



Appendix A

Public Meeting Display Boards



WELCOME

Official Plan Review: Public Realm & Built Form Policies

Official Plan Context

What is an Official Plan (OP)?

- Policy document that provides guidance on how land in a municipality should be used.
- Prepared with input from the community.
- Guides planning and development to meet the needs of the community.

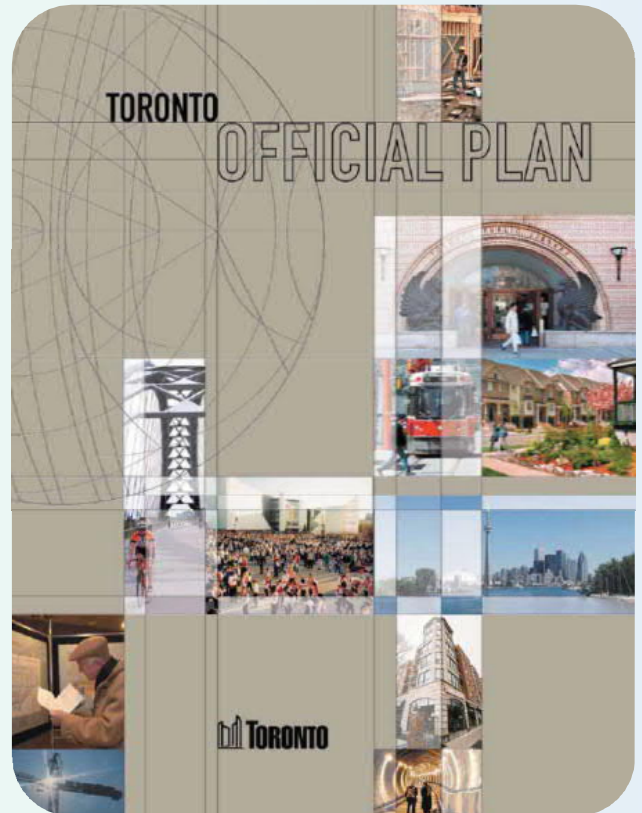
What is an Official Plan Review?

- The Province of Ontario, through Section 26 of the Planning Act, requires municipalities to revise their Official Plan every five years to ensure it is current and consistent with provincial interests and policy.

What has been done so far?

- The current Official Plan was approved in 2006, and the statutory Five Year Review subsequently began in 2011.
- Review is being done in stages by theme (e.g. Heritage, Urban Design) due to the size and complexity of policy matters. The stages help us focus more clearly on proposed changes.
- The review for some thematic policy areas of the Official Plan is complete, and is well under way for others.
- The City has adopted policy amendments for Heritage, Housing, Economic Health and Employment Lands, Environment, Neighbourhoods, Apartment Neighbourhoods and Transportation.

The City of Toronto Official Plan is intended to ensure that the City evolves, improves and realises its full potential in areas such as transit, land use development, and the environment.



Where are we now?

- We are refining Public Realm and Built Form policies of the Official Plan as part of the broader Urban Design thematic review, which began in 2014.

What is to come?

- Policies pertaining to transit, cycling and automated vehicles, as well as transit and street-related maps. Public consultation is anticipated in early 2019. For more information, contact Michael Hain, Senior Planner, Transportation, at Michael.Hain@toronto.ca.
- The next phase of Urban Design policy review will explore sun, wind, and pedestrian comfort. For more information, contact Itai Peleg, Planner, Urban Design, at Itai.Peleg@toronto.ca.

Why are we here?

In 2014, the City began an urban design consultation process that sought to engage the public and interested stakeholders in a broad discussion on Official Plan policies and urban design concepts.

After extensive research, round table discussions with city builders and urban design leaders, and city-wide public engagement over the course of two years, policy directions were approved by the Planning and Growth Management Committee (PGMC) to inform policy updates.

In January and June 2018, PGMC endorsed draft policy revisions for the Public Realm and Built Form sections of the Official Plan to implement the policy directions. The City is now asking the public to share comments and feedback on the resulting policy updates.

This is why you are here today!



"Urban Design enriches our daily lives as we walk the streets under a canopy of trees, enjoy nature in the heart of the City in a beautifully designed park or sit in an outdoor café framed by buildings that are attractive, active, and interesting."
– Emilia Floro, Program Manager, Urban Design, Etobicoke

"In the last decade alone, we've added over a million square feet of publicly accessible space in the downtown through our POPS initiative. Recognizing and establishing criteria for these spaces through policy is important to ensure they contribute to our quality of life through creative place-making."
– James Parakh, Program Manager, Urban Design, Toronto & East York

"The Block Context Plan will help us ensure that new developments fit well into their surrounding contexts. The Soil Volume Plan will promote healthy and large-growing trees along our streets and within development sites. Together with the new policies, these implementation tools will help us make Toronto an even better place to live, work, and play."
– Xue Pei, Program Manager, Urban Design, Scarborough

"Heritage buildings and places give us a unique sense of place and a connection to our past. In a rapidly changing city, they stand out as some of the most beautiful parts and give us a sense of security, resilience and permanence."
– Anne Fisher, Program Manager, Heritage Preservation Services

How did we get here?

**AUGUST
2014**

Planning and Growth Management Committee (PGMC) directs a review of the urban design policies, based on 11 policy directions, as part of the statutory 5-year review of the Official Plan

**OCT - DEC
2014**

Launch of Urban Design Matters: A city-wide campaign including public and stakeholder consultations to raise knowledge and understanding about urban design, confirm the policy directions and inform policy updates



**MAY
2015**

A summary of the Urban Design Matters consultations and the key work needed to review and update the urban design policies is presented to PGMC

2016 - 2017

With the help of a consultant team, the City conducts further background research and consultations to inform policy updates

We are here!

**NOV - DEC
2018**

City engages with public and stakeholders to obtain feedback on the public realm & built form draft policies

**JUNE
2018**

PGMC endorses the draft built form policy updates

PGMC endorses the draft public realm policy updates **JANUARY
2018**

2019

City Planning to refine policies and report back to PGMC and Council

- Phase 1: Urban Design Matters Consultations
- Phase 2: Background Research and Policy Development
- Phase 3: Public Realm and Built Form OP Policy Consultations

How did we get here?

ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

PHASE 1: URBAN DESIGN MATTERS CONSULTATIONS

FACE TO FACE ENGAGEMENT 1,582 people engaged	ONLINE ENGAGEMENT 722 people engaged
POP-UPS  1,150 people	OPEN HOUSES  82 people
FORUM  350 people	ONLINE SURVEYS  40 people
STAKEHOLDERS  11 groups	WEBSITE VISITS  232 people
IDEA SPACE  1 person	#OPREVIEW  449 people



ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

PHASE 2: BACKGROUND RESEARCH & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW 12 cities around the world examined	URBAN DESIGN REFERENCE GROUP MEETING #1 18 participants
INTERVIEWS WITH CITY STAFF 20 participants	URBAN DESIGN REFERENCE GROUP MEETING #2 15 participants
INTER-DIVISIONAL REFERENCE GROUP WORKSHOP 19 participants	STAFF BUILT FORM POLICY DROP-INS 20 participants

What we heard:

The urban design policies in the OP need to be both prescriptive and flexible.

Some measurable standards should be incorporated into the policies to give them more strength.

Establish urban design elements and design criteria to make the city more walkable.

Consider the relationship between new buildings and the ground floor (scale); all buildings should be thoughtfully designed.

Increase the portion of public streets to be used for pedestrians and landscaping, rather than vehicles.

Public laneways should be recognized as an important element of the public realm.

Strengthen and clarify the role of streets as a public space that contribute to a comfortable pedestrian experience.

Public spaces need to be enhanced to be safe and inclusive, while meeting the needs of Toronto's diverse population.

Establish design policies for low-rise and mid-rise developments and identify how heights are allocated.

Public comfort should be protected. Factor seasonal changes in weather and sun/wind conditions into the design of public spaces.

POPS and public squares needs to be clearly defined. What role do they play in the public realm?

Connect parks and open spaces, particularly the ravine system, to create a network of public spaces throughout the City.

The Public Realm

The Official Plan currently describes the importance of the public realm in the non-policy text but doesn't provide a detailed description of the components or role of the public realm in the policy text. A key outcome of the public consultation was to describe the public realm in policy, including a description of the elements that make up the public realm, who it is for and what purpose it serves.

Section 3.1.1 New Policies 1, 2 & 3

The public realm is the fundamental organizing element of the city and its neighbourhoods, and plays an important role in supporting population growth, liveability, social equity and overall quality of life.



Policy 1 describes the public realm as a network of public and private spaces including streets, sidewalks and pedestrian connections, parks and open spaces, the public portions of civic buildings and other publicly owned and publicly accessible lands.

Policy 2 states that the City, together with its partners, will seek opportunities to expand and enhance the public realm.

Policy 3 establishes design criteria for the public realm to achieve a number of objectives, such as providing the organizing framework and setting for development, fostering complete, walkable communities, supporting active transportation and transit use, providing opportunities for recreation, and supporting quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.

Streets, Laneways & Walkability

The existing policies on streets and laneways have been enhanced in order to strengthen their role in helping to achieve complete communities, walkable neighbourhoods and a high quality of life. The draft policies aim to prioritize pedestrians, promote a walkable city, and provide connections to streets, parks and open spaces.

Section 3.1.1 New Policies 8, 9, 10 & 11 Revised Policies 12, 13, 14, 15

Public streets are a defining feature of the public realm. In addition to providing the organizing element of the City and its neighbourhoods, public streets are vitally important because they preserve access and connectivity to residents for essential public services and ensure that these public services can be provided in an efficient, safe and secure manner over the long term.



Policy 9 strengthens the existing policy intent by stating that all new streets will be public streets and will serve as the primary organizing element and access for new developments.

Policy 10 has been added to recognize laneways as an integral part of the public realm. The policy establishes the primary function of laneways as off-street access for vehicles and servicing, and considers opportunities for enhancements to promote safe and accessible movement for pedestrians and cyclists.

A number of policies in this section have been revised to promote the development of a walkable public realm, designed for all users. The draft changes address the need for appropriate sidewalk widths, integrating streets and laneways with existing street networks, minimizing block lengths, and providing direct paths of travel.

Trees & Natural Features

Section 3.1.1 New Policy 16; Revised Policy 17

The provision, maintenance and protection of trees and their growing spaces is essential to providing a safe, beautiful, resilient and comfortable public realm. The draft policy changes promote and protect a healthy and mature tree canopy.



Policy 16 has been added to address the importance of providing a healthy urban tree canopy. It requires that applications for development demonstrate how trees on these sites will be provided, maintained and protected.

Policy 17 has been expanded to enhance and protect the enjoyment of the City's natural features by improving their prominence and access from the public realm and limiting impacts from adjacent developments.

POPS & Public Squares

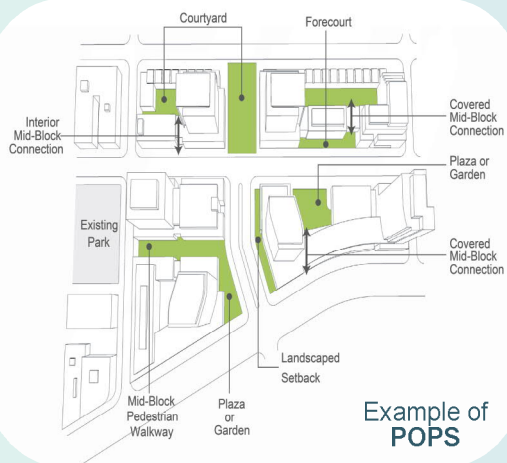
The new and revised policies in this section establish design criteria for new parks, public spaces, POPS and public squares, including:

- High visibility and significant street frontage
- Integration with the broader public realm
- Designed for all users
- Support a variety of programming

Section 3.1.1 Revised Policy 19; New Policies 20 & 21

POPS (privately owned, publicly-accessible spaces) provide opportunities for expanding the public realm by creating new open space and connecting existing streets, parks and open spaces.

Public squares are a desirable form of open space because of their spaciousness, prominence and easy access. They provide a range of opportunities to enhance the daily lives of residents and workers.

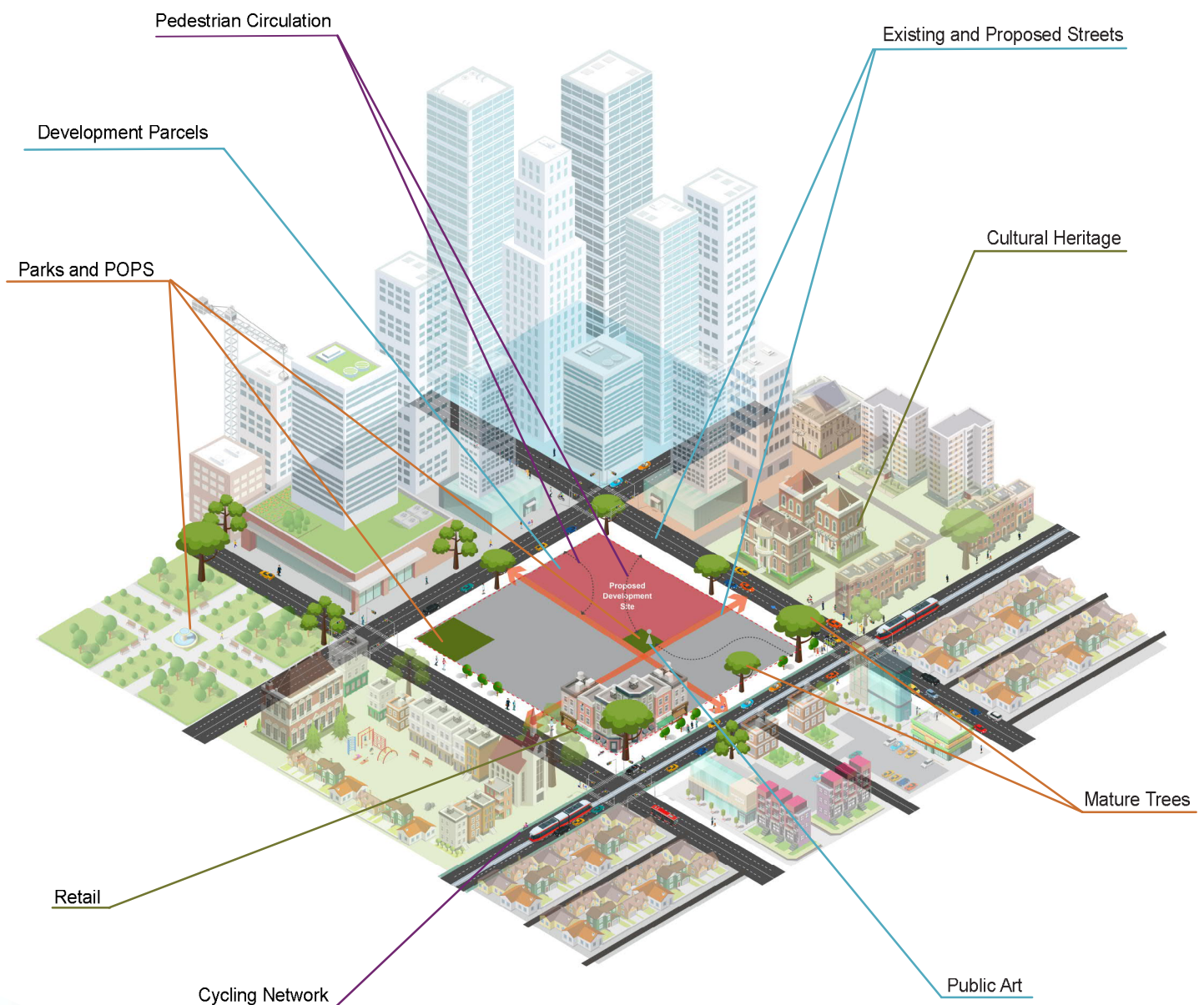


Policy 20 defines POPS as spaces which the public are invited to use, but which remain privately owned and maintained. POPS provide opportunities to expand the public realm but do not replace the need for new public parks and open spaces.

Policy 21 identifies public squares as social and civic gathering spaces that contribute to the public realm and provide opportunities for social interaction, entertainment, events and flexible programming.

Block Context Plan

A Block Context Plan is a new application requirement for certain development proposals that will illustrate the planned context for an area larger than the development site itself. It will ensure new developments enhance and contribute to the surrounding public realm, fit within the existing and planned built form context, and conform to the policies of the Official Plan.



Block Context Plan

When will a Block Context Plan be required?

Block Context Plans are meant for sites where opportunities for new public spaces, streets and other amenities exist and need to be planned for on a scale greater than the development site, or where the proposed built form is greater than expected and could benefit from an understanding of the broader organization and massing of the surrounding block(s).

