

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.