

Re: PH20.2

City Planning

PH20.2 - Study Work Program Update



Study Work Program Update

Report addresses **3 key items**:

1. captures 2020 Study Work Program **achievements**
2. identifies 2021 Study Work Program **forecast**
3. emphasizes "**a complete community lens**" as a useful framing approach in response to Council request on what new planning strategies and frameworks should be incorporated into the City's planning processes so the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are considered in all future planning

City Planning's 2 Services

- City Planning delivers a range of activities organized in two services:
 - Development Review, Decision and Implementation
 - City Building and Policy Development
- all sections of City Planning contribute to the delivery of the two services, with activities in one service supporting the other
- the Study Work Program is **one component** of the City Building and Policy Development service
- Study Work Program achievements are the result of collaborative efforts with City divisions, external agencies and community partners

Prioritization

- Study Work Program is responsive to City-wide, Corporate and Divisional priorities
- Items are added either through requests from City Council or as identified by the Division in response to new strategic priorities, public investment, growth pressures, shifts in demographic and economic conditions or legislative changes
- In 2020 for example:
 - City Planning advanced Council's new Modular Housing Initiative in partnership with the Housing Secretariat and CreateTO
 - the Province posted a regulatory proposal relating to a Community Benefits Authority coming out of Bill 138, *the Plan to Build Ontario Together Act*, which required ongoing active engagement from the City

Prioritization

- In 2020, Study Work Program achievements represent the Division's work to deliver studies and initiatives related to the City of Toronto's **strategic priorities**, including housing, mobility, liveable neighbourhoods and resilience, while understanding and adjusting to changing Provincial legislation
- In 2021, City Planning will continue to advance implementation of Toronto's Official Plan vision and the strategic priorities of Toronto's Corporate Strategic Plan as further focussed through the City's **Recovery and Rebuild lens** including implementation of the TORR recommendations

Defining Elements

- The Study Work Program's studies and initiatives reflect the following themes:
 - Maintaining and creating housing that is affordable
 - Keeping Toronto moving
 - Investing in people and neighbourhoods
 - Tackling climate change and building resilience
 - Responding to Provincial legislation
 - Additional initiatives supporting city building (i.e. research, design and LPAT matters)

2020 Achievements

- completed **58 items** of which 37 have been approved:
 - ✓ 19 items against study-related Service Levels (SL):
 - 14 items under City Building Studies (SL 18)
 - 2 items under City-wide Urban Design Guidelines (SL 1)
 - 3 items under HCD Studies/Plans (SL 5)
 - ✓ 39 items representing a range of initiatives, including Official Plan and Zoning By-law updates, legislative review and special projects
- the impact of COVID-19 on City Planning's service delivery cascading through to 2020 Service Level achievement is not unexpected
- despite these challenges City Planning working with its city building partners successfully delivered 58 items (2019 comparison: 62 items)

2021 Forecast

- a preliminary forecast of studies or initiatives currently underway and targeted for completion by the end of 2021
- is subject to change based on emerging Council priorities and divisional capacity
- reflects Council's direction and the Division's commitment to advancing a suite of activities in response to Toronto's recovery and rebuild efforts
- reflective of the **third year of the current Council term** where many forecasted items represent the culmination of multi-phased projects involving inter-divisional collaboration and broad community participation initiated earlier in the Council term

Response to Council Request

- at its June 2020 meeting, City Council requested City Planning to report on what new planning strategies and frameworks should be incorporated into the City's planning processes so that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are considered in future planning for the City of Toronto.
- at its October 27, 2020 meeting, City Council adopted the City Manager's 'Towards Recovery and Building a New Toronto' report highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 on Toronto
- the City Manager's report acknowledges that public services must recognize that:
"building back better also means learning from the past and starting sustainable improvements that make a difference for future generations. Our recovery efforts must take a long-term view towards building the city we want for those who will call Toronto home decades from now."

Complete Communities

- a complete community lens provides **a useful framing approach** for understanding the existing challenges and opportunities that vary across Toronto
- the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on racialized and other equity-seeking communities **has deepened the inequalities** that are already experienced by many residents, neighbourhoods and communities
- planning strategies and frameworks that adopt a complete community approach can be effective **at integrating various objectives and actions** into cohesive and coherent plans through which government, non-government organizations and community groups, as well as private-sector developers, can drive positive population-serving outcomes

Working with Partners

- a **community development plan** that combines local social development and economic opportunity strategies and complements updates to the land use planning framework can also make a valuable contribution towards addressing the historic unevenness of growth and opportunities in Toronto's neighbourhoods
- a complete community lens can also help to identify, align and sequence activities across **divisional and partner strategies**, such as the Parkland Strategy and Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy, providing a focussed, calibrated approach for an area
- the **Jane-Finch Initiative** and the **Little Jamaica study** are current examples how the Division's area-based planning processes are aligned to the work of other divisions (e.g. SDFA & Ec Dev) in responding to social-economic inequalities experienced by a local community, which the impacts of COVID-19 have further deepened

Thank You

PH20.2 - Study Work Program Update

