

Indigenous Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024
6:30pm – 8:30pm



Meeting Opening

Land Acknowledgement

Offer of Tobacco

Traditional Opening by Elder Garry Sault

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Anishnabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that the lands in Toronto where North York Centre is located are covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.



Traditional Opening



Agenda & Objectives

- **Welcome and Introductions** (20 minutes)
- **Part A** (30 minutes)
 - Project Overview
 - The Study Area from Past to Present
 - Approach to First Nations and Local Indigenous Community Engagement
 - Questions and Discussion
- **Part B** (65 minutes)
 - Draft Visioning Framework
 - Discussion
- **Traditional Closing** (5 minutes)
 - To share an overview of the North York at the Centre project and study area with you.
 - To answer any questions about the project and the study area that you may have.
 - To listen to information you wish to share, and any thoughts that you may have about the project.
 - To share future opportunities to stay involved in the project.

Tips for Virtual Engagement



All participants are muted.

If you would like to speak, **raise your hand** and the Project Team will unmute you.

If you are joining by cell-phone, you can **raise your hand** by clicking ***9**.



Computer audio issues or joining by phone? Use your cell-phone for audio by calling **+1 647 558 0588**

Meeting ID: **879 9004 9262**

Passcode: **302649**

North York at the Centre

Project Overview

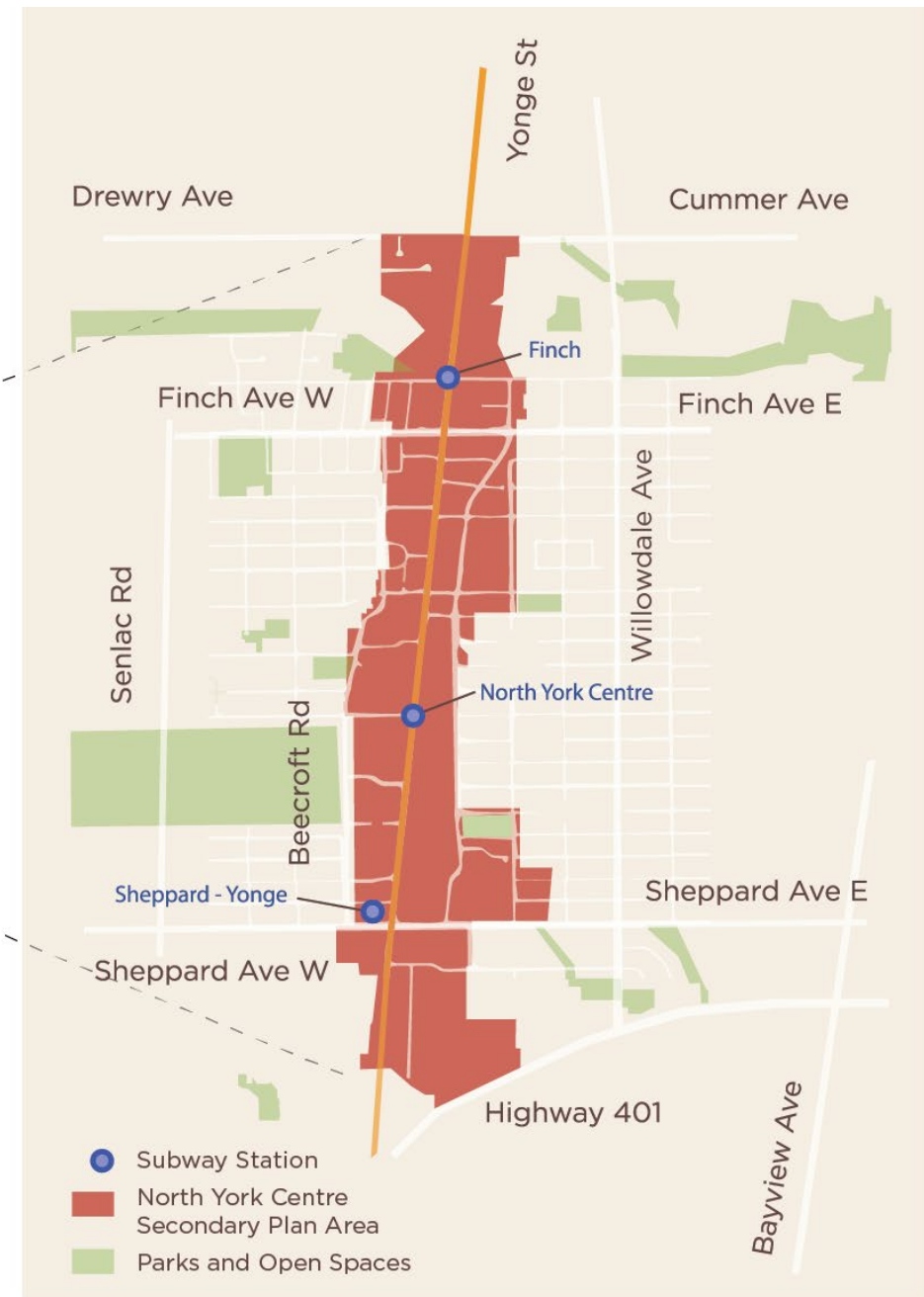
Project Overview

What is 'North York at the Centre'?

North York at the Centre is a review of the North York Centre Secondary Plan to **refresh the vision and planning framework guiding growth and investment in the community.**



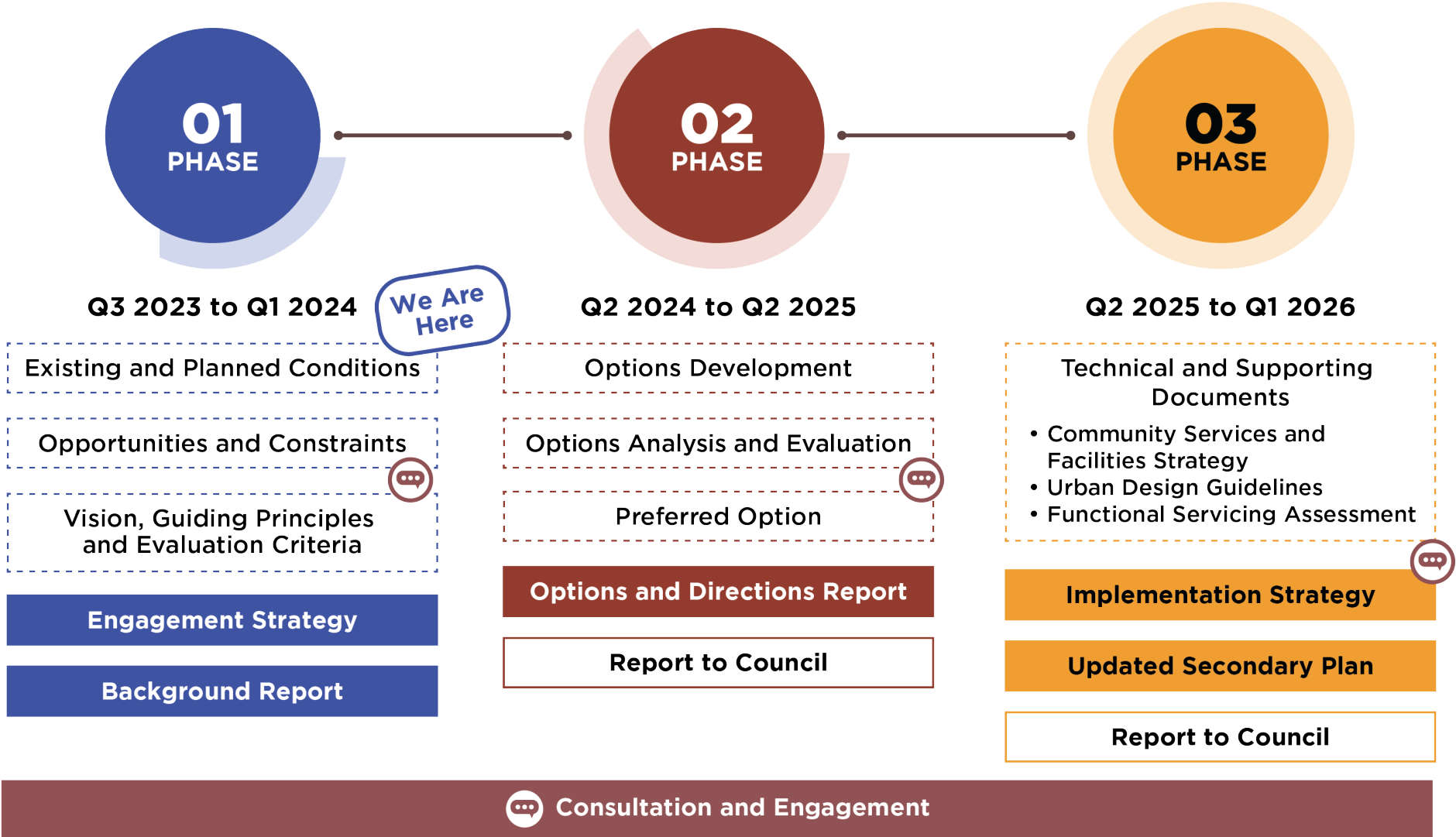
The primary study area runs along Yonge Street, from Highway 401 to Cummer Avenue.



Project Components



Project Schedule

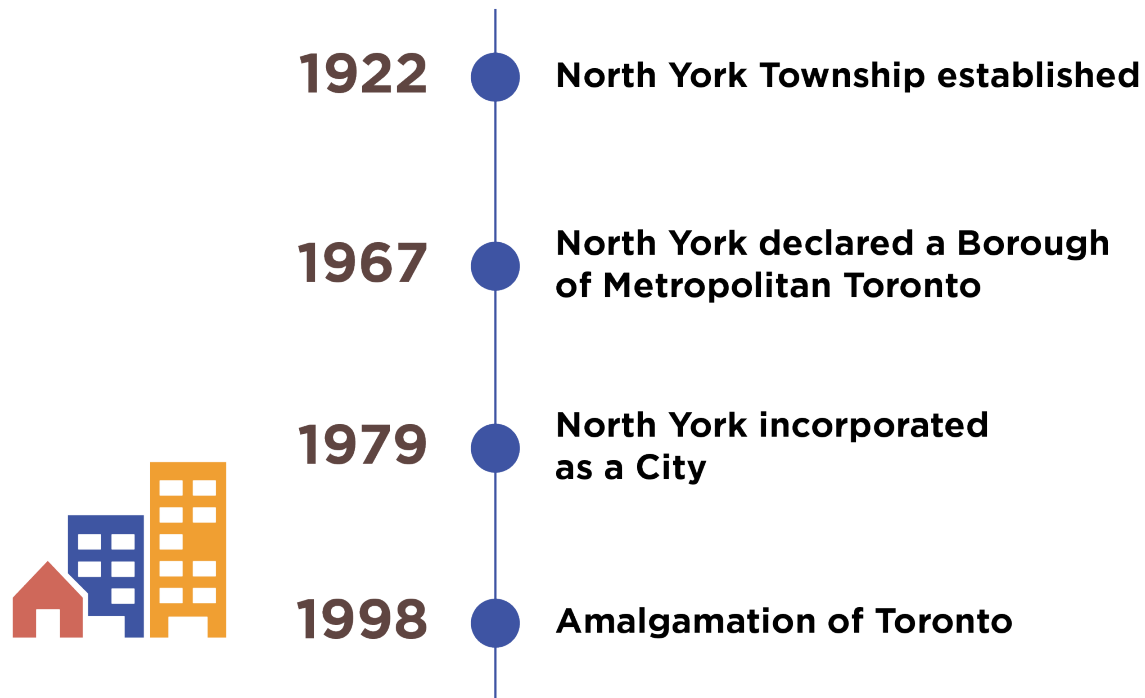


North York at the Centre

The Study Area from Past to Present

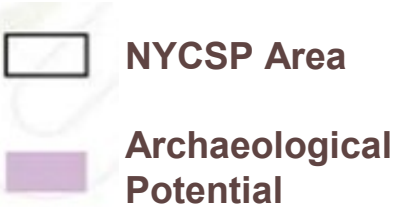
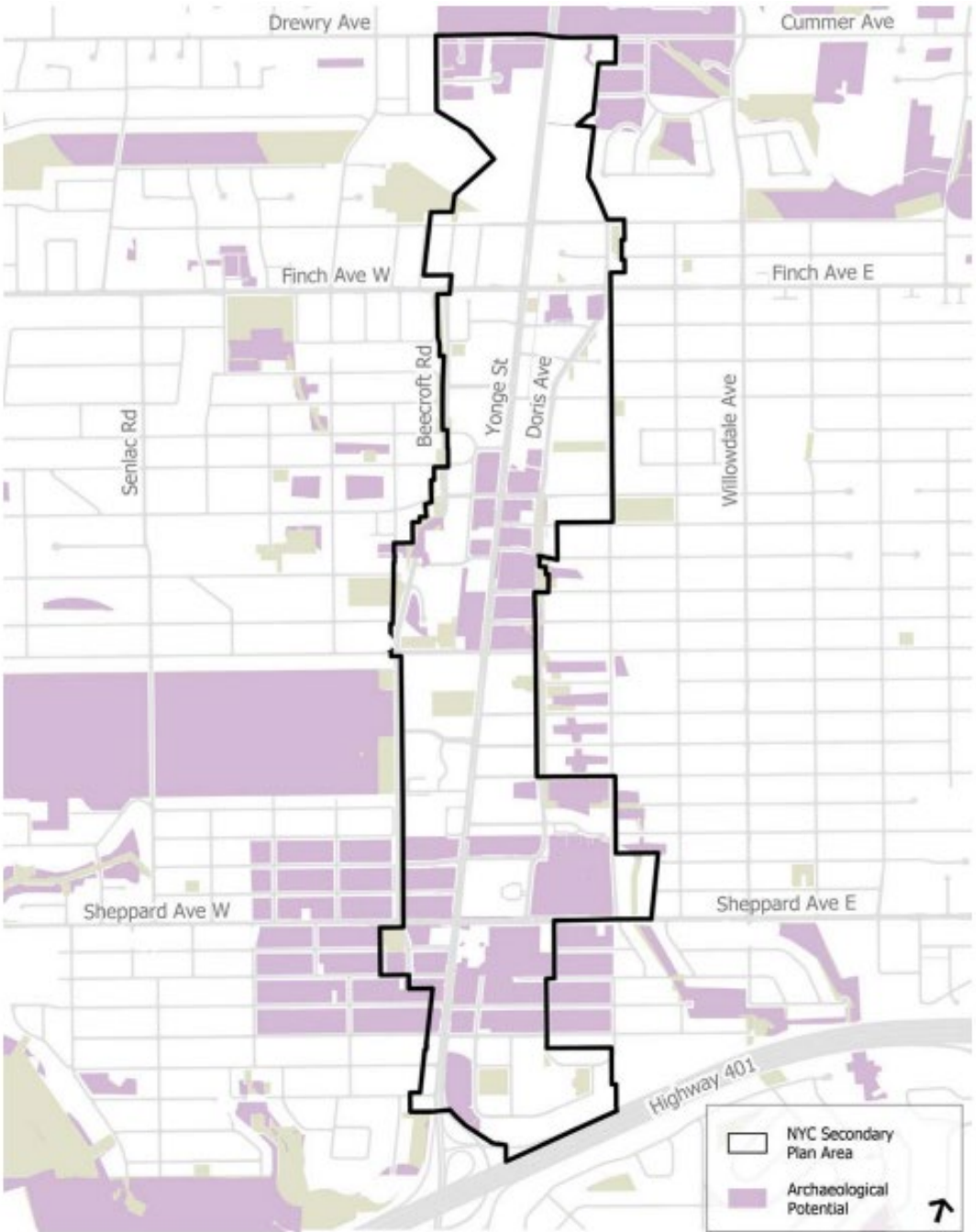
North York Centre – Settler Development

Following the initial signing of Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, several development periods shaped the Study Area's urban evolution.



North York Centre Secondary Plan Study Area

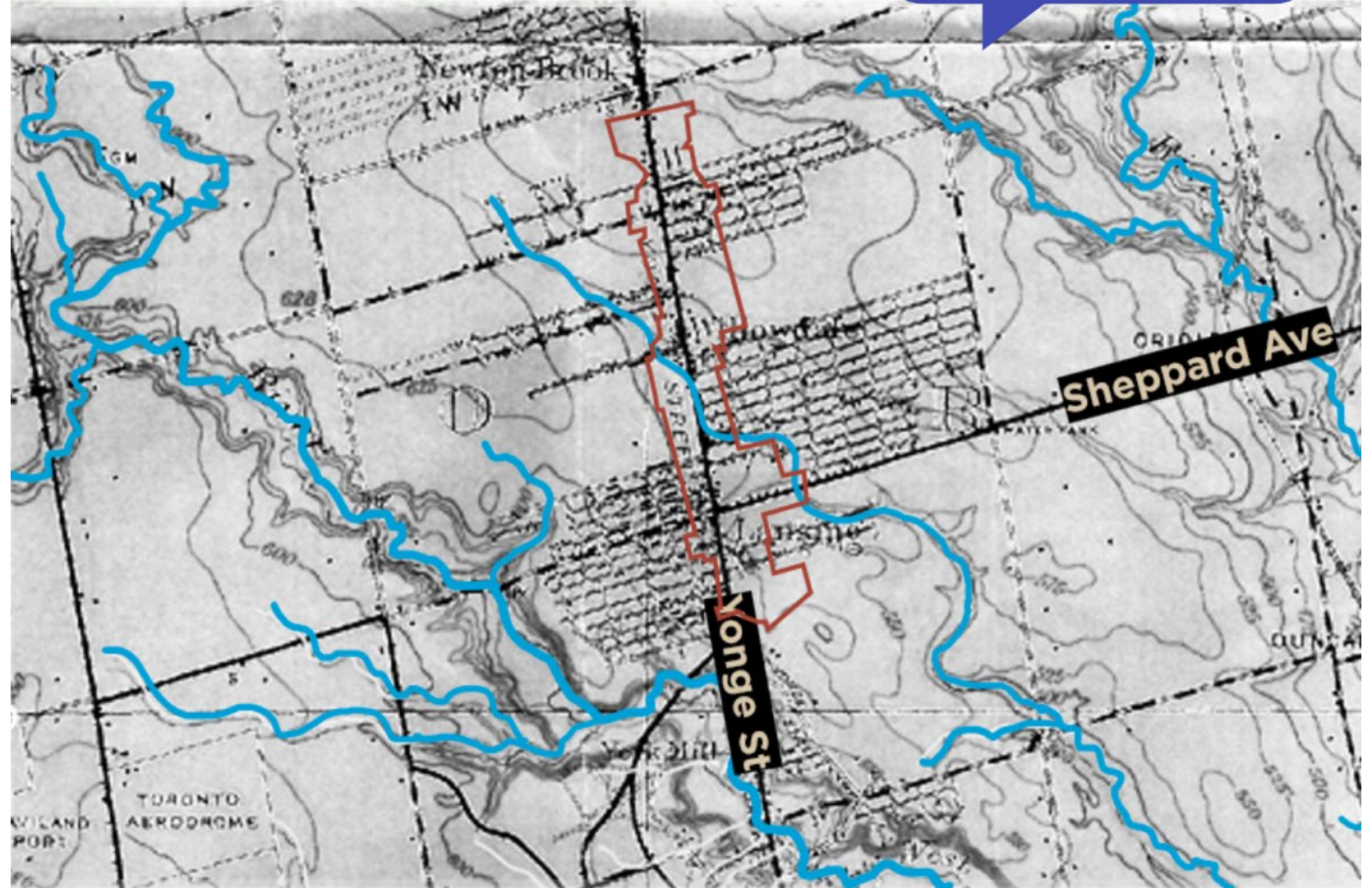
Past



Source: Heritage Planning, City of Toronto

Natural Context

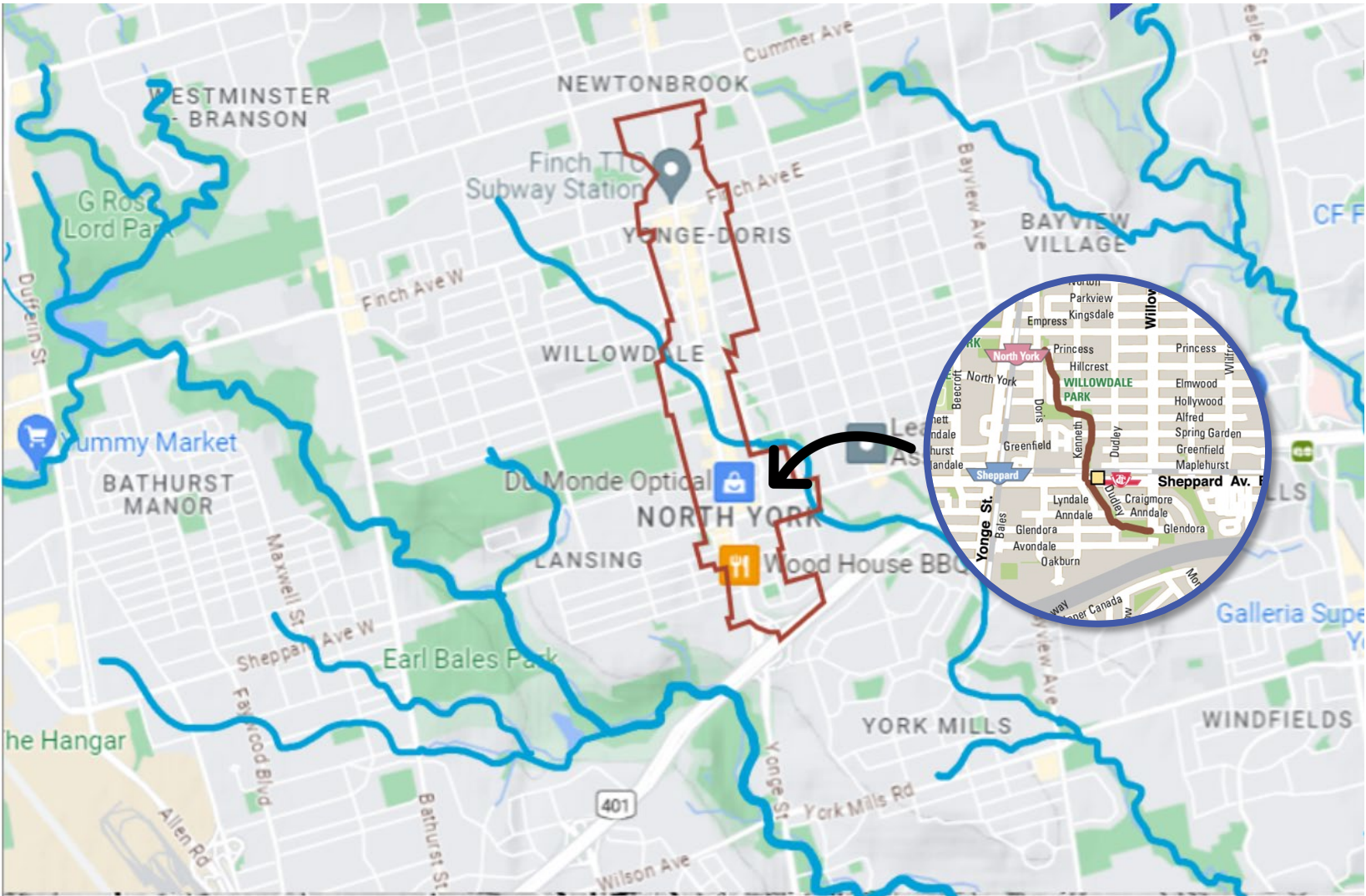
Historic Waterways



West Don River Tributary

Source: Lost Rivers Toronto

Waterways



Parks

LEGEND

North York Centre Boundary

Parks Context Area

MTSA Boundary

City Owned/Operated Park

Squares / Plazas

POPs

York Cemetery

Finch Hydro Corridor

Ravine and Natural Heritage

Future Park

Location of Planned Parks



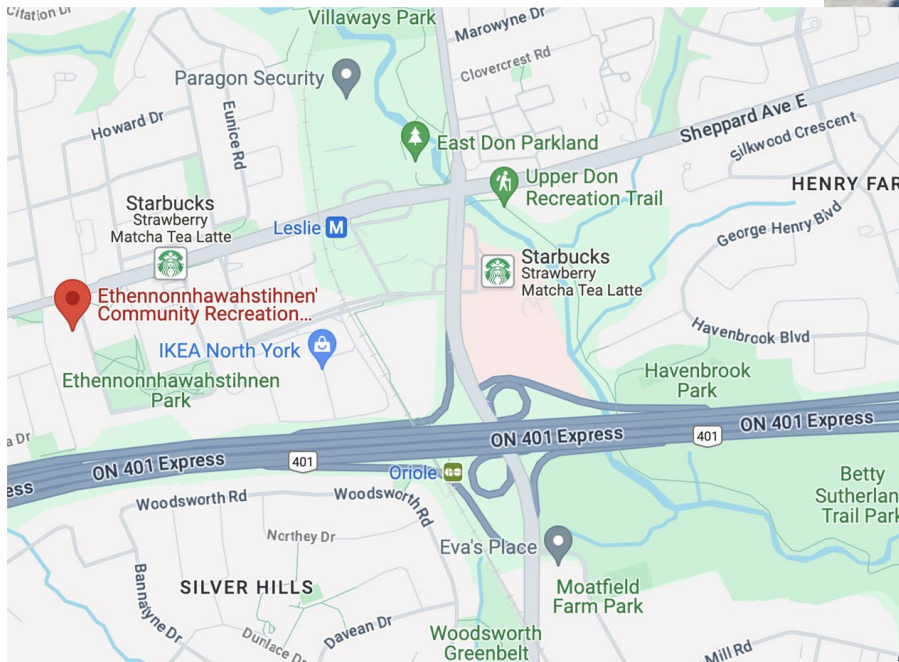
Princess Park



Lee Lifeson Art Park

Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre & Library (*"where they had a good, beautiful life"*)

Example of
placekeeping through
Indigenous naming



North York Today



North York Today



North York Today



North York at the Centre

Approach to First Nations and Local Indigenous Community Engagement

Approach to First Nations and Local Indigenous Engagement

- Include First Nations and local Indigenous voices in meaningful ways to inform, inspire and influence North York at the Centre
- Act in ways that are relational and not transactional (to build stronger relationships)
- Embrace a “Two-eyed Seeing” approach that honours Indigenous Knowledge
- Consider All Our Relations in plans and discussions

Key actions in the City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan:

#7 – Enhance Indigenous Civic Engagement

#14 – Increase Access to Affordable Housing

#15 – Support Indigenous Placekeeping

#21 – Decolonize Honoraria Practices



First Nations and Local Indigenous Engagement Milestones



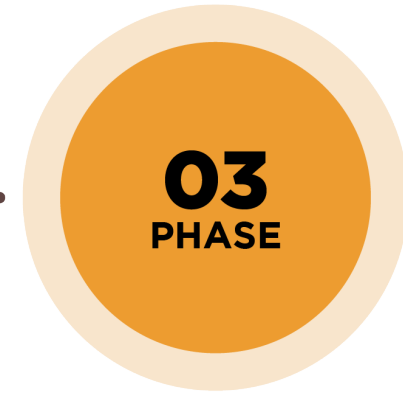
Engagement– Winter / Spring 2024 (Issues and Opportunities)

- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services (TASSC) Meeting
- Meetings with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River
- Local Indigenous Planning Workshop No. 1 – April 2024
- **Local Indigenous Community Meeting No. 1 – May 2024**



Engagement – Spring to Winter 2025 (Options Development)

- Ongoing engagement with First Nations
- Local Indigenous Community Meeting No. 2
- Local Indigenous Planning Workshop No. 2



Engagement – Spring 2025 – Winter 2026 (Updated Secondary Plan and Implementation Strategy)

- Ongoing engagement with First Nations
- Local Indigenous Workshop
- One-on-One Interviews, as-needed

What We've Heard

- A North York at the Centre that is more **clearly recognizable**.
- **Community support** to navigate systems and barriers.
- Centralized community hub for **government and health services**.
- **Native Friendship Centre**.
- Improved **accessibility** and **transit**.
- Variety of **affordable housing** types.
- Spaces for indigenous **ceremony** and **gatherings**, **medicine gardens**.
- Increase park spaces and greening, with **indigenous plant species**.
- **Placekeeping** that tells the story of the First Peoples of these lands, respect for ancestors.
- **Art installations** honouring Every Child Matters, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and two spirit and trans peoples.



Questions / Discussion

- Do you have any questions about the presentation or this project?
- Is there any knowledge or information that you wish to share with us?
- Do you have any initial thoughts or impressions about the project?



North York at the Centre

Draft Visioning Framework

Draft Visioning Framework

Overarching Lenses

Lenses allow us to examine the Guiding Principles and options to explore how they can help address key issues and opportunities.



Equity & Inclusion



Truth & Reconciliation



Climate & Resilience



Guiding Principles

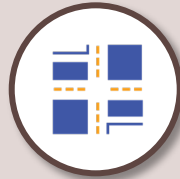
Identify more specific actions to shape the development of options and inform evaluation criteria.



Grow a Complete Centre



Green North York Centre



Build Connectivity



Design Places for People



Evaluation Criteria



Draft Visioning Framework

Overarching Lenses



Equity & Inclusion

means **identifying needs, barriers, impacts, and mitigation strategies** to ensure that the review process and secondary plan policies benefit equity-deserving communities.



Truth & Reconciliation

means advancing the actions of the City's **Reconciliation Action Plan**, and committing to truth, justice, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



Climate & Resilience

means planning to help **adapt** to the realities of climate change and **mitigate** the impacts, in support of the City-wide target of net zero emissions by 2040.

Through the lenses, we can examine the Guiding Principles and options to explore how they help to address key issues and opportunities.



Draft Visioning Framework

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles help identify more specific actions to shape the development of options and inform evaluation criteria.



Grow a Complete Centre

is about defining what makes North York Centre a complete urban growth centre and regional centre for the north part of the city in terms of the type and amount of development.



Green North York Centre

is about how to introduce green into a dense urban centre and how North York Centre can play its part in achieving the City's climate targets.



Build Connectivity

is about defining the vision for how people move to, from, and through North York Centre and the quality of experience as they do so.



Design Places for People

is about defining the character of place in North York Centre in terms of built form and open space design.

Draft Visioning Framework

Evaluation Criteria



Grow a Complete Centre

is about defining what makes North York Centre a complete urban growth centre and regional centre for the north part of the city in terms of the type and amount of development.



What is evaluated?

- Density
- Housing supply (amount, unit size, affordability)
- Mix of office and retail
- Integration of community services and facilities
- Local strategies to address climate changes
- Servicing

A series of objectives that define what North York at the Centre is striving to achieve under each of the principles.



Images from top to bottom: Residential towers with multi-level Podium and existing townhomes

Draft Visioning Framework

Evaluation Criteria



Green North York Centre

is about how to introduce green into a dense urban centre and how North York Centre can play its part in achieving the City's climate targets.



What is evaluated?

- Parkland supply
- Programming and access
- Tree canopy
- Permeable surfaces
- Green infrastructure and low impact development Biodiversity
- Opportunities for Indigenous placekeeping in parks and open spaces



Draft Visioning Framework

Evaluation Criteria



Build Connectivity

is about defining the vision for how people safely walk, roll, and move through North York Centre.



What is evaluated?

- Multi-modal network connectivity
- Prioritization of non-auto modes
- Improve safety for all users
- Streetscape and public realm improvements



Images from top to bottom: People using the sidewalk near Finch Station and image of the Finch Hydro Corridor

Draft Visioning Framework

Evaluation Criteria



Design Places for People

is about defining the character of place in North York Centre in terms of built form and open space design.



What is evaluated?

- Built form transitions
- Mix of building types
- Wind and sun conditions
- Opportunities to animate the public realm Incorporate Indigenous placekeeping
- Preserve and expand open spaces
- Celebrate the Centre's built heritage.



Images from top to bottom: People skating at Mel Lastman Square; The Meridian Arts Centre building

North York at the Centre

Discussion

Discussion Overview

The discussion will focus on the following topic areas:



Topic A. Grow a Complete Centre



Topic B. Green North York Centre



Topic C. Build Connectivity



Topic D. Design Places for People



Draft Visioning Framework – Guiding Principles / Questions



Grow a Complete Centre



1. Are there programming and/or service gaps that exists for the Indigenous community?
2. Do you have any recommendations on better addressing housing and employment needs for Indigenous Peoples in the area?
3. What features, programming or amenities in NYC are needed and necessary to better support the Indigenous community?
4. What do you think would make Indigenous people feel more welcome in the community?



Draft Visioning Framework – Guiding Principles



Green North York Centre



1. What values and approaches to creating parks and caring for the environment are important to you?
2. What kinds of parks and green spaces are currently being used by the Indigenous community, and/or are important to you?
3. Are there Indigenous elements to support cultural practices that you would like to see within the parks and open spaces?
4. Are you interested in land stewardship and growing food and medicines for your community? If so, what would that involve?



Draft Visioning Framework – Guiding Principles



Build Connectivity



1. What mobility modes do you prefer to use?
2. Which features would enhance mobility and safety for Indigenous People of any age to visit and spend time here?
3. Are there ways that Indigenous Placekeeping can support improvements to mobility and the public realm?
4. Are there Indigenous-inspired designs, patterns, colours and materials that could be incorporated into the design of the streetscape and public realm?



Draft Visioning Framework – Guiding Principles



Design Places for People



1. What kinds of buildings and spaces along the street would encourage you to visit the area?
2. Are there specific needs that the Indigenous community would like to see in the design of buildings and spaces at street level?
3. Are there Indigenous designs, forms, colours and materials that you would like to see reflected in the building designs?
4. Can you share any additional information such as Indigenous place names, teachings, and oral traditions to better inform this project?



Breakout Room Discussions



North York at the Centre

Closing



Stay in touch!

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