

### Housing Progress Update

Date: April 8, 2024

To: Board of Directors, CreateTO

From: Chief Executive Officer

Wards: All

#### SUMMARY

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In recognition of the urgent need to expedite efforts to transform Toronto's housing system, this report provides the CreateTO Board of Directors with a broad update of 2024 housing-related work items:

- Priority housing sites, with proponents and equity confirmed (3 sites)
- Housing sites with secured proponents (4 sites)
- Housing sites that are zoned and tracking to market calls/securing a proponent (5 sites)
- Housing sites in market (1 site)
- Housing sites tracking to final zoning (6 sites)
- Update: Portfolio Wide Risk Factors

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board of Directors of CreateTO receive this report for information.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There is no additional financial impact to CreateTO arising from the recommendations in this report. Resources required to support this initiative are being allocated from the current staffing complement and are part of the approved operating budget.

Due diligence, marketing and human resource costs are being recovered by CreateTO from the Housing Secretariat in line with current City-approved budgets.

## EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

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The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan envisions a city in which all residents have equal opportunity to develop to their full potential. The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan is also centred on a human rights-based approach to housing. This approach recognizes that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of a person and to building healthy, inclusive and sustainable communities.

The creation of new affordable housing will increase the opportunity for structurally vulnerable and marginalized individuals, including Indigenous Peoples, Black people, people of colour, seniors, women, and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community to access safe, healthy and adequate homes.

Safe, secure, affordable housing is an important social determinant of health. It improves the social and economic status of individuals, families and communities. Good quality, affordable housing is also the cornerstone of vibrant, healthy neighbourhoods and supports the environmental and economic health of the city, region and country as a whole.

## DECISION HISTORY

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On November 8, 2023, City Council adopted the Generational Transformation of Toronto's Housing System to Urgently Build More Affordable Homes report. The report seeks to enhance the City's role in the delivery of new affordable housing to address Toronto's deepening housing and homelessness crises, including the delivery of 65,000 rent-controlled homes:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CC1.3>

## COMMENTS

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### Priority Housing Sites

#### *50 Wilson Heights Boulevard*

The 50 Wilson Heights Boulevard site will lead to the delivery of 1,484 new residential homes, including 520 affordable rental homes, 520 market rental homes, and 444 market condominium homes. The project includes a new childcare centre, commercial space, a park and a community space for non-profit organizations. The Proponent team has filed a final application for Release for Construction of Services to enable mobilization and construction launch of Phase 1 of the project, together with a site plan resubmission filed on March 5, 2024. Management has worked closely with the Proponents and the external financing partners at CMHC. The Proponent's CMHC application is scheduled for CMHC credit committee later this month. Construction is now expected to launch by June 2024.

### *Bloor-Kipling Block 1 (5207 Dundas Street West)*

The 5207 Dundas Street West site will lead to the delivery of 725 new residential homes, including 218 affordable rental homes. Site Plan Notice of Approval Conditions was received on March 13, 2024, with shoring and excavation work continuing to advance. First occupancy of the project is expected by 2027. The site is one of five blocks at Bloor Kipling that were identified for housing development through Housing Now. The five development blocks will deliver at least 2,781 residential homes, 904 of which will be affordable rental homes, situated within a complete community that will also include the new Etobicoke Civic Centre and new City parks.

### *140 Merton Street*

The site at 140 Merton Street will be the first non-profit led development of a Housing Now site led by an Indigenous organization and will be dedicated to providing housing options for Indigenous elders and other seniors. The proponent team, led by Missanabie Cree First Nation and EllisDon Community Builders, secured updated zoning at City Council on November 8, 2023. The revised zoning adds 11-storeys and will deliver 294 total rental homes. The City's Priority Development Review Team continues to work with the Proponents on key site plan items in an effort to expedite the formal site plan review process. The proponent's CMHC application was approved by CMHC's credit committee on March 20, 2024, with a formal Letter of Intent expected this month. Construction launch remains targeted for September 2024.

## **Housing Sites with Secured Proponents**

### *777 Victoria Park Avenue*

Negotiations with the selected proponents at 777 Victoria Park Avenue are ongoing, including weekly meetings to proactively advance issues. In light of expected flexibility with CMHC and Federal Government changes regarding HST, CreateTO staff are working to bring this agreement to a close. Renegotiated business terms are targeted for approval at CreateTO's June 19, 2024 Board Meeting. The Proponents are simultaneously pursuing a minor variance process to add market density to the project which is targeted for June 26, 2024. An associated Design Review Panel meeting is targeted for May 15, 2024, with enabling construction targeted for September 2024. The 777 Victoria Park Avenue site is currently zoned to deliver 589 total homes, including 254 affordable rental units.

### *705 Warden Avenue*

Negotiations with the selected proponents at 705 Warden Avenue are ongoing, including weekly meetings to proactively advance issues. In light of expected flexibility with CMHC and Federal Government changes regarding HST, CreateTO staff are working to bring this agreement to a close. Renegotiated business terms are targeted for approval by Q4 2024. The Proponents are simultaneously pursuing a zoning amendment process to add market density to the project. The 705 Warden Avenue site is currently zoned to deliver 600 total homes, including 250 affordable rental units.

### *2444 Eglinton Avenue East*

On January 9, 2024, the City and CreateTO announced Civic Developments, Windmill Developments and Co-Operative Housing Federation of Toronto as the development partners for 2444 Eglinton Avenue East. This is the first site within the Housing Now program to advance with a developer-led rezoning as per Board direction. It is also the first to consider co-operative rental housing tenure, and is proposed to be one of the largest co-operative housing developments the province has ever seen. The Proponent team is targeting zoning submission in April. The project is targeted to deliver approximately 918 total homes, including 306 affordable rental cooperative units. Project risks include rapidly escalating costs within an already constrained proforma.

This site was identified as a pilot to assess if this approach (i.e., developer-led rezoning) shortens the overall timelines (including securing in-force zoning for the site) for the ultimate delivery of constructed and occupied affordable housing units. This pilot will assess regulatory risks, financing, financial savings, and quality and report back to the Board with the results of that assessment.

### *Block R6, Bayside*

Term Sheet negotiations with Hines Canada are advancing for the Housing Now project located at 263 Queens Quay East (also known as Block R6, Bayside). These negotiations are advancing through weekly meetings, with consideration for existing development rights granted to Hines through the master Bayside Project Agreement, as well as program requirements of the Housing Now program. The preliminary and internal housing targets for this project consider a minimum of 325 total rental homes, including 199 affordable units. Based on existing Council authorities related to Block R6, Bayside, following Board approval of a deal with Hines, City Council approval of the negotiated deal will also be required.

## **Housing sites that are zoned and tracking to Market Calls/Securing a Proponent**

### *Parkdale Hub*

The final zoning report for the Housing Now site known as Parkdale Hub was adopted by City Council at its November 8, 2023 meeting. The development proposal seeks to deliver 231 total units of rental housing, together with a library and community space. The initial proposal was amended to include five additional residential storeys and 60 homes in the project's west block. The proposal embodies the 'complete communities' mandate of the Housing Now program, with a design that was informed through extensive community engagement. The development of the west block (the first of three development phases of the project) has been earmarked for delivery through a future Request for Proposal (RFP) to the non-profit sector. A market sounding was undertaken in Q4 2023 with not-for-profit organizations, with a Housing Secretariat-led RFP process targeted for release in Q2 2024.

### *770 Don Mills*

Discussions remain ongoing with Toronto Lands Corporation through a Memorandum of Understanding to secure the business terms for the transfer of a stratified portion of 770

Don Mills for a future elementary public school. Work also continues to advance for technical infrastructure considerations, including a license for grading work and relocation of existing utility infrastructure. A market offering is targeted for launch in Q4 2024.

#### *805 Don Mills*

The Stage 2 Report for the Expropriation of part of 24 Ferrand Drive was approved by City Council on March 20, 2024. This acquisition is required in order to realign Ferrand Drive in accordance with the Don Mills Crossing Secondary Plan. Full acquisition is set for August 2024. A market offering is targeted for launch in Q4 2024.

#### *BK Block 5*

On July 14, 2021, City Council adopted zoning amendments for the subject site to enable a 586-unit development, including approximately 196 affordable rental units. A market offering for the subject site is targeted for Q3 2024.

#### *158 Borough*

On April 6, 2022, City Council adopted Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments for the subject site to enable a 687-unit development, including approximately 229 affordable rental units. The subject site is zoned and targeted for a market offering in Q4 2024.

### **Housing Sites in Market**

#### *610 Bay Street and 130 Elizabeth Street*

On June 14, 2023, City Council adopted the shortlist of preferred proponents for the redevelopment of 610 Bay Street and 130 Elizabeth Street that prioritizes the delivery of affordable housing, a paramedics multi-hub, and other city-building outcomes. An addendum to the RFP was released on April 1<sup>st</sup> with resubmissions forthcoming. Management will evaluate proposals and submit a preferred recommendation for Board and Council approval by Q3 2024.

### **Housing Sites Tracking to Final Zoning**

Project partners are working to finalize zoning approvals for projects that are substantially advanced through the planning entitlements process, including:

#### *Bloor-Islington*

Hydro One's technical review process associated with the acquisition/easement over a portion of the Hydro Corridor for a new public road has concluded, with an Agreement of Purchase & Sale under negotiation. A final report to consider the Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning approvals for the project was considered at the April 5, 2024 meeting of the Planning & Housing Committee, with recommendations forwarded to the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council (following publication of this report). This project is targeted to deliver approximately 1,453 total homes, including 494 affordable rental units;

### *1631 Queen Street East*

Discussions regarding a strategy for the existing on-site child care centre have advanced significantly in coordination with the local councillor and Children's Services. City Planning, Engineering Construction Services and the retained consulting team continue to investigate options to satisfy servicing infrastructure requirements. This project is currently targeted to deliver 279 total homes, including 93 affordable rental units, with final zoning submission targeted for Q3 2024.

### *1113-1117 Dundas Street West (Mass Timber Pilot)*

The Mass Timber Pilot Project at 1113-1117 Dundas Street West concluded engagement activities with a series of community pop-ups and public meetings held through March 2024. Zoning amendments for the project are advancing through a Staff Report targeted for the June 11, 2024 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council. The project is targeted to deliver 100 homes, 30 per cent of which will meet the City's income-based affordability definition.

### *931 Yonge Street*

The final zoning report for the ModernTO project at 931 Yonge Street was considered at the April 3, 2024 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council through item [TE12.6](#). The report will be considered by City Council on April 17, 2024, subsequent to publishing of this report. This project is anticipated to deliver 250 total homes, 33 per cent of which will be affordable homes.

### *72 Amroth*

CreateTO, in partnership with City Planning, is leading the Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON) - Beaches-East York Pilot project through item [2023.EX6.14](#). The Pilot Project has been structured to deliver missing middle housing options in Neighbourhoods through new low-rise housing forms. The project team concluded pre-application engagement with immediate project neighbours, local businesses, community groups and an advisory panel of technical experts in March 2024. Official Plan and Zoning amendment applications are targeted by late Q2, with a final business case targeted by Q4 2024.

### *Villiers Island*

CreateTO, in partnership with City Planning, Waterfront Toronto and the Waterfront Secretariat, is in the preliminary stages of developing a Precinct Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for the Villiers Island District. The Precinct Plan and By-law will establish overall heights, density and permitted uses for the area. The purpose of the Precinct Plan and By-law is to amend the Port Lands Planning Framework and its proposed heights and densities to accommodate additional city building outcomes. A final recommendations report for the Precinct Plan and Zoning By-law is targeted for the June 13, 2024 Planning and Housing Committee.

## **Update: Portfolio Wide Risk Factors**

CreateTO staff continue to monitor key risk factors that could significantly impact the ability to implement the City's housing programs as currently structured. These risk factors include:

- Availability and timing of debt financing and appropriate loan-to-cost ratios of the CMHC Rental Construction Financing Initiative;
- Volatility in interest rates; and,
- Rapid escalation in construction pricing.

In consideration of these risk factors, Housing Secretariat and CreateTO staff continue with efforts to negotiate an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding with key funding partners at the CMHC. The goal of the MOU is to establish standardized and favourable underwriting practices to be applied to the City's housing projects, together with grant funding contributions per affordable door. If successful, this will provide greater financial certainty for the City's housing projects and is also expected to streamline and speed up approvals.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Vic Gupta  
Chief Executive Officer, CreateTO

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment #1 – Housing Tracker