment. As a 'big picture' Plan, implementation plans and strategies dealing with important components of the city, such as a new zoning by-law, will also be needed to bring the Plan to life. But, the new Official Plan will chart the course.

The Plan speaks for itself:

"The vision of the Plan is about creating an attractive and safe city that evokes pride, passion and a sense of belonging – a city where everybody cares about quality of life. A city with:

- vibrant neighbourhoods that are part of complete communities;
- affordable housing choices that meet the needs of everyone throughout their life;
- attractive, tree-lined streets with shops and housing that are made for walking;
- a comprehensive and high quality transit system that lets people move around the city quickly and conveniently;
- a strong and competitive economy with a vital downtown;
- clean air, land and water;
- green spaces of all sizes and public squares that bring people together;

- a wealth of recreational opportunities that promote health and wellness;
- a spectacular waterfront that is healthy, diverse, public and beautiful;
- cultural facilities that celebrate the best of city living; and
- beautiful architecture and excellent urban design that astonishes and inspires.”

The strategy for Toronto’s future focuses growth where it can realize the greatest social, environmental and economic benefits, making the most of our opportunities and assets, particularly public transit. This means strengthening the existing character of neighbourhoods, ravines, valleys and open spaces, approximately 75% of the geographic area of the City. These areas are not expected to accommodate significant growth but they will mature and evolve. Most of the growth over the next thirty years will take place in the remaining 25% of the City in areas where the opportunities abound.

In addition to the Official Plan policies, twenty-one secondary plans (replacing one hundred and twenty-two existing ones) and approximately two hundred and thirty site and area specific policies also form part of the Plan (compiled as separate chapters in separate volumes). Background reports covering a wide range of topics have been prepared by staff and stakeholders in support of the policies in the Plan (see Appendix 1). Additional background reports will be released later this year.

Toronto’s new Official Plan will be an important tool for Council in the years to come by providing a framework for decision making that responds to the challenges facing this large complex urban City in the twenty-first century.

Consultation Strategy

Together with the public, Council and our corporate partners, the new Official Plan builds on significant public input during the entire Toronto Plan process. The public consultation strategy for the draft of the new Plan outlined here will continue the broad-based approach used throughout the Plan process.

Beginning with the Official Plan Launch in April 1999, and guided by the Official Plan Council Reference Group, staff met and consulted with hundreds of individuals, groups and organizations on the new Official Plan (see Appendix 2). The new Official Plan is the culmination of extensive consultations with a broad cross-section of community and corporate stakeholders. Input from a variety of Council Task Forces has also been considered in the development of the Plan, including the Environmental Task Force, the Task Force on Community Access and Equity, the Mayor’s Homelessness Action Task Force and the Task Force on Community Safety. Over 133,000 visits to the Toronto Plan web site and hundreds of e-mail and written submissions are indicative of the level of involvement and interest the new Official Plan has received.

For this next consultation phase, staff are recommending a four-month process, from June through September. A statutory public meeting is proposed for September 24, 2002 at a Special Planning and Transportation Committee meeting. During this consultation period the Plan will be widely distributed and four town hall meetings will be convened in June at various locations across the City.

The Official Plan will be distributed to all members of Council, City departments, ratepayer groups, stakeholder groups and Council Task Forces. It will also be available at all Civic Centres, City Hall, Metro Hall and on the Toronto Plan website (www.city.toronto.on.ca/torontoplan). Copies of the Plan and background documents will also be distributed to all City libraries. Audio tapes of all documents will be available at selected libraries across the City.

It is proposed that the Chair of Planning and Transportation Committee host the four town hall meetings across the City in June, one each in the north, south east and west. All members of Council are encouraged to attend these meetings. Advertising notifying the public of these community meetings will be placed in the major daily, community and ethnic newspapers. Public service announcements will also be supplied to the broadcast media. All resident, ratepayer and business groups will receive notice, along with all individuals and groups who are on the Toronto Plan mailing list. Members of the public will also be invited to share their views on the new Official Plan by visiting the City's internet site, calling or writing the City.

The following dates, location and times are proposed for the town hall meetings:

Thursday June 6, 2002 North York Central Library Memorial Hall, Burgundy Room	Monday June 10, 2002 Metro Hall Council Chambers
Wednesday June 12, 2002 Etobicoke Civic Centre Council Chambers	Monday June 17, 2002 Scarborough Civic Centre Council Chambers

These town hall meetings will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about and comment on the new Plan. In recognition of the ethnic diversity of Toronto, language needs of various communities will be considered for the advertisements and notices for the town hall meetings. Translators and sign language interpreters also will be available at the meetings. Staff will review issues raised by the public over the summer months.

After the town hall meetings, staff will continue to respond to and meet with interested groups and organizations over the summer months. Staff will also continue to consult with other departments, agencies, boards and commissions, and will be engaging in pre-consultation with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the approval authority for the new Plan.

The next step in the process will be a statutory public meeting for the Plan. It is proposed that this meeting be held at a Special Meeting of Planning and Transportation Committee on September 24, 2002. At that time, staff will report on the results of the consultation process and interested individuals and groups may depute.

Conclusions:

The first Official Plan for the new City is a critical step in the journey to a healthier future, providing a framework for city building that will help shape Toronto for generations to come. It fulfils the commitment Council made to a new Plan when it unanimously adopted the *Framework Report* in March 1999.

Extensive consultation and public discussion on the new Plan has been held to date. This report outlines the final consultation phase for the new Plan. Once the consultation process has been completed, the required statutory meeting should be held at a special meeting of Planning and Transportation Committee on September 24, 2002. Council adoption of a new Official Plan is targeted for the end of this year.

Contact:

Barbara Leonhardt
Director, Policy and Research
(416) 392-8148

List of Attachments:

Appendix 1: Official Plan Background Reports
Appendix 2: Official Plan Consultation

[P:/2002/uds/pln/pt022864.pln]

Appendix 1
Official Plan Background Reports

March 1999
Framework for the New Official Plan

June 1999
City Status

July 1999
Social Indicators and Priority Areas

November 1999
Building a Vision for Toronto: Key Themes and Directions

February 2000
Toronto Competes
(Prepared with the Economic Development Culture and Tourism Department)

April 2000

A Transportation Vision for the City of Toronto Official Plan
Incremental Growth Study–Kingston Road Community Initiative District (Phase I Report)
Incremental Growth Study–Bloor-Lansdowne Community Initiative District (Phase I Report)
Incremental Growth Study–The Queensway Community Initiative District (Phase I Report)
Incremental Growth Study–Finch Weston Community Initiative District (Phase I Report)

June 2000

Employment Areas: New Futures for Industrial Land
Retail Activity in Toronto
The Office Market in the Toronto Area
Choosing Where to Live
GTA Population and Employment Projections
Cordon Count
Employment in Toronto 1999
The Future of the Downtown

July 2000

Toronto Plan Directions Report, Toronto at the Crossroads: Shaping Our Future

October 2000

Incremental Growth Study - The Avenues: Kingston Road
Concept Plan for the Study Area at Kingston Road, Guildwood GO to Highland Creek
Phase II Report

February 2001

Incremental Growth Study- The Avenues: Bloor-Lansdowne
Concept Plan for the Study Area at Bloor Street and Lansdowne Avenue
Phase II Report

Incremental Growth Study- The Avenues: The Queensway
Concept Plan for the Study Area at the Queensway: Mimico Creek to Kipling Avenue
Phase II Report

Incremental Growth Study-The Avenues: Finch-Weston
Concept Plan for the Study Area at Finch Avenue and Weston Road
Phase II Report

March 2001

Reducing Car Dependence: Transportation Options for the City of Toronto

June 2001

Unlocking the Opportunity for New Rental Housing: A Call to Action

January 2002

A Glimpse of Toronto's History: Opportunities for the Commemoration of Lost Historic Sites
(Prepared by the Toronto Historical Association and the Maps Project)

February 2002

Forever Young: A Vision for Urban Planning in Toronto
(Prepared by the Toronto Youth Cabinet)

In Process of Being Published

A Historic Profile of Employment Districts

A Historic Profile of Centres

From Home to Work: A Look at Commuting Patterns of Toronto Residents

Beyond the Banks: Toronto's Financial Services Industry

Natural Heritage Inventory Study

Assessment of Transit Priority Impacts for the 504 Streetcar

Railway Corridors for Public Policy Use in the City of Toronto

Flashforward: Projecting Population and Employment

Where Do We Grow From Here?

Intensification at Transit Stations

Transit Corridors and Land Use

Appendix 2

Official Plan Consultation – April 1999 to April 2002

Council Reference Group Meetings (**14**)

Formal Consultation Held by Staff

Official Plan Forum Launch (2 days, 300 participants)

Official Plan Open Houses (6 sessions, 250 participants)

Building a Vision Workshops (5 days/ 9 sessions, 170 participants)

Transportation Visioning Workshop (1 meeting, 50 participants)

Open Houses and Town Hall Meetings – Directions Report (6 meetings, 250 participants)

Open Houses on Social Issues (2 in conjunction with Community and Neighbourhood Services
Department, 30 participants)

Open Houses on Transportation Issues (4 meetings, 330 participants)

Open Houses on Land Use (4 meetings, 250 participants)

Incremental Growth Area Study Meetings and Charettes (21)

Reference Groups

- Transportation Expert Panel
- Transportation Reference Group
- Arts and Culture Reference Group (4)
- Heritage Reference Group (4)

Urban Development Roundtable – Rental Housing Working Group

Future of the Downtown Roundtable (3 sessions)

Consultation Meetings/Presentations – Staff Invited

Healthy City Forum

Environmental Task Force (6)

North Rosedale Ratepayers Association

Don, Humber and Rouge Watershed Alliances (5)

Green Roofs Coalition Launch

Midtown Presidents Forum

Women Plan Toronto (2)

South Etobicoke Industrial Employers Association

World Food Day Symposium Presentation

Food Policy Council

Parks Visioning Session

Toronto Board of Trade (5)

Greater Toronto Services Board Transportation Committee

Lakeshore Planning Council Annual General

Palmerston Area Residents Association

Strategic Transportation Planning Group

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Capital Revolving Fund Reference Group

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Ministry of Natural Resources

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Greater Toronto Services Board Presentation

University of Toronto Lecture Series

Ryerson Polytechnic University

York University

IBI/Hydro One Networks Inc.

Canadian Urban Institute Breakfast Presentation

Urban Development Institute – Toronto Chapter

Urban Development Institute – Ontario

Ontario Professional Planner's Institute Presentation

North York Ratepayers Assoc. Meeting
Sustainability Roundtable
Building Owners and Management Association
Ryerson Planning School Presentation
Regional Transportation Staff Presentation
University of Toronto Presentation for 3rd year students
Ontario Expropriation Association – New Planning Approaches
Rogers Cable – New City Talk Show – Directions Report
Canadian Urban Institute Seminar – Future of the Downtown
Canadian Urban Institute - Smart Growth Conference
Canadian Urban Institute Annual Breakfast Meeting
Watershed Alliance
National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
Toronto Library Board
National Housing Research Committee
Greater Toronto Apartment Association
Urban Summit
Consulting Engineers of Ontario/Ontario Chapter of the American Public Works Association
Economic Future of our City – United Way
Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Directions Report
The Old Mill Seniors Housing – City Life for Seniors
Annex Residents' Association
Toronto Real Estate Board – Breakfast Presentation
Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Greater Toronto Transportation Conference – Board of Trade
Wet Weather Flow Steering Committee
Young Presidents Organization
Ethnic and Race Relations Committee
Advisory Committee with Disability Issues
Ward 40 Ratepayer/Community Associations
Dundas West Ratepayers Association
Toronto Police Services Board
Presentation to Toronto Community Foundation
Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario
Toronto Youth Cabinet
National Association for Women in Construction