

Appendix: Engagement Summary Report

January 2024

This appendix summarizes the second series of City-hosted consultation activities regarding the Ontario Place Redevelopment application. Activities took place between September 7th and September 23rd, 2023. The consultation activities were intended to solicit feedback from the public on the proposed designs and concepts to be included in the resubmission package from Infrastructure Ontario. The Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto have since been in discussions, culminating in the December 6th enactment of the *Recovery Through Growth Act (City of Toronto) (2023)* and the *Rebuilding Ontario Place Act (2023)*. These Acts are commonly referred to as the New Deal for Toronto, and speak to a number of provisions related to Ontario Place, and including a core commitment to accept the Province's legislative authority to advance the Ontario Place Rebuilding Project. This effectively ends the City review of the Rezoning and Official Plan Amendment applications.

The City retained Gladki Planning Associates to serve as the independent facilitator of the community consultations and to report back on feedback. Engagement activities summarized in this appendix include the following.

- **In-person Community Consultation Meeting**

Thursday, September 7th, 3:00-8:30pm

This meeting was held at the Beanfield Centre and consisted of two parts. During the first part, the public was invited to participate in an open house where they could view design panels and ask questions directly to the proponent. The second part was a plenary session which included presentations from the proponent and the City, as well as an hour and half question and comment period. **22** questions were responded to live. **690** people registered for the event, and approximately **167** people attended.

- **Virtual Community Consultation Meeting**

Tuesday, September 12th, 7:00-9:00pm

This meeting was convened virtually using WebEx. The meeting included presentations from the proponent and the City, and was followed by a question and comment period. **264** questions were submitted using the Q&A function and **15** questions and comments were responded to live. **803** people registered from the virtual meeting, and approximately **360** people were in attendance.

- **Feedback Forms (Digital and Paper)**

Thursday, September 7th – Saturday, September 23rd

Feedback forms were available to the public in paper form at the in-person community consultation meeting and available digitally using CheckMarket from September 7-23, 2023. People were asked to submit feedback, comments, and questions pertaining to the revised application. In total, **383** forms were completed.

Those that provided feedback using the Feedback Form were asked to rate their level of agreement with the four statements regarding the updated designs in the revised application (See Figure 1). To summarize, 76% of people shared that the revised application materials did not address their comments and concerns from the first series of consultation. 87% of people are not satisfied with the updated designs and concepts. 84% of people shared that the proposal does not advance city-building objectives in Toronto.

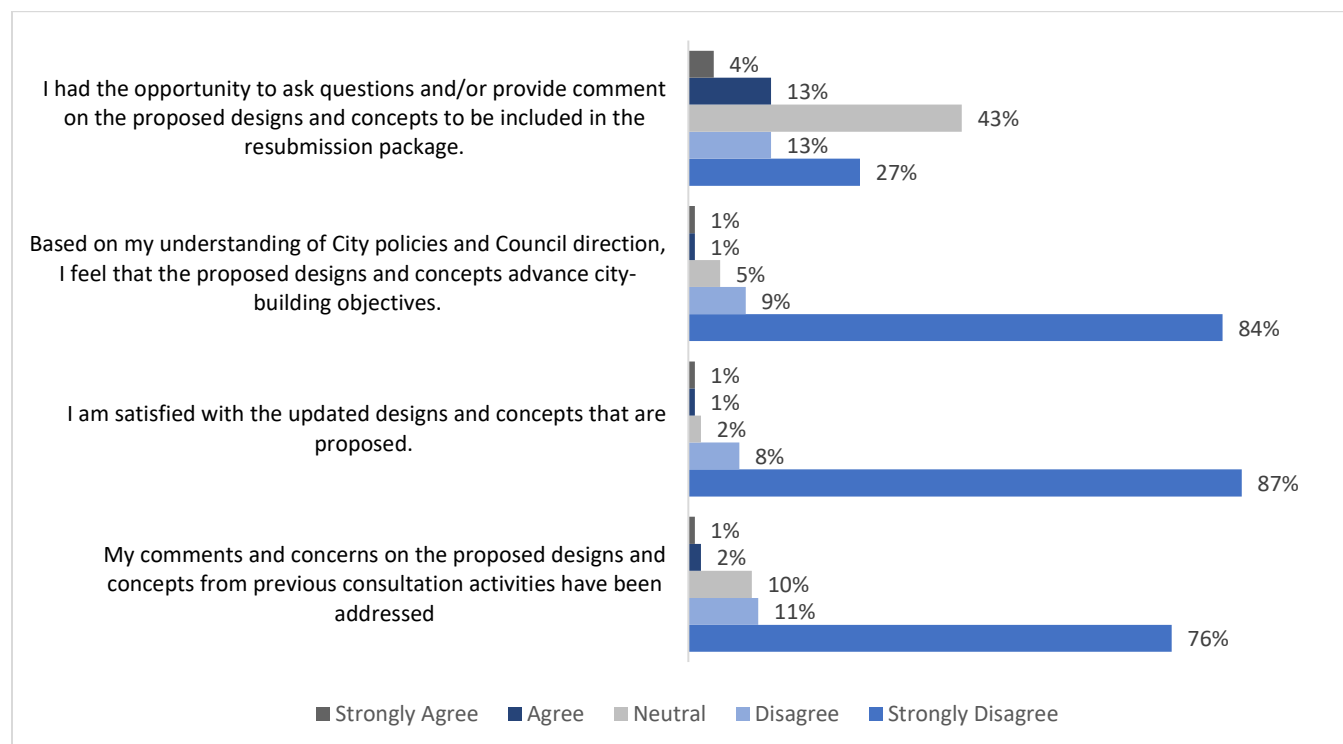


Figure 1 – Level of Agreement Regarding Updated Designs and Concepts in the Revised Application

The following is a high-level, thematically organized summary of the main ideas heard across all engagement activities.

Transportation

- Many people were concerned about the potential impacts of the underground parking lot on traffic flow and the environment. People shared that the reduction of parking spots was not sufficient and still does not align with the City's sustainability goals.
- Traffic congestion was a reoccurring concern. Many people stated that the transportation network should create more connections to Ontario Place with public transit and active transportation infrastructure.
- The public emphasized the importance of utilizing public transit, cycling, and walking as an important way to travel rather than by private vehicles. Many people were concerned about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and encouraged the use of separated pathways and recreational trails.

Public Realm, Uses & Activities

- Generally, people were not in favour of a spa as a major tourism and entertainment destination for Ontario Place, but appreciated increased public space in the updated public realm master plan. People supported more public parks and green spaces, and revitalizing the West Island's existing public realm and buildings.
- Some people appreciated improvements in the public realm design, however, people emphasized the desire for more inclusive public space and amenities, and a reduction of private space on the West Island. Many people disagreed with the relocation of the existing Ontario Science Centre, however, people did mention that more space should be allocated to science programming on the West Island.
- It was important for many that Ontario Place remained accessible, public, and free for all to participate and enjoy.

Built Form & Heritage

- The public acknowledged the reduction in volume of the main building and entrance pavilion as an improvement, however, many people were still concerned that size and scale is too large for the site.
- People mentioned that the proposed changes to the main building do not reflect the character of Ontario Place, or are not suitable to the surrounding area. People noted this due to the size, scale, site location, and glass façade exterior of the main building.
- Protecting and preserving the Pods, Cinesphere, and Michael Hough's landscape design was important for many people.
- There were concerns about the design of the rooftop park in terms of grading, accessibility, weather protection, and supporting biodiversity.

Environment & Sustainability

- The loss of mature trees and canopy was a reoccurring concern for many people.
- People were concerned about the absence of an Environmental Assessment for the West Island. The public expressed a desire to understand the risks and impacts on the environment, and how those risks would be mitigated.
- People were concerned about the overall impact that the building and parking garage will have on migratory birds, animals, and the environment.
- People shared concerns about the main building's energy and water consumption, glass façade, removal of existing mature trees and plants, and usage of cement.
- There was a desire to understand the viability of building a rooftop park. Specifically, people were concerned about the rooftop park ability to support biomass, soil, vegetation, trees, and biodiversity.
- Many people were concerned about the proposed beach on the West Island. Various concerns were raised about the relocation including: the relocation and proximity to the Combined Sewer Outflow; replacing the existing pebble beach; water quality; and the orientation of the beach in relation to the sun.

Other Concerns

- The public expressed concern about the details of the lease and land transfer. They emphasized the importance of the transparency and accountability from the Province.
- Many people were concerned about the social and economic implications of relocating the existing Ontario Science Centre (OSC) to Ontario Place.
- People expressed concern that the City's application review process was too short and that more details from the Province need to be provided.