



2025 Public Engagement Strategy

This document outlines the updated engagement strategy and workplan for the second draft of the New Zoning By-law Review. Following extensive feedback gathered during the first draft, the City of Ottawa is continuing efforts to involve the community in shaping the new zoning by-law. This work builds on the foundation laid by the new Official Plan, ensuring that the zoning regulations align with the city's broader vision.

The document provides a summary of the consultation activities from the first draft, including key themes and lessons learned. It also details plans for the next phase of engagement, aimed at reaching a wide range of stakeholders—residents, community groups, businesses, and public institutions. Public input remains vital as the zoning by-law is refined to meet the needs of the community. The City of Ottawa encourages participation in the various activities and channels set up to work together in shaping the future of the city.

Building on the City of Ottawa's New Official Plan

The City of Ottawa's new Official Plan is the guiding policy document for the City. Approved in November 2022, the Official Plan outlines the values and goals needed to support Ottawa in becoming the 'best mid-sized city in North America. A city that is equitable, climate resilient, healthy and affordable. Along with other key documents such as the Infrastructure Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and the Climate Resilience Strategy, the Zoning By-law review project's purpose is to implement Ottawa's Official Plan.

To achieve this, the Zoning By-law review project focuses on several key directions. These include increasing the housing supply to meet the targets set in the Official Plan, ensuring the adequacy of municipal services and on-site stormwater management (SWM), and promoting housing opportunities in proximity to transit. The project also addresses the urgent need for a range of housing choices, aims to make room for trees, and supports the development of 15-minute neighbourhoods. Additionally, it emphasizes climate change mitigation, adaptation, and public health, while ensuring equity in zoning practices.

Goals for Draft 2

The entire proposed Zoning By-law, excluding urban and rural exceptions, were released as part of Draft 1. Active engagement on the entire proposed By-law extended from June 2024 to November 2024, and the project teams continues to receive and respond to comments received. In the Draft 2 version of the proposed By-law, staff reviewed and where appropriate have modified the proposed provisions based on the over six months of public consultation.



In Draft 2 the focus on consultation will be on several key outstanding issues that were raised or received feedback on during the consultation. As major issues emerged during consultation, the project team released two Information Previously Distributed, commonly referred to as IPD reports to the Planning and Housing Committee to keep Members of Council and the public aware and engaged on these issues (See Document 11 to view the IPDs). These issues are:

- Issue 1: Minimum parking rates for Villages
- Issue 2: Maximum building height in N1 and N2 – Neighbourhood Zones
- Issue 3: Conversion of the R4 zone to N4 zone in the draft Zoning By-law
- Issue 4: Building height transition framework in Mainstreet Zones
- Issue 5: Communal parking lot permissions in Neighbourhood (N1-N6) Zone

Information on these issues and options for addressing them can be found in Document 03. Consultation in Draft 2 will focus on engaging on these issues and the potential options to resolve them.

The level of engagement describes how the City of Ottawa involves the public in the planning process. It's a structured approach that ensures everyone's ideas and concerns are heard and considered. This method was successfully used in developing the new Official Plan and the first draft of the New Zoning By-law. Continuing this approach helps create a zoning by-law that truly reflects the community's needs and input.

Engagement levels range from simply informing the public to actively collaborating with them. Informing involves sharing information to build awareness, while consulting means gathering input and ideas from the public. Involving the public goes a step further by including them in the decision-making process, and collaborating means working directly with the public to develop solutions and recommendations.

Engagement Activities

Expected Activities for Second Draft Consultation

The second draft of the New Zoning By-law Review will involve a series of engagement activities designed to gather input and feedback from the community. Given the shorter timeline for this phase compared to the first draft, the engagement strategy will focus on broader, city-wide activities rather than ward-specific meetings. Here are the key activities planned for the second draft consultation:



In-Person Open Houses

- **May Open House:** An in-person open house will be held in May to provide an overview of the second draft and gather initial feedback from the community.
- **Statutory Open House:** A statutory open house, required by law, will take place in Q4. This session will offer a detailed review of the draft and provide an opportunity for public input.

Virtual Open Houses

- **City-Wide Virtual Open Houses:** Several virtual open houses will be conducted to discuss the project at a city-wide level. These sessions will ensure that residents who cannot attend in-person events still have the opportunity to participate and provide feedback.

Youth Engagement

- **Youth Workshop:** A workshop will be held in collaboration with Youth Ottawa to engage young people in the zoning by-law review process.
- **Curriculum Materials for Schools:** Curriculum materials have been created for Grade 9 students to learn about and engage with the zoning by-law. The City looks forward to receiving submissions from students, which will be included in the draft 2 As-We-Heard-It reports.

Additional Engagement Activities

- **Engage Ottawa:** The Engage Ottawa platform will continue to be a central hub for online engagement, providing information about the project and collecting feedback.
- **Online Document Circulation and Review:** Draft documents will be circulated online for public review and comment.
- **Social Media:** Updates and engagement opportunities will be promoted through the City's social media channels.
- **Stakeholder Workshops:** Targeted workshops will be organized for key stakeholder groups to discuss their specific concerns and suggestions.
- **Surveys and Polls:** Surveys and polls will be conducted to gather quantitative and qualitative data on public opinion regarding the draft.
- newzoning@ottawa.ca: The project will continue to receive and respond to questions and comments through the project email until the report is submitted to Joint Committee for approval in Q4 2025. Comments received after the close of the consultation period will likely not be able to be addressed prior to submission.



to Joint Committee, but will be reviewed by staff and retained in the corporate record.

Indigenous Engagement

The City of Ottawa is committed to meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities throughout the New Zoning By-law Review process. Recognizing the importance of building strong relationships and respecting Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, the City will work collaboratively with Indigenous leaders and organizations to ensure their voices are heard. The City will remain flexible and responsive, adapting its approach as needed to foster an inclusive and respectful dialogue. This engagement will help ensure that the new zoning by-law reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of all community members, including Indigenous peoples.

2025 Engagement Timelines

Draft 2 - March – June 2025

March 31	Joint PHC & ARAC Committee Meeting – Release of Draft 2
April 16	Council Meeting
May	Non-Statutory 60 day circulation
June	One in-person open house (Ben Franklin) and two virtual open houses
June 30	End of consultation period for Draft 2

Draft 3 – September – January 2025

Early September	Release of Draft 3 on EngageOttawa
September	Statutory 28-day circulation
Late September	Statutory open house (City Hall) and two virtual meetings
December	Joint PHC & ARAC meeting
January 2026	Council approval
2026	Implementation