



Scarborough Community Renewal Organization (SCRO) Meeting Summary

Meeting Hosts: This meeting was organized and hosted by the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization (SCRO). The Our Plan Toronto team was invited to attend the meeting. SCRO team members Jim Faught, Larry Whatmore and Denise Bacon led the meeting facilitation and discussion.

Date & Time: January 27, 2022 – 6:30-8:00 pm – 166 Participants

Location: Zoom Virtual Event

Our Plan Toronto Project Team Attendees:

City of Toronto Gregg Lintern, Jeff Cantos, Graig Uens, Janani Mahendran, Pauline Beaupre, Paul Zuliani, Amie Chung, Candice Valente, Lillian D’Souza, Ian Brown

Dillon Consulting Merrilees Willemse (role as note taker on behalf of the Our Plan Toronto team)

Meeting Overview

The City of Toronto Official Plan (OP) Team was invited to attend and participate in an interactive community meeting for Our Plan Toronto focused on the long-term community planning issues, opportunities and concerns facing Scarborough.

This meeting was designed and hosted by the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization (SCRO). SCRO is a community organization focused on creating and realizing visions to renew Scarborough by advocating for economic development, better suburban planning, enhanced natural environment, social development and health promotion, arts and culture. The meeting and agenda was organized by SCRO. Members of SCRO, residents of Scarborough and Scarborough community networks, as well as local elected officials, were invited to attend the event.



Meeting Format and Agenda

The meeting was held via Zoom as a virtual meeting event. The format included a presentation from the City OP team, a facilitated Questions and Answers (Q&A) by SCRO, and the active use of the Chat function.

The agenda for the meeting included:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks provided by SCRO
2. Opening Remarks from Gregg Lintern
3. City Presentation on Our Plan Toronto and focus of the Official Plan Review
4. SCRO Facilitated Q&A

Summary of Facilitated Q&A Discussion

The following summary documents the input, issues and ideas raised during the meeting. Contributions were provided through a mix of verbal and written input. This summary is intended to reflect the key discussion points and is not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Participants were encouraged to provide additional feedback to the project team by emailing opreview@toronto.ca.

- **Summary of input/issues/ideas raised through the Chat function:**
 - Concerns that there is too much intensification in certain areas and not enough gentle density (low/mid-rise).
 - Some want to see more intensification in neighbourhoods, while others differed and do not want to see existing low-density residential neighbourhoods impacted by growth and development.
 - People want to see the City put more focus and attention on Scarborough; helping to build complete communities that support people and jobs in Scarborough and celebrate Scarborough culture.
 - Concerns that growth and development will impact green spaces and trees; do not want to lose bluffs and shorelines to industries. There is already a lack of park space and amenities for current condo owners.
 - Concerns that flooding is not being addressed and inquiry to how the environment and climate change fit into the OP.
 - Interest in seeing Toronto absorb more growth so that the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) does not sprawl further into the Greenbelt.



- Concerns with growth in Scarborough Town Centre and the impacts it may have on the community.
- Want to understand the influence that the public has on decision making and how meaningful the consultation is to affect plans.
- Interest in affordable housing and getting Inclusionary Zoning implemented in Scarborough with new development.
- Concerns to garden suites being exploited and driving up costs of housing.
- Concern that Scarborough is not being prioritised and is often neglected. Not enough attention is paid to the infrastructure and servicing needs of Scarborough.
- Want to see more employment opportunities in Scarborough with a wider range of job options with higher quality and higher paying jobs.
- Need more consideration for the impacts of high-density high-rise development adjacent to low density neighbourhoods. Concerns were raised with impacts, including safety and security as well we traffic, transit, connectivity and services, etc.
- Concerned with small condo units being developed in high rise developments that are not desirable and do not support families (too many studio and 1 bedroom units and not enough family sized units).
- Concerns to aging hospitals being under serviced and underfunded; a lack of health resources.
- Concerns regarding food access inequalities as well as upgrading and improving water and sanitation systems.
- Want to see housing issues tended to in Indigenous communities.
- Concerns that there are not enough good recreational services, community services and a lack of social services.
- Interests to how the impacts of COVID are considered in the OP. With many now working from home, are there opportunities to review/redevelop office spaces for affordable housing.
- Concerns that existing school buildings (Toronto District School Board (TDSB)/Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)) require maintenance. Want this done before investing into new developments and increasing density.



- **Summary of input/issues/ideas raised through facilitated Q&A raised hand discussion:**
 - There was concern that property values may increase in neighbourhoods if zoning for the missing middle is permitted. As a result, living in these areas could become less affordable and less accessible. While there is support in wanting to see more housing options, many are opposed to the displacement that could be a result of it.
 - Concerns have been raised regarding those who do not have English as a first language. The language barrier is a big issue in being able to understand and contribute to these kinds of projects. Need more support resources and opportunities for multiple languages.
 - There was concern with northern Scarborough. There's an opportunity to grow this area right which requires a complete community approach. There was collective support in wanting the plan to consider this, as well as including transit connections.
 - Some want to see more growth and transit dense communities in Scarborough.
 - Some want to see legalized rooming housing as a form of affordable housing, particularly for students.
 - There was interest in wanting to see the range of jobs in Scarborough reflected in the plans, and that the land needed would consider these types of jobs in this area.
 - A number of people want to see more opportunities for community commercial activities in neighbourhoods along with services in neighbourhoods that could support more density.
 - There were concerns to an increasing number of people in single family homes that should not be permitted. It should be limited to a family suite in the basement and one or two tenants upstairs, versus the six tenants proposed by the City.
 - Scarborough needs more community and social servicing support for those living there presently and in the future. Community services are important and there has to be a need to support healthy communities.



- People need more affordable housing in Scarborough as well as community resources to support them. Scarborough needs to be more accessible and affordable for people of all ages and stages of life; needing all types of housing.
- There was interest in wanting to see growth/development while addressing the concerns aligned with growth, infrastructure and services in Scarborough.
- There are concerns that decisions are already made and that the community will not be able to influence plans.
- While there was support in wanting to see infrastructure to support growth, concerns came from intensification coming first and infrastructure coming later. Do not want more people in Scarborough without the services and infrastructure to support those people.
- There has been interest in wanting the green agenda to be a priority over development. Green spaces support healthy communities and families, and there is concern that natural spaces and trees are being taken away for development and towers.
- Housing supply needs to be a focus of the plan in Scarborough. This includes increasing housing stock with affordable housing that is close to transit.
- Interest was expressed in support of the arts and culture community in Scarborough; this should be celebrated and reflected in plans.
- There was interest in seeing more Secondary Plans in different neighbourhoods in Scarborough to support specific local interests.

Meeting Close

Closing remarks were made by SCRO to thank participants for their involvement. Participants were encouraged to provide additional feedback to the project team by emailing opreview@toronto.ca. Presentation slides will be shared with the participants.