

Introductory messages

- Through our engagement process, we reached more than 100,000 residents.
- We heard you and we're making changes based on your input to improve the draft New OP.
- The new OP will guide Ottawa growth over the next century. By working together now, we can establish policies that will keep our city healthy and competitive, with a strong economy to attract the commerce and employment needed to sustain our growing population.
- The new OP aims to improve our quality of life in many ways:
 - By protecting farmland, we help ensure food security for all residents.
 - By improving walkability, we can all live near essential services and amenities.
 - By investing in transit, families will have access to more affordable transit choices, and we can better meet our targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - By protecting greenspaces, we ensure everyone has access to quality outdoor spaces – a need underscored by the last year of restrictions.

The report reflects feedback received about proposed draft policies released in November 2020.

- There has been unprecedented engagement on the New Official Plan and the City has reached more than 100,000 people and conducted more than 100 public events
- That feedback has been critical in understanding the issues of most importance to residents and has helped inform development of the New Official Plan.
- This citywide report is not exhaustive but highlights the most significant themes heard so far.
- More ward-specific detail will soon be available at ottawa.ca/newOP.

The Council-approved timeline for adopting the New Official Plan will not be extended.

- Some called for a delay due to the unknown, long-term impacts the COVID-19 pandemic will have on Ottawa and its residents, but the City will need to gauge those impacts over time.
- The City will continue to monitor all relevant indicators and trends to see how post-pandemic habits and patterns change, adjusting as needed.
- As Ottawa recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City will continue to consult with Ottawa Public Health on the new Official Plan and associated master plans.
- The New Official Plan is an overarching policy document needed to allow work to proceed on other policies, like the new Zoning By-law and Transportation Master Plan.

Feedback from respondents has resulted in changes that will be reflected in the revised New Official Plan to be released for comment later this summer. Specific examples:

- **Transect boundaries** will be revised to limit the Inner Urban Area to neighbourhoods developed generally up to 1950 and to move post-1950 communities to the Outer Urban Area – including Alta Vista, areas south of Baseline along the Experimental Farm and those on both sides of Baseline west of Merivale.
- The **Transforming Overlay** was intended to guide redevelopment where there was opportunity for greater density, but many felt it would cause too rapid a change so it will be removed in favour of reworked Downtown Core and Inner Urban transect policies.
- Many saw **minimum density requirements** as too high and worried that neighbourhoods would be too dense, so those requirements will only apply to Hubs and Mainstreets, leaving flexibility for Neighbourhoods and Minor Corridors to instead reach a target range. Even the lowest range will let the City meet its overall intensification goals.

- The revised wording will delete a provision that made it seem as though the City would prevent residents from **rebuilding single family homes** as the intent is for the Zoning By-law to regulate the size and shape of buildings rather than the type of home permitted.
- **Height limits** will be revised on Mainstreets, only allowing high-rises if they meet a minimum lot width and can accommodate appropriate transition to nearby residential areas. Any applicable secondary plan that requires a lower height would also take precedence.

A few pervasive concerns received will not result in policy change.

- Many respondents asked for no urban expansion, but Council adopted an approach to growth that pairs moderate expansion with a rising intensification targets and that approach must be reflected in the New Official Plan.
- Many asked that transit and other infrastructure be in place before any new development is permitted, but the *Planning Act* does not give the City power to freeze development. The New OP does, however, encourage growth around established and approved transit.

Emphasizing 15-minute neighbourhoods will help with housing affordability.

- Many sought to encourage affordable housing. An Official Plan is not the appropriate venue for such policies but the focus on 15-minute neighbourhoods will help improve affordability.
- The New OP recognizes that affordability involves more than the cost of a home – it's also the cost of transportation to and from that home. By building a city of proximity, more people can live viably without a car, where daily needs are all within a 15-minute walk of home.
- By offering more family-oriented housing options in established neighbourhoods near transit, families will also have access to more affordable transit choices

The New Official Plan will set conditions for more 15-minute neighbourhoods city wide.

- The new Official Plan will encourage areas that have all elements of a 15-minute neighbourhood to function as such and will guide communities that are missing a few to develop those elements.
- In addition, the New Official Plan provides a roadmap to seed the conditions for future 15-minute neighbourhoods into areas that are currently missing necessary elements. Examples of such elements include grocery stores, parks and daycare facilities.
- Some of our Rural villages are good examples of 15minute neighbourhoods and more have potential to become 15-minute neighbourhoods.
- By encouraging balanced growth across Ottawa, the new OP will provide opportunities for intensification in a more distributed and therefore less concentrated manner so that targets are achieved more evenly across the city."

Dialogue around the proposed policies in the New Official Plan is not over.

- You can send feedback to newop@ottawa.ca until the vote at City Council this fall.
- The updated draft policies will be released this summer, with changes tracked to help residents see what has been revised.
- On Monday, September 13, the updated policies will be before a joint meeting of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs and Planning Committees, and residents can register to speak at that meeting.

- After the New Official Plan is approved, there's more work to be done creating a new Zoning By-law to put approved policies into practice. This will involve a multi-year process with many opportunities for public engagement to inform street-level changes.

Each engagement process for the New Official Plan has generated significant public input and informed the next step in the process.

- **December 2016** – the City shared the Beyond 2036 planning study to identify trends and opportunities before the start of the New Official Plan project.
- **Spring 2019** – The City sought feedback on nine discussion papers outlining key issues to be addressed by New Official Plan.
- **August 2019** – Extensive engagement on the Five Big Moves – the core concepts for the policy proposals for the new Official Plan.
- **Spring 2019** – The City created a working group specifically aimed at gathering input from 11 traditionally under-represented groups.
- **November 2020** – The City circulated the draft New Official Plan to seek public feedback.
- Outreach has relied on a range of tactics, including a website, surveys, community meetings, ads, newsletter articles, public events, short videos, media interviews and social media.