

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

April 2024



Acknowledgements

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that North York Centre is located on lands within the City of Toronto that are the traditional territory of the Anishnabeg, Haundenosaune and Wendat peoples, and now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. The lands in Toronto where North York Centre is located are covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

AFRICAN ANCESTRAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

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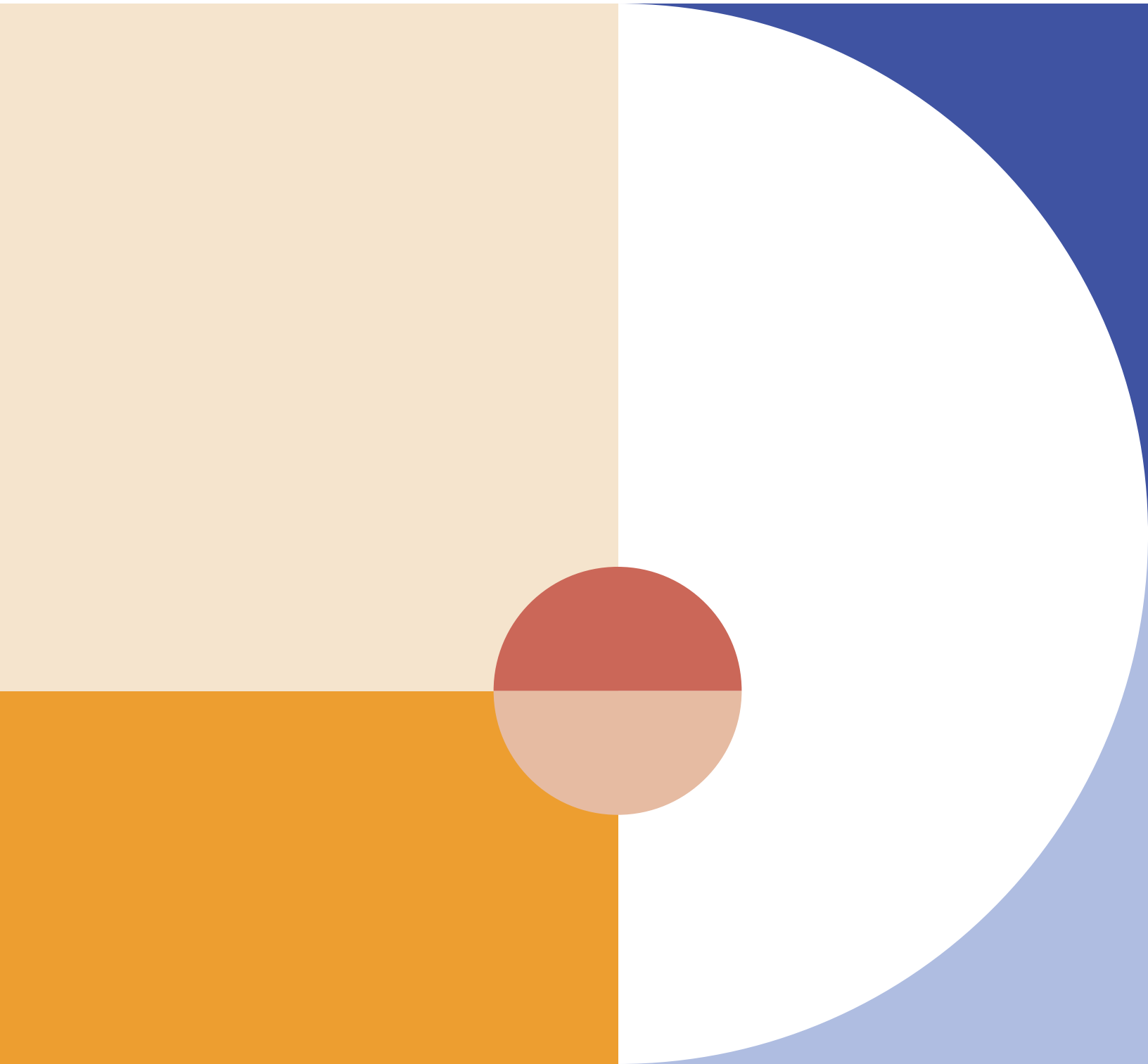
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City of Toronto
City Planning Division
Strategic Initiatives Policy & Analysis
Community Planning North York District

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Executive Summary



Executive Summary

The City of Toronto is undertaking a review of the North York Centre Secondary Plan to refresh the vision for the Centre and develop new policy directions to shape the area as an inclusive, resilient, and complete community. The project, known as ‘North York at the Centre’, includes engagement with the community and interested parties to identify aspirations, determine priorities, and recommend updates to the planning policies that guide growth and investment in the area.

Phase 1 engagement as part of North York at the Centre focused on introducing the project and seeking input on existing conditions, issues, and opportunities for North York Centre. To achieve this, outreach and consultation activities were designed to begin conversations about the Centre’s future over the coming decades, and what the community wants to protect, enhance, and change.

Communications Materials



The Phase 1 communication materials and events were designed to reach a broad audience and to meet the needs and preferences of interested parties.

Communication materials included the project web page at toronto.ca/nycentre, two e-updates, six social media posts, Project Notification Letters to three First Nations, mailed meeting notice to 41,397 households and businesses, and the distribution of 500 informational post cards in the community. The project was also highlighted in the local councillor’s e-newsletter. These materials promoted the community pop-ups, public visioning workshop and the online visioning survey and community mapping exercise.

Engagement Activities

In-person engagement kicked off with a series of community pop-up events hosted within the study area at Finch Subway Station, Yonge-Sheppard Centre, and North York Central Library. A public visioning workshop was held to seek input on existing conditions, issues and opportunities in North York Centre and the community’s vision for the future. An online visioning survey and community mapping exercise were launched on Social Pinpoint.

Outreach to local Indigenous agencies/organizations and First Nations to share information about the project was conducted by SpruceLab in Phase 1. Project Notification Letters were sent to three First Nations whose traditional territories include North York Centre (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR) and the



Figure 1: Photo from public visioning workshop

Huron-Wendat Nation). Introductory meetings were held with MCFN and SNGR and Phase 1 also included an introductory presentation to the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, whose members include local Indigenous organizations.

The establishment of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was an important milestone in Phase 1. The LAC is responsible for reviewing and providing feedback on project materials before they are presented to the broader public to help the City’s project team develop project materials that are clear and responsive to the community’s aspirations and priorities. The LAC is comprised of local champions and will work with the project team to identify opportunities to engage with a broader range of interested parties. This approach is intended to augment and support outreach to the community at key project milestones.

What We Heard

The most discussed themes across different audiences during Phase 1 included the following:



Building a Complete Community

There is a need for a broader range of building types and heights, affordable housing options, and opportunities for local economic development, arts and culture, and heritage commemoration.



Parks and Environment

Expand, improve and maintain parks and natural features throughout North York Centre to support the continued access and enjoyment of green spaces.



Mobility and Public Realm

Addressing issues related to speeding, transit access, sidewalk design, and the cycling network will help make North York Centre more accessible, walkable and safe.

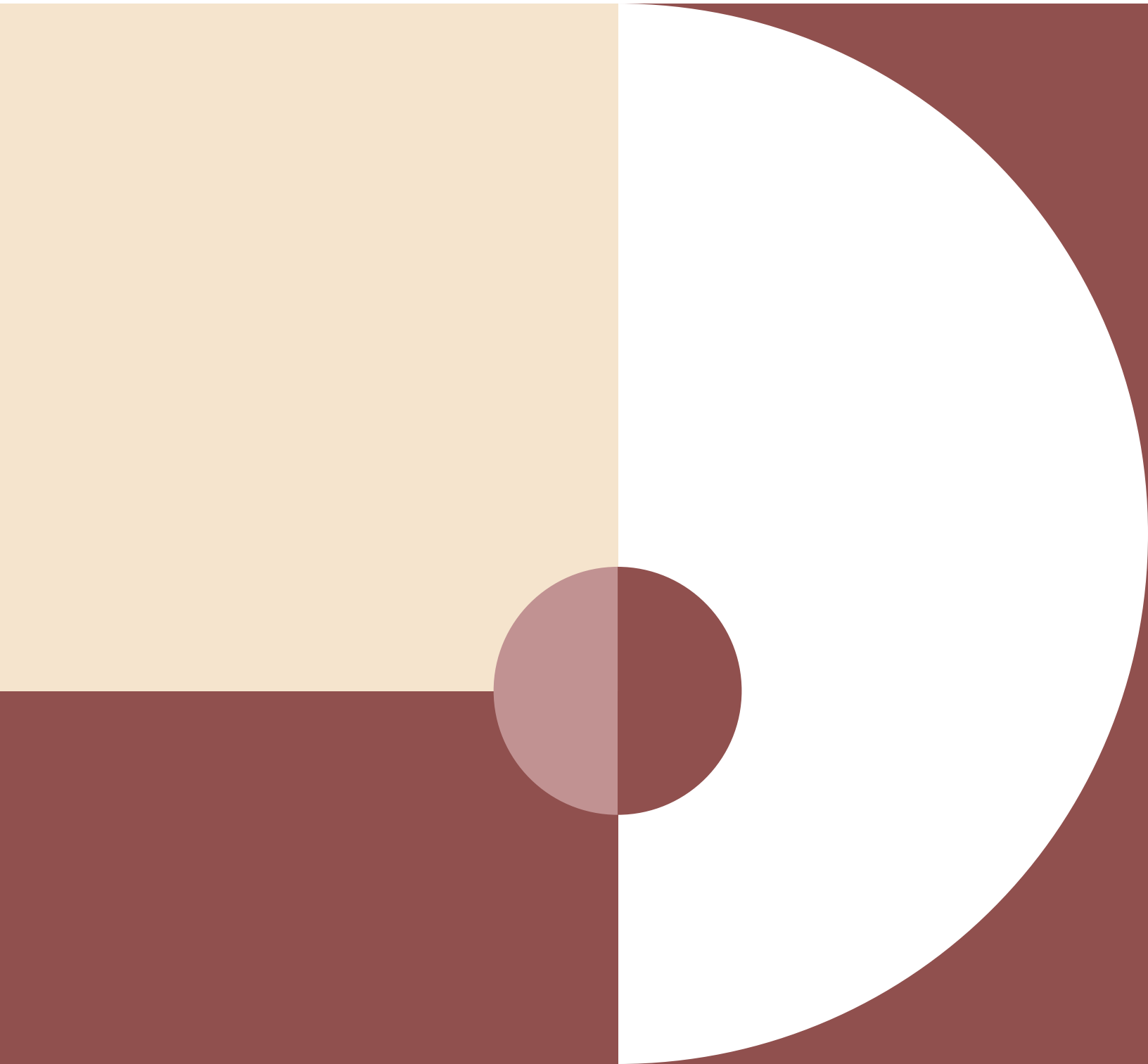


Community Services and Facilities

Libraries, schools, recreation centres and human services are important community assets, and more are needed to support the needs of the growing community.

More details on what we heard are in [Section 3](#) of this Engagement Summary.

1. Introduction



1. Introduction

1.1 About North York at the Centre

The City of Toronto is undertaking a review of the North York Centre Secondary Plan through a project known as 'North York at the Centre'. The purpose of the review is to refresh the vision and planning framework to shape North York Centre into an inclusive, resilient, and complete community.

Study Area

The primary study area (**Figure 2**) for North York at the Centre is consistent with the current Secondary Plan boundary. The area stretches along Yonge Street from Highway 401 in the south, and to Drewry Avenue/Cummer Avenue in the north. The study area is bounded by Beecroft Avenue in the west, and Doris Avenue/Kenneth Avenue in the east.

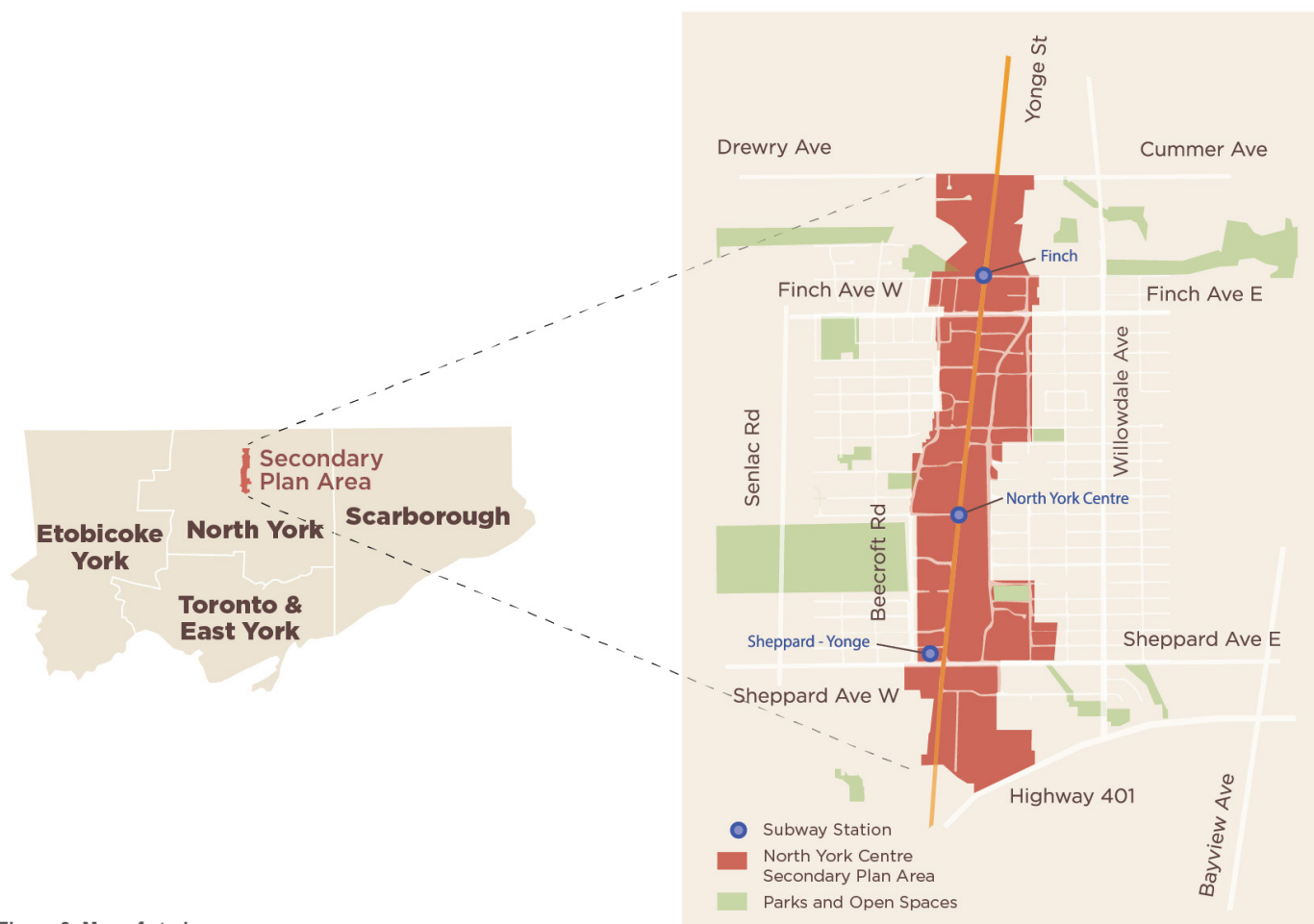


Figure 2: Map of study area

What is a Secondary Plan?

The Official Plan is Toronto's road map for how land in the community should be used. It contains policy direction on matters such as housing, space for employment, parks and public spaces, mobility, built form, heritage conservation, retail, community facilities, the natural environment, watermains and sewers. Secondary Plans, which form part of the Official Plan, establish local development policies to guide growth and change in a defined area of the City.



Why Update the Secondary Plan?

The existing North York Centre Secondary Plan was adopted in 1997 and has helped shape positive change in the area for over 25 years. A review of the Secondary Plan is now needed to better reflect current conditions and trends, setting the stage for a policy refresh to guide growth in the Centre over the coming decades.

The City is working with the community and interested parties to refresh the vision for the area and develop recommendations for updating the Secondary Plan to shape the area as an inclusive, resilient, and complete community as it changes over time. Considerations will include:

- Maintaining a balance between residential and non-residential uses to support a robust and diverse economy to achieve a complete community;
- Encouraging a diverse range of housing options including affordable housing;
- Providing the necessary infrastructure, parks, amenities and community services and facilities to support daily living;
- Encouraging the continued mode-shift towards walking, cycling, transit and new mobility options; and,
- Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Alongside the recently completed plans for Downtown (TOcore), Midtown (Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan), and the ongoing Our Scarborough Centre study, North York at the Centre will contribute to a contemporary policy framework for Toronto's Centres.

Community Engagement

The purpose of engagement is to raise awareness of the project and provide meaningful opportunities for interested individuals and communities to share their aspirations, ideas, perspectives, and priorities for the future of North York Centre. Input from interested parties and the public will help shape project outcomes and address issues related to key topic areas such as mobility and the public realm, land use, parks and open space, cultural heritage, community services and facilities, climate change and the built form.



The goal of Phase 1 engagement was to introduce North York at the Centre and encourage the public and interested parties to share their input on existing conditions and their vision for the future of the Centre. Phase 1 engagement included outreach to:

- First Nations;
- Local Indigenous organizations;
- Local Networks, Services and Organizations;
- Local Advisory Committee; and,
- Members of the public.



Figure 3: Group discussions at the public workshop

Project Phases

The North York at the Centre study will be completed in three phases, with public engagement events and activities held in each phase to inform the study components. **Phase 1** engagement involved launching project communications with Indigenous communities, the Local Advisory Committee, and the public. During **Phase 2** of the engagement program, the project team will gather input on three different options for how the Centre will evolve and support growth to 2051. An update will be provided to show how community input was considered during the development and evaluation of options. Building on all input and technical analysis completed, **Phase 3** will provide an opportunity to review and seek feedback on the implementation strategy.

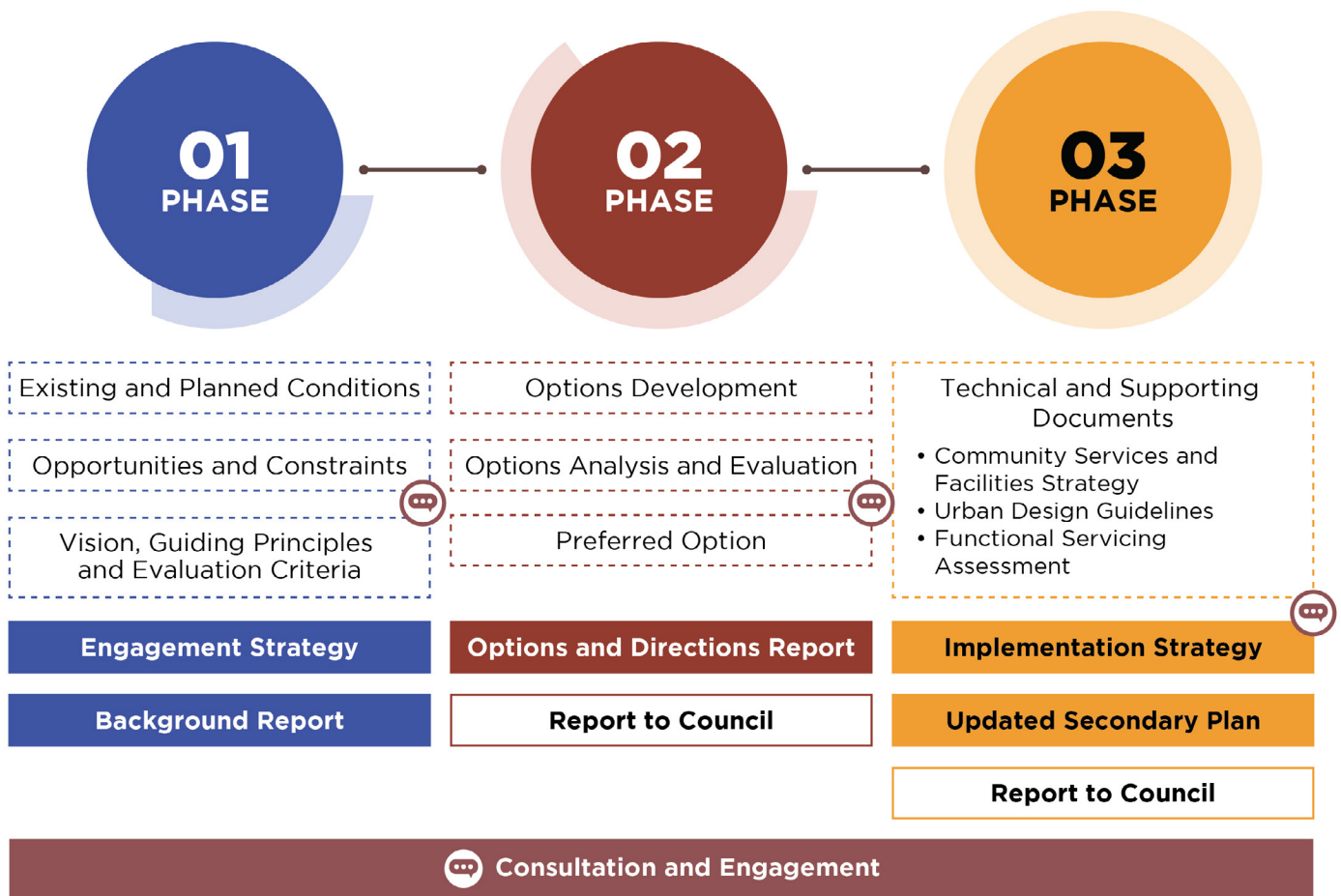


Figure 4: Project phases

Report Organization

Including the preceding Introduction, the Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report is organized into four Sections:

- **Section 1** presents the background, purpose of engagement, study process, and the goals and objectives of engagement.
- **Section 2** presents the communication and engagement activities undertaken during Phase 1 in Fall 2023.
- **Section 3** summarizes the input received and identifies the key themes and community priorities that emerged.
- **Section 4** provides a reflection on Phase 1 engagement activities, outlines lessons learned and the next steps of the project.

2. Communications and Engagement Approach



2. Communications and Engagement Approach

Phase 1 community engagement took place in November 2023 and February 2024 and involved both online tools and in-person engagement events.

2.1 Steps Towards Improving Participation

Strategies and tools for removing barriers and improving participating in the project and leadership by Indigenous, Black, equity deserving and vulnerable communities include:

- Print and oral translation services;
- Accessible print, video and oral communications;
- Flexible event times, and options for virtual and in-person activities, to suit a variety of work schedules and child care obligations;
- Outreach to organizations serving Indigenous, equity-deserving and vulnerable communities in the study area to raise awareness of the project and opportunities to participate, including through the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, North York Community Cluster and the North York Centre Local Advisory Committee;
- Barrier-free event venues with resting places;
- Ensuring gender neutral bathrooms are available at event spaces;
- Using gender inclusive language;
- Developing an anti-hate, violence, harassment, and discrimination policy for participants; and,
- Retaining an Indigenous facilitator to support meaningful relationship-building.

2.2 Communications

Communications methods included:

- A dedicated project web page at toronto.ca/nycentre
- Two e-updates from nycentre@toronto.ca
- Six rounds of social media posts by CityPlanTO on Instagram, X and Facebook
- A Notice of Public Meeting mailed to 41,397 households and businesses
- 500 postcards distributed in the community
- Project notification letters sent to three First Nations.

Social media posts, e-updates and web page updates included promotions for the community pop-ups, public visioning workshop and the online visioning survey and community mapping exercise.



Figure 5: Social media post on 'X'

2.3 Engagement Activities and Events

2.3.1 Local Advisory Committee

Call for Participants

In Fall 2023, a call for community members to participate in the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was issued through the City's social media accounts, the local councillor's e-newsletter, and by local organizations and agencies who participate in the North York Community Cluster and provide services to local residents. The Call for Participants was also highlighted on the project web page, which was advertised through mailed meeting notices to over 41,000 households and businesses. Posters were also displayed at the North York Civic Centre.



Role of the LAC

The role of the LAC is to review and provide feedback on project materials before they are presented to the broader public. LAC members may also share information about the project through the networks and facilitate DIY Workshops to solicit community feedback. Feedback garnered from the LAC will help the City's project team develop project materials and deliverables that are clear and responsive to the community's aspirations and priorities.



Meeting #1

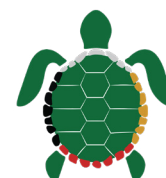
On November 22, 2023, the first LAC meeting was held in-person at the North York Central Library with 19 LAC members in attendance. Of those present, 10 LAC members represented local organizations including: Cycle Toronto, Edithvale Yonge Community Association, North York Arts, Korean Canadian Business Association of Ontario, West Lansing Homeowners Association, West Willowdale Neighbourhood Association, Willowdale Central Ratepayers' Association, Yonge Corridor Condominium Association, and the Yonge North York Business Improvement Association.

The intent of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for LAC members to meet fellow LAC members in-person, introduce the project and discuss issues and opportunities in the study area, such as those related to growth and development, housing, economic development, retail and services, arts and culture, built form, mobility, public realm, parks, environment and climate.



2.3.2 Indigenous Engagement

North York at the Centre represents an opportunity to support the implementation of the City of Toronto's 2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The Indigenous facilitator (SpruceLab) issued a Project Notification Letter to First Nations to share information about the launch of the project and to invite their involvement in the project going forward. Indigenous engagement in Phase 1 included outreach to:



- First Nations whose traditional territory includes North York Centre, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Huron-Wendat Nation; and,
- Local Indigenous organizations and agencies who participate in the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC).

Introductory meetings were held with TASSC on January 24, 2024, and with the Six Nations of the Grand Rivers and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on February 5, 2024, respectively. The purpose of the introductory meetings was to provide an overview of the project and to review the approach to First Nation and Local Indigenous engagement. Participants asked questions of clarification about the project, shared their priorities related to each project theme and provided recommendations for First Nation and Local Indigenous engagement.

2.3.3 Public Visioning Workshop

An in-person public visioning workshop was held on November 28, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at North York Memorial Community Hall, with over 150 community members in attendance (**Figure 6**). The purpose of the public visioning workshop was to provide information about the project and receive input on the existing conditions, issues, and opportunities in the study area. The format of the workshop included focused conversations on four topics areas:



Building a Complete Community



Mobility and Public Realm



Parks and Open Spaces



Community Amenities Services and Facilities



Figure 6: Photo from the public visioning workshop

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2.3.4 Community Pop-Ups

A key objective of Phase 1 engagement was to build awareness of North York at the Centre through a range of tactics. To that end, a series of three community pop-ups were held in November and December 2023 to raise awareness of the project and the online visioning survey and community mapping exercise. Community pop-ups were held at:

- **Finch Subway Station** – November 22, 2023.
- **Yonge-Sheppard Centre** – November 30, 2023.
- **North York Central Library** – December 2, 2023.

At Finch Subway Station, the project team distributed postcards to transit riders passing through the station. (**Figure 9**). The pop-ups at Yonge-Sheppard Centre and North York Central Library, included an information table with copies of the Preliminary Background Report and a panel providing information about North York at the Centre. The project team distributed approximately 500 postcards during the three pop-up events to drive traffic to the online visioning survey and community mapping exercise.



Figure 9: Community pop-up postcards

2.3.5 Community Mapping Exercise and Visioning Survey

An online community mapping exercise and visioning survey was launched on Social Pinpoint and linked through the project web page from December 4 to 31, 2023. The community mapping exercise was used by members of the public to share input on existing conditions, issues, and opportunities in the study area. Participants commented on the same topic areas as highlighted in the public visioning workshop, using markers associated with a unique icon for each project component (**Figure 10**). Participants were able to view others' submissions and 'vote' to indicate their support of the submission. For the visioning survey, participants were asked to describe the Centre in 2051 and to share what they love about the Centre that should be preserved.

A total of 58 unique participants provided 66 comments on the visioning survey and community mapping exercise. The survey had a total of 844 visits and 257 unique users. **Figure 11** depicts how responses were plotted across the study area.






-  Mobility and Public Realm
-  Building a Complete Community
-  Parks and Environment
-  Community Services and Facilities
-  Ideas and Suggestions

Figure 10: Social Pinpoint map legend

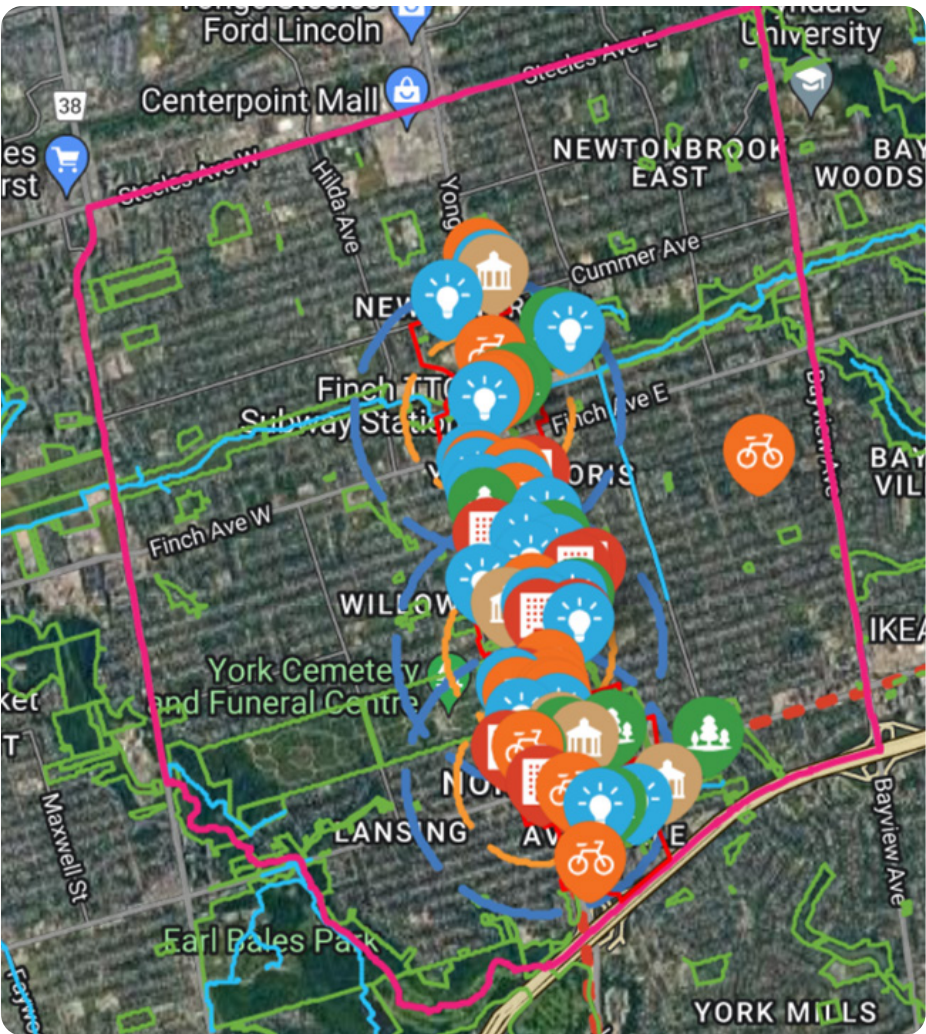
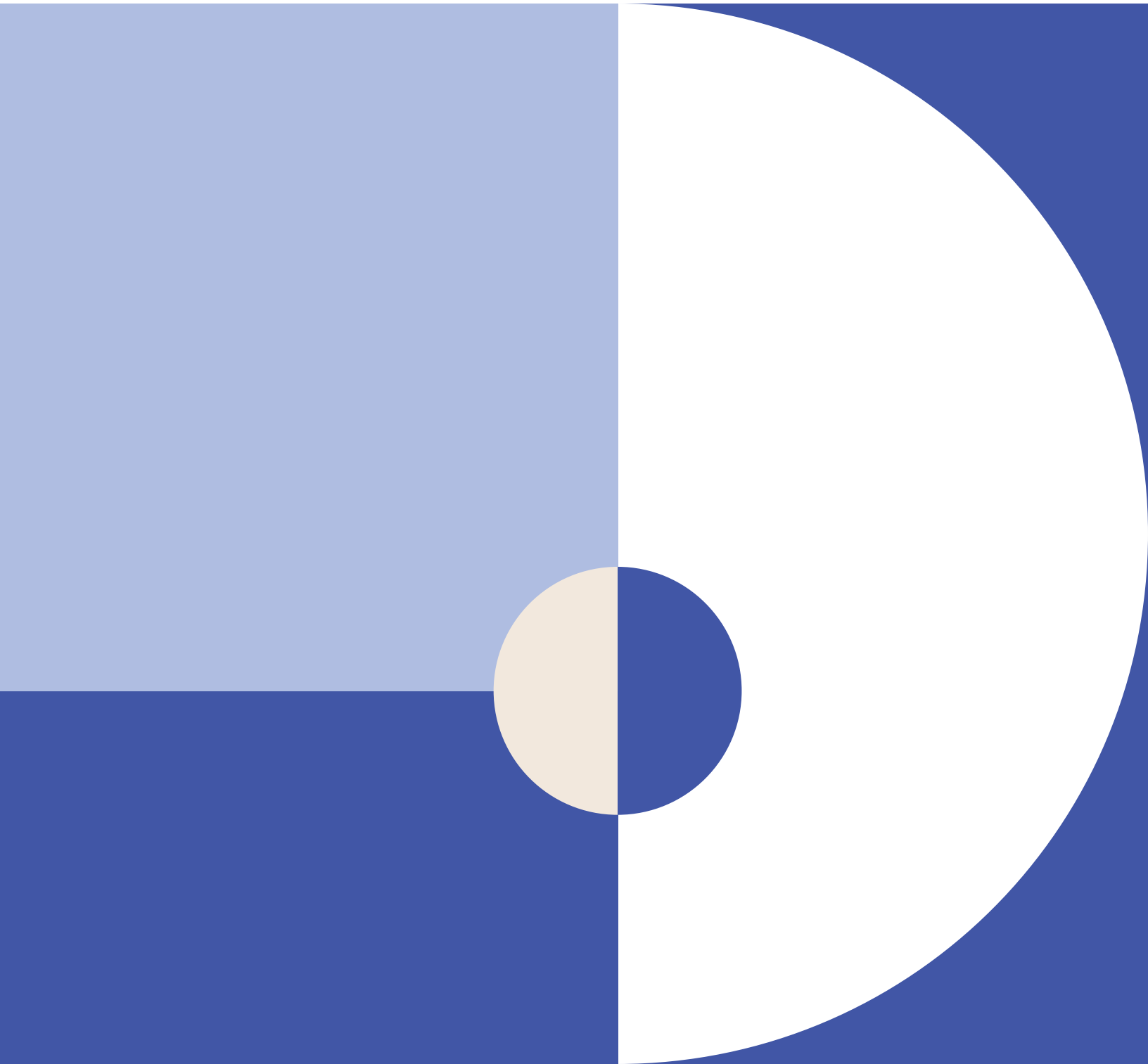


Figure 11: Community mapping exercise screenshot

3. What We Heard



03

Feedback was provided by community members who participated in the LAC meeting, introductory meetings with First Nations and the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC), the public visioning workshop and online survey and community mapping exercise. Participants were asked to reflect on the existing conditions related to the project components: Mobility and Public Realm, Community Facilities and Services, Building a Complete Community, and Parks and Environment. Insights related to each component are based on responses to the following questions:

- **Strengths** – What works well today in the Centre?
- **Weaknesses** – What doesn't work well today in the Centre?
- **Opportunities** – What would you like to see improve or change in the future?
- **Threats** – What concerns you most when you think about the Centre's future?

[illegible]

Figure 12: Mobility and Public Realm SWOT exercise board with participant input

3.1.1 What is Working Well?

In sharing strengths, participants identified what is working well in North York Centre and helped to define the current conditions that make the area a good place to live, work, and play.

- **Mixed-use Buildings** – The Hullmark Centre, which offers retail, offices, and housing on one site was frequently referenced as a good example of a mixed-use site and that should be replicated.
- **Walkability of Yonge Street** – Wide sidewalks along Yonge Street should be retained to support the area's walkability and accessibility to the diverse range of small businesses, services, and amenities that the Centre offers.
- **Wide Sidewalks on Doris and Beecroft Avenues** – The less-crowded sidewalks on Doris and Beecroft Avenues make them more accessible and easier to navigate.
- **Diversity of the Community** – The Center's businesses and public events are culturally diverse due to the high proportion of East Asian and Middle Eastern community members.
- **The Variety of Smaller Businesses** – The variety of small and independently owned retail, services, restaurants, and shops that occupy the 2-storey commercial units along Yonge make the area vibrant and unique and add to the neighbourhood's character.
- **Open Spaces and Parks** – Large naturalized areas like the Hydro Corridor and York Cemetery are heavily used and good for walking and respite.
- **Parks with Recreational Spaces** – Hendon and Willowdale parks are well activated and represent opportunities for spontaneous activities.
- **Publicly Accessible Spaces** – The library, Mel Lastman Square, and the Meridian Arts Centre provide cultural programming that showcases the diversity of the Centre and creates significant opportunities for community cohesion and brings energy to the centre. Recreation, leisure, and community connection are important for seniors and youth, and these spaces offer these opportunities.



Figure 13: Participants having a group discussion during the public workshop

3.1.2 What Needs to Improve?

In sharing the weaknesses, participants identified what is not working well in North York Centre and helped to identify areas for improvement as the community grows.

- **Housing Diversity** – There are too many small, one-bedroom residences in the area. Greater housing options should be explored, including supportive housing and larger units to accommodate families.
- **Affordable Housing Options** – More affordable housing is needed to meet the needs of existing and future residents.
- **Inclusion of Indigenous Communities** – Land-based cultural practices, commemoration of significant sites, and investment in Indigenous-serving services and facilities are all ways to make North York Centre more welcoming to Indigenous communities.
- **Community Cohesion** – Create opportunities for neighbours to develop connections to promote community cohesion (e.g., event space, small businesses, community gathering areas).
- **Walkability** – The pedestrian experience can be improved by increasing the walkability of the area. Pedestrian priority signals, shortened distances between crosswalks and wider sidewalks would help improve the walkability of the area.
- **Parks and Open Space** – Areas with more density should have corresponding parks to increase parkland supply and support the greening of the Centre. Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) need to have better visibility and public access to promote and encourage use.
- **Public Facilities** – Invest in parkland facilities and amenities such as bike storage, water fountains and restrooms in parks to make parks more user-friendly.
- **Connectivity of the Parks System** – Connect parks by creating corridors for walking and biking between parks and build connections east and west between Beecroft Road and Doris Avenues.
- **State of Good Repair of Road Conditions** – Major streets such as Finch Avenue and Steeles Avenue are in disrepair. Sidewalks are also in disrepair. Ice and water pile up on Hillcrest Avenue, as an example.
- **Accessibility of Services** – Settlement services, employment readiness programming, and health programs are needed to support residents. More robust outreach programs and community programming for youth and seniors will be necessary.

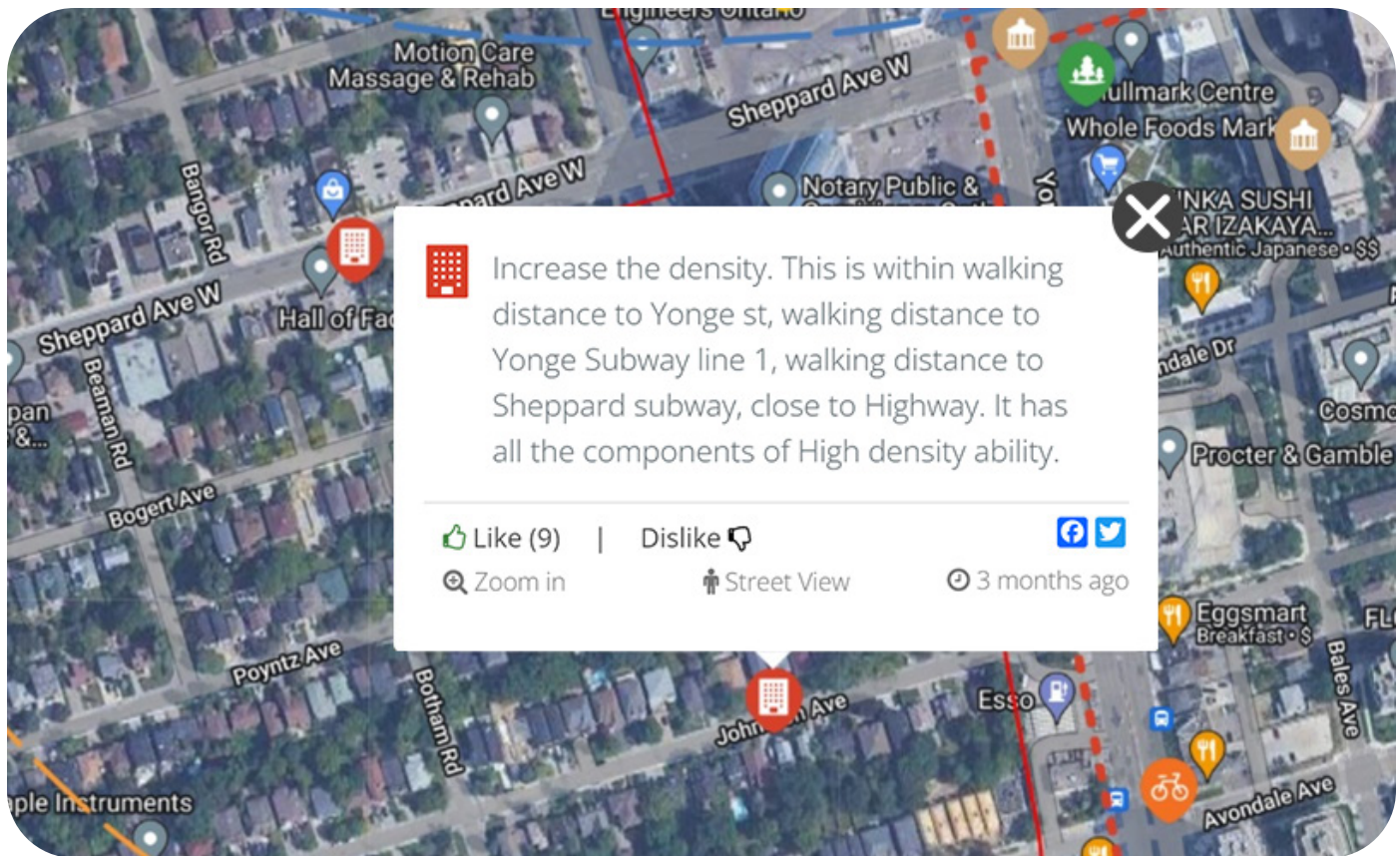


Figure 14: Screenshot of comment from community mapping exercise

3.1.3 Areas of Opportunity

In identifying areas of opportunity, participants provided potential solutions to some of the challenges that North York Centre is facing.

- **Community Involvement** – Encourage community members to participate in city building initiatives and the development process by promoting public engagement.
- **Use City-owned Land for Affordable Housing** – Increased affordable housing in the area will encourage diversity in the community and encourage Indigenous communities, equity-seeking groups, families, entrepreneurs, and artists to live in the neighborhood.
- **Co-locate Community Facilities and Services** – Through development review, support the co-location of community facilities and services, such as schools, community spaces and places for leisure and respite.
- **Increase Programming of Public Facilities** – With the right levels of investment, existing infrastructure like the arts center and public square can be better leveraged to encourage tourism and local economic development in the area.
- **North York Centre as a Destination** – Yonge Street should function as a main street with a mix of entertainment, culture, services and recreation like downtown.
- **Improve Transit** – Build regional transit networks and expand the Sheppard Subway East and West to alleviate the stress of crowded subway platforms and buses. Add shuttle buses so that commuters have another way to get into the city.
- **Green Building Standards** – Encourage new buildings to include rainwater collection, solar panels, or green spaces on rooftops. Encourage permeable pavement in driveways to help with flood control, build sponge parks to absorb stormwater (e.g., marshes and artificial ponds).
- **Improve Park Facilities** – Animate parks and naturalized areas by incorporating more seating, trails, outdoor exercise equipment, and recreation equipment, as well as sports facilities such as pickleball, soccer, and a skating rink.
- **Facilitate Greening of the Centre** – Promote landscaping, tree planting and improved maintenance of public and private land to create a greener environment. Increase enforcement of tree protection by-laws to protect existing and future natural assets.
- **Secondary Plan Boundary** – Expand the area's boundaries to accommodate growth in appropriate areas.
- **Create a Diverse Built Form** – Include mid-rise and low-density housing options, along with commercial/retail sites along arterials.



Figure 15: Participants at self-guided activity station

3.1.4 Areas of Concern

In identifying threats, participants highlighted issues that impede sustainable growth in North York Centre.

- **Loss of Place-based Culture** – Koreatown is losing its character because of rapid change.
- **Cost of Living** – The quality of life for residents will be negatively impacted by the increased cost of living and the affordability of food and services in the area.
- **Barriers to Positive Change** – Concerns were expressed about the Ontario Land Tribunal overturning land use decisions made by the City. There are other concerns that the new Community Benefits Charge system won't be able to fund the growth in community services in a way that will keep up with intensification.
- **Wind and Shadow Impacts** – The current issues with wind conditions and shadowing may get worse as taller buildings are constructed.
- **Noise and Light Pollution** – Traffic causes the streets to be noisy and the light emitted by buildings has an impact on animals and neighbours.
- **Curbside Activity** – The flow of traffic, congestion, accessibility, and the area's destination should be improved by regulating parking along arterial roads.
- **Road Safety** – There is a lack of traffic calming measures, such as reduced speed limits.
- **Maintenance of Public Assets** – The irregular maintenance of public assets such as art installations and parks affects the experience of these features and sites.
- **Loss of the Tree Canopy** – Development is leading to the removal of green assets such as the 200-year-old oak trees cut on Canterbury Place and the potential removal of trees at 15 Horsham Avenue.
- **Barriers to Recreation and Community Programming** – Limited spaces and user fees for recreation programs, as well as online-only registration for programs, create barriers in community programming. There are not enough community centers in the southern part of the Study Area near Yonge and Sheppard or north beyond Yonge and Finch.
- **School Capacity** – Many children in the area are not able to attend elementary and high school in their neighbourhood and are bused to schools outside of the area. New elementary and high school capacity is needed to support growth and to help build a cohesive community.
- **Equity of Access to Services** – Existing services and facilities do not adequately serve the current population and will not be sufficient to accommodate growth.

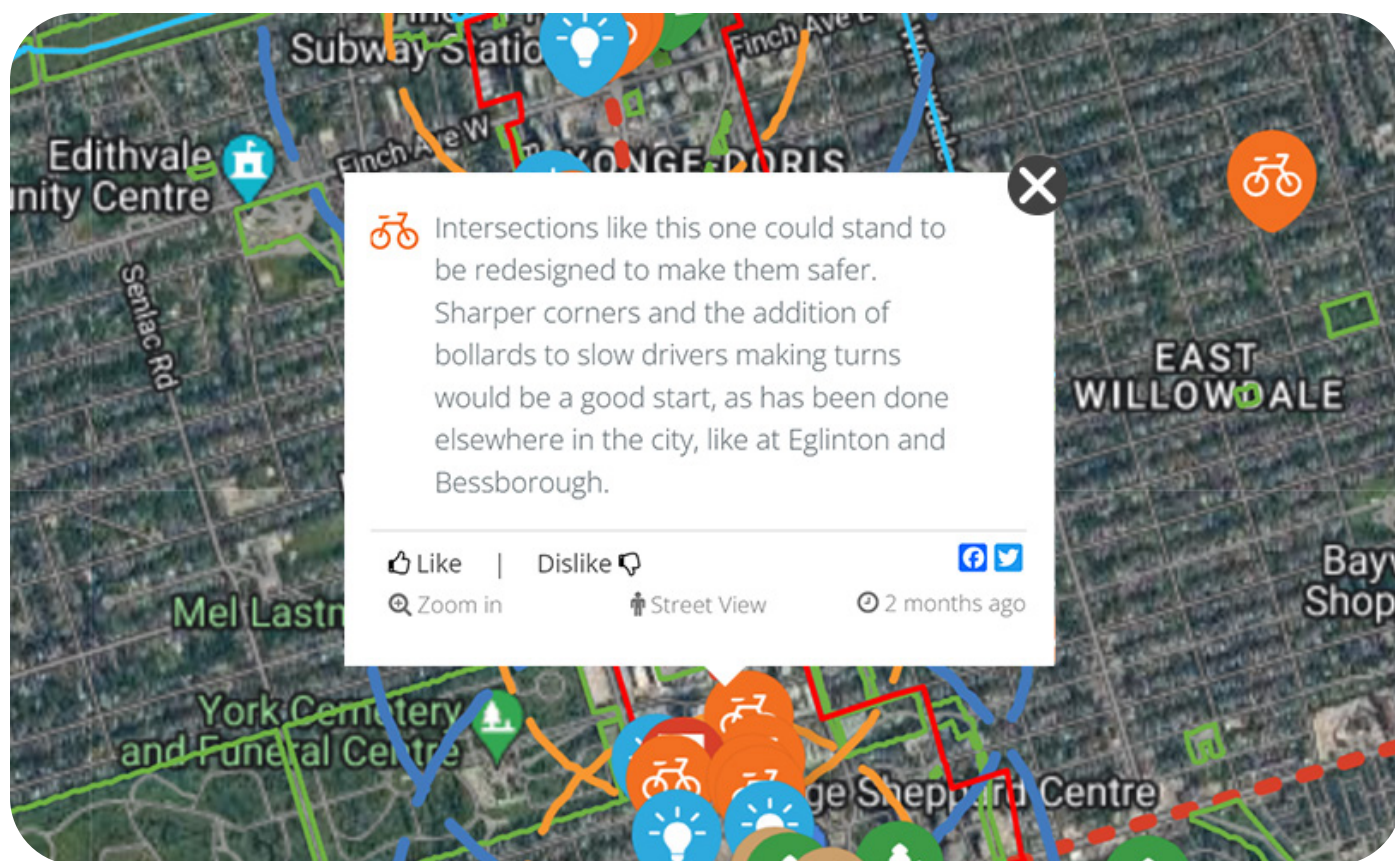


Figure 16: Screenshot of a comment from community mapping exercise

3.2 Vision for the Future

The public visioning workshop and online visioning survey provided an opportunity for participants to share the top three words that came to mind when they thought about the kind of place North York Centre should be in 2051. Figure 18 depicts the terms used by participants in a word cloud. The words that were most used are reflected in the larger fonts, including “vibrant”, “community”, “walkable”, and “green”. Words that were used the least are represented in smaller fonts.



Figure 17: Word cloud showing common terms used to describe the future of the Centre

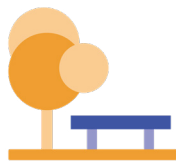
3.3 Key Takeaways

The following are key take aways from what we heard during the workshop and survey:



Building a Complete Community

There is a need for a broader range of building types and heights, affordable housing options, and opportunities for local economic development, arts and culture and heritage commemoration.



Parks and Environment

Expand, improve and maintain parks and natural features throughout North York Centre to support the continued access and enjoyment of green spaces.



Mobility and Public Realm

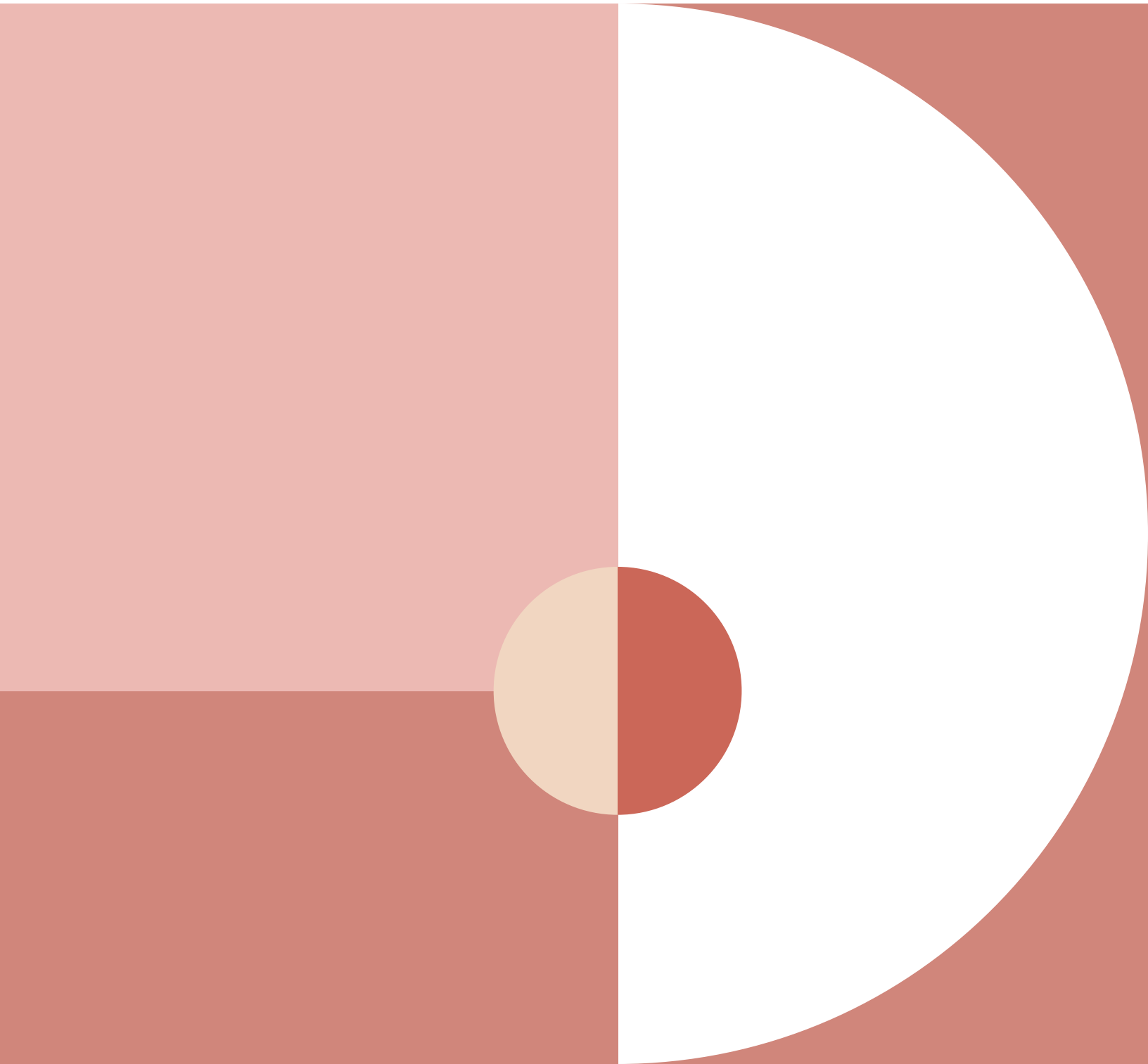
Addressing issues related to speeding, transit access, sidewalk design and the cycling network will help make North York Centre more accessible, walkable and safe.



Community Services and Facilities

Libraries, schools, recreation centres and human services are important community assets, and more are needed to support the needs of the growing community.

4. Reflections and Next Steps



4. Reflections and Next Steps

Lessons Learned and Changes Moving Forward

The project team recognizes the importance of involving a diverse range of voices and lived experiences during the engagement program to support the creation of a meaningful and action-oriented planning framework that will address the Centre's current and future needs. This section reflects process-related lessons learned in Phase 1 of the engagement program that will help inform and improve communications and engagement in future phases of work.



Think and Work in Partnership

A key reflection from Phase 1 engagement was the need to continue to work in partnership with community partners and advocates. The perspectives of interested parties, such as community members and service providers, should be leveraged through this process. To support this outcome, the project team will need to find ways to build an understanding of what Secondary Plan policies are able to influence versus what issues can be addressed through tools identified in the Implementation Strategy.



Improving Outreach and Event Planning

As the City returns to in-person community engagement, it is important to continue to adapt the approach to the planning of engagement events that will maximize participation opportunities. Areas to improve include planning for larger attendance from members of the public, having enough project team members present to accommodate high numbers of participants, and setting aside enough time for discussions and questions from participants.

To improve outreach and communications to support increasing community involvement throughout the course of the project, the project team will continue to respond to feedback received and implement best practices as they evolve. For example, online engagement is an important component of the approach to engagement, however the level of response to the online survey and community mapping exercise was lower than expected. This can be improved by continuing to build an online presence for the project through social media platforms and e-updates.



Continue Meeting People Where They Are

Throughout Phase 1, the project team went out into the community to meet people and organizations where they are already gathering. The team attended meetings hosted by the North York Community Cluster and TASSC and organized three community pop-ups in high-traffic areas like subway stations and the North York Central Library. These engagement events are part of the team's effort to improve outreach to audiences who may not typically participate in planning projects, such as youth, newcomers, and families. Opportunities to go to where people are will continue to be leveraged through future rounds of engagement.

