



Consultation overview

Staff in the Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department have been tasked with developing a new Official Plan by Q1 2021.

Stakeholder Engagement has been implemented with a new approach, focussing on meeting residents in their communities and ensuring underrepresented voices have a meaningful opportunity to share their views on the new Official Plan.

To achieve this, new and innovative tools were developed. These include (but may expand beyond):

- **An Engagement Toolkit,**
- **A new interactive website on Engage Ottawa,**
- **An Ambassadors Working Group representing the City's identified Equity and Inclusion groups.**
- **Various stakeholder working groups.**
- **Ongoing in person stakeholder meetings (open houses, presentations, workshops, pop ups, etc.)**
- **Consultants to help create specific engagement plans for:**
 - **Indigenous Engagement**
 - **Business Community Engagement**
 - **Narrative to tell the story of the OP**

This report outlines the stakeholder engagement that took place in the first phase of developing the New Official Plan. This phase focussed on awareness building, education and a first round of collecting stakeholder feedback.

As We Heard It

Engagement

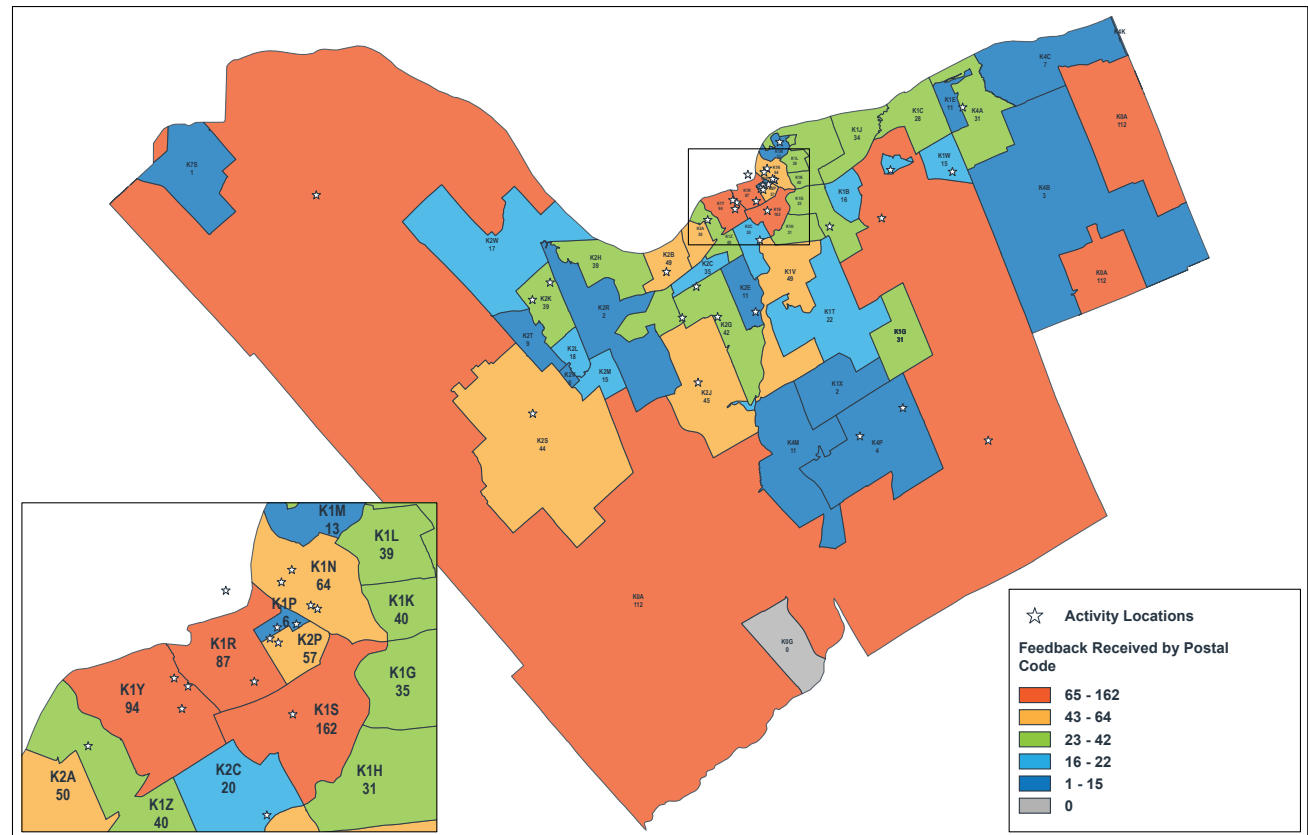
Total in person engagement activities: **69**

Online engagement activities: **15**

Total number of individuals providing direct feedback (online and in person): **6,581**

Total number of people engaged: **37,813***

*Including Newsletter and Website



As We Heard It

Update

We would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals for taking the time to provide their feedback, either through the online polls, community workshops, meetings, working groups or email correspondence. This feedback plays a critical role in ensuring New Official Plan policies help build on communities' unique assets and emerging needs.

We recognize the importance of providing you an overview of how feedback has been addressed in the development of the New Official Plan. Below you will find tables on each of the 5 Big Moves. Each table has a column highlighting the most prominent feedback themes we heard, as well as a column with the corresponding draft policy directions. Feedback in these tables was included when it was a theme heard from multiple residents.

There are several proposed policies not listed below, as they were not related to feedback received. See the full report on Preliminary Policy Directions to get all the proposed policies.

Please note, that this is not the last opportunity to provide feedback on the New Official Plan. You will be able to add feedback throughout the milestones outlined in the Next Steps section of this report.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION DES INTERVENANTS



As We Heard It

Growth

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
The majority of residents expressed support for future growth to mostly take place in established neighbourhoods.	<p>By 2046, the majority of new residential units will be through intensification in the urban area and serviced villages.</p> <p>Phase in the intensification target with more gentle rises early in the projection period and more rapid increases later.</p>
<p>There was widespread support for growth to lead to the creation of more complete communities.</p> <p>Nearly 90% of respondents to the Growth poll expressed support for having their neighbourhood become a more complete community.</p> <p>Residents participating in the community workshops expanded on the desire for complete communities to include more local recreation opportunities.</p> <p>The desire to see more services within communities was also shared in the community workshops.</p>	<p>Official Plan policies must advance human health through the built environment.</p> <p>Ensure policies support building accessible, inclusive communities, and design for all ages, including children and older adults</p> <p>Advance policies that enable evolution to walkable, 15-minute neighborhoods</p> <p>Require policies to support the design of sustainable and green communities</p> <p>Rural Development will contribute to village parks and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Include new provisions that encourage major and minor league sport, provide direction for planning sports facilities and surrounding districts, and encourage the connection between sport, culture and cultural land uses.</p>



As We Heard It

Growth

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
Seventy-seven percent of residents who responded to the Growth poll were either neutral or in support of having housing included in City owned facilities, such as libraries, recreation and transit facilities.	<p>Promote the use of publicly owned lands to supplement the supply of affordable housing while providing incentives and regulatory mechanisms to promote more affordability in the private housing supply</p> <p>Provide new policy direction to require the co-location of otherwise segregated land uses, with a strong policy direction for housing to be integrated into new City facilities and for housing to be integrated into existing employment business parks</p>
<p>Over eighty percent of responses in the Growth poll were in support of more flexibility in housing within neighbourhoods that are, or are becoming, more walkable/complete communities.</p> <p>More diversity in housing types, including more rental, more affordable housing and increased ability to age in place, was also a significant theme in the workshops held on the 5 Big Moves in communities across the City.</p>	<p>New policy will emphasize building form (size and shape of building) rather than focusing on the type of dwelling (number of units in the building), as a way to provide a broader range of housing options than is currently permitted</p> <p>Encourage denser, walkable 15-minute neighbourhoods to help reduce or eliminate car dependency and promote social and physical health and sustainable neighbourhoods</p> <p>Provide new policy that supports innovative, affordable and context-sensitive housing forms, in appropriate locations, including family-oriented housing as well as forms that suit single- person households.</p> <p>Ensure intensification strategy will consider housing and transportation affordability.</p>



As We Heard It

Growth

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
<p>Nearly 90% of residents who completed the Growth poll felt either neutral or in support of having rural growth focussed within established villages.</p> <p>Residents at our rural community workshops expressed support for growth in some villages as a means to retain younger residents, add diverse housing options and encourage economic development.</p>	<p>Permit modest expansion to a few villages to ensure sustainability</p> <p>The Rural Area is treated substantially the same as it is currently, with growth mostly directed to villages, and where walking and cycling are marginal options outside of villages but with some new flexibility in land use permitted in the general rural area</p>

"I just want to say that I love the idea of more complete communities where residents can get to most essential services and places of interest and retails within 15 minutes."



As We Heard It

Mobility

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
<p>There was nearly complete support (96%) by residents taking the Mobility poll to have new growth to be focussed around transit.</p> <p>Participants in the community workshops also made this a clear priority, pointing to transit stations as a key area for intensification.</p>	<p>Some urban growth areas will be contingent on improvements to the public transportation system</p>
<p>There was significant interest (78%) in seeing more complete streets in communities in the Mobility poll.</p> <p>Improving active transportation options, from greater access to reliable transit to safer walking and cycling infrastructure was a regular theme in the community workshops.</p>	<p>The Downtown Core is the hub of the City-wide rapid-transit system, where walking, cycling and transit are paramount, where densities are highest, and where land uses are most finely mixed</p> <p>The Inner Urban Area encompasses the band of dense, walkable and transit-supportive form of older urban neighbourhoods surrounding Downtown.</p>
<p>Residents completing the Mobility poll expressed strong agreement with the idea of exploring funding options for implementing service improvements at OC Transpo.</p> <p>A desire for improved public transit was one of the most consistent feedback themes in the community workshops.</p>	<p>A number of strategies will also be pursued as part of the update of the Transportation Master Plan and related plans to support Official Plan goals for achieving mode share targets and objectives for mobility, liveability, equity, health and environmental sustainability</p>

“Establish a thorough, safe cycling network from the suburbs and rural towns to the City pathways.”



As We Heard It

Urban Design

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
The majority of residents (70%) who completed the Urban Design poll agreed with the idea of identifying additional skylines/views for protection.	New policies will recognize the role of clusters of tall buildings on the skyline of the city.
Nearly 97% of respondents to the Urban Design survey felt either neutral or in support of a neighbourhood-based park strategy.	<p>Introduce policies to promote equitable access to recreational experiences for all residents</p> <p>Provide parks and space for recreation where populations are growing, and higher-density communities are expected</p> <p>For outer urban and greenfield communities, priority should be given to larger park properties that offer the widest range of activity spaces, such as sports fields</p>
<p>There was consistent support by residents when completing the online poll questions around strengthening the urban design toolkit.</p> <p>Residents from all over the City in the community workshops highlighted their desire to protect the character of their neighbourhoods, be they rural villages, suburban subdivisions, or urban areas. They also expressed a desire for predictable application of an urban design toolkit or other community design plans.</p>	<p>Implement policies based on neighbourhood context.</p> <p>Strengthen the protection and conservation of Ottawa's diverse cultural heritage resources</p> <p>Expand Design Priority Areas</p> <p>Provide policies that strengthen the City's urban design toolkit</p>



As We Heard It

Urban Design

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
<p>Over 90% of residents responding to the Urban Design poll identified themselves as either neutral or in support of promoting cultural expression in the built environment and public realm.</p> <p>Many residents in the community workshops noted the importance of activating public spaces through tools such as public art and street furniture.</p>	<p>Include a new Culture subsection in the Plan</p> <p>Throughout the plan (and across all transect areas), include new policies directed towards ensuring the consideration of public art and cultural expression, identity and social connection, particularly at nodes, corridors, and in neighbourhood and community level plans</p> <p>A new requirement that significant private developments such as new tall buildings and in developments that have public and semi-public spaces provide a plan for, or contribution to, public art and cultural space</p> <p>Provide direction that public art/cultural space be a necessary component of new capital and infrastructure project plans</p>

“Maintain the integrity of nature by preserving a maximum of green spaces and waterways (eg. creeks, ponds, wetlands, rivers, lakes and springs).”



As We Heard It

Resiliency

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
<p>Eighty-five percent of residents completing the Resiliency poll shared their agreement with considering the urban forest equally with other infrastructure in planning and development.</p> <p>Protecting and planting more trees was one of the most common themes expressed in the community workshops across the City.</p> <p>Many residents in the community workshops highlighted their value for the greenspaces in their area as well as a desire to see these spaces more connected to each other and their neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Maintain and grow the urban tree canopy</p> <p>Identify corridors for new linear greenspaces and parks. Develop a common understanding of how these spaces get funded, built and maintained among City Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, Transportation Services, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, Public Works and Environmental Services.</p>
<p>The majority of respondents agreed with the incorporating targets around energy use and Greenhouse Gasses into land use planning.</p> <p>Ensuring more sustainable design standards as part of a range of tools for addressing climate change was a key theme in many community workshop discussions.</p>	<p>Embed climate change and energy conservation consideration in city planning</p> <p>Develop a new high-performance development standard and guidelines for buildings</p>
<p>There was strong agreement for the City to enhance floodproofing in new development or redevelopment areas prone to flooding.</p> <p>Many residents in the community workshops identified the desire to see infrastructure to be in place at the start of new development.</p>	<p>Further reduce flood risks and their impacts</p> <p>Build more resilient homes, buildings and communities</p> <p>Improve infrastructure resilience</p> <p>Improve local resilience to the global impacts of climate change</p> <p>Focus new growth around existing higher-order transit, otherwise ensure that the timing of new development is contingent on the provision of new higher-order transit to serve it.</p>



As We Heard It

Economy

Feedback	Preliminary Policy Directions
<p>Nearly 94% of respondents to the Economy poll were either neutral or in agreement with creating new categories of employment lands to reflect their form, function, use and surrounding context.</p> <p>The majority of respondents also supported land use policies creating more flexibility for entrepreneurship.</p> <p>This desire for more flexible zoning to allow for economic development was a regular theme in the community workshops. Residents envisioned this supporting more local businesses, more diverse work options such as working from home or local work sharing spaces, more mixed uses in suburban communities, and rural residents envisioned it helping with diversifying agricultural business options.</p>	<p>Develop new policies for employment areas on their different contexts, including level of integration with adjacent areas, and simplifying zoning rules to be generally more permissive where the land use context is suitable.</p> <p>Direct major employment to Nodes and Corridors.</p> <p>Support rural economic development in the agricultural sector, in villages and rural residential areas and in rural countryside and industrial areas by simplifying zoning rules to be generally more permissive to a range of land uses while ensuring the protection of prime agricultural lands in recognition of increasing global scarcity.</p>
<p>Seventy-five percent of respondents expressed agreement for harmonizing Greenbelt policies with those of the NCC's Greenbelt Master Plan.</p> <p>There was significant interest in protecting the Greenbelt in community workshops as well as resident correspondence.</p>	<p>Work collaboratively with the National Capital Commission to ensure the best management practice over this area, which includes maintaining its rural character and protecting its environmentally sensitive areas, while putting in place efficient processes for compatible development that is favourable to both organizations.</p>



Next Steps

We look forward to hearing more from residents about how the New Official Plan can contribute towards Ottawa being the most liveable mid-sized City in North America. We encourage you to stay engaged as the project moves through these next steps:

1. **Council provides direction on the draft Official Plan, December 2019.**
2. **The draft Official Plan will be tabled, Fall 2020.**
3. **Council votes on the New Official Plan, Summer 2021.**
4. **The New Official Plan is expected to be reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by late-2021.**

You are welcome to share feedback throughout this process using our range of engagement opportunities. If you have any questions about how to engage further you can contact City Staff at **newop@ottawa.ca**.

How do we **grow** from here?

Your Ottawa. Your say.

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