

Seniors and Accessibility Focus Group Workshop

June 16th, 2021
Engagement Summary

**BRAMPTON
PLAN**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On Wednesday June 16th, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm, a Seniors and Accessibility Focus Group was held for the City of Brampton Official Plan Review focusing on Brampton Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Official Plan Review project, engagement events held to date, and provide information on how to further participate in the process. It was also an opportunity to collaborate and engage in open discussion to address the key themes related to the City's draft Official Plan Structure. The event was organized as follows (see Appendix A – Meeting Agenda):

Part 1 - Introduction and Housekeeping: Indigenous land acknowledgement; introductions and welcome statements. City staff reviewed the meeting objectives.

Part 2 - Presentation: City staff provided an overview of key Official Plan drivers, structure maps, and performed live voting/poll questions.

Part 3 - Discussion: Public engagement poll period.

Part 4 - Next Steps: Survey and discussed other ways to provide feedback.

Consultation materials available online at the following link:

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/Official-Plan/Pages/Engagement-Recaps.aspx>

1.2 Meeting Overview

1.2.1 Meeting Details (Venue, # of Attendees, Meeting Participants)

Approximately 10 members of the public and 6 City of Brampton Staff attended the Focus Group Meeting that was hosted on WebEx. Comments were received through the WebEx chat box. Interactive poll questions were posed during the presentation to gain a better understanding of the participants and allow them to vote for characteristics that they believed contributed to their idea of a healthy and complete community, as well as areas of social equity they wish Brampton Plan policies should focus on.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was promoted through email circulation towards The Brampton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee and Accessibility Advisory Committee, and among other various Seniors organizations such as the CARP, Brampton Seniors Council, etc.



2 Feedback

2.1 Polling Questions

Interactive polling questions were posed during the public meeting presentation to obtain a better understanding of the participants and what they believed are important characteristics of healthy and complete communities. The full poll results can be found in Appendix B.

Based on the input received, the city-building themes participants were most interested in discussing were: Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive Housing (44%) followed by Arts, Culture and Events (33%) and Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation (33%). Participants also selected Growth (22%) and Transportation and Connectivity (22%). A smaller percentage of participants selected Natural Heritage, Climate Change and Resiliency (11%), Employment and Retail (11%) and Heritage Preservation (11%). A third of participants (33%) omitted an answer for this question.

The polling questions included choosing the characteristics in which participants believed contributed to healthy and complete communities. The options provided were as follows:

- Active Transportation (i.e. walking, cycling, transit);
- Creating affordable housing and different housing options for all stages of life;
- Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas);
- Having a variety of employment areas and jobs;
- Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, rec centres, parks;)
- Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, and play and buy local healthy foods;
- All of the above; and,
- Other

Almost half of the participants (40%) voted that all the characteristics contribute to a healthy and complete community. This response was followed by active transportation options—such as walking, cycling and transit (30%), creating affordable and different housing types (20%), creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (20%). ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods (20%), and having equitable access to community services and facilities—such as libraries, recreation centers and parks (10%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents did not select an answer to this question.

Participants were asked what areas of social equity that Brampton should prioritize in the long-term. About half of respondents (55%) believe that Brampton should prioritize housing and affordability, followed by social services (40%). Jobs and employment followed (30%) along with transit and transportation methods (30%) and then the health sector (20%). Ten percent (10%) of respondents believed that access to green spaces should be prioritized, while only five percent (5%) of participants selected food equity. Ten percent (10%) of respondents declined to answer.

A final poll question asked which listed housing policy areas would have the biggest impact for seniors and accessibility. A wide range of Seniors-Oriented Housing (60%) and family-friendly apartments (50%) received the highest votes. Accessible and adaptable housing followed at thirty percent (30%). Next was lodging houses and other rentals for singles (20%) and mixed-use developments (20%). Forty percent (40%) of participants chose to not respond to this question.

2.2 Comments Received

The Word Cloud below visually represents some of the things that were heard. All the feedback received has been categorized in the Word Cloud below.





The key messages related to these themes are further detailed in Section 3 of this report.

3 Key Messages Heard

3.1 Attainable and Supportive Housing

3.1.1 Affordability

- Employing city funds and non-profit developers to create cost-effective and affordable housing (Housing Catalyst Capital Projects).
- Lower-rise multi-use housing that are both visually appealing and which use land efficiently.
- Single Room Occupancy Buildings that provide cheaper and supportive living space for single people of various demographics, such as elderly and students.

3.1.2 Diverse Range of Seniors-Oriented Housing

- Providing a wide array of options for seniors to live how they would like: be it with their relatives in family-friendly homes and apartments, senior-assisted living or on their own.

3.1.3 Support for Senior Citizens

- Funding and resources placed to assist seniors when needed in whatever housing options they choose for themselves.
- Providing necessary assistance and support to senior citizens who choose to stay in their original homes (National Housing Strategy).
- Maintain communication with the Social Support Task force and continued implementation of the Age-friendly Strategy to best ensure needs are met.

- Ensure constant input and engagement with citizenry is in place to best serve the needs of the community.

3.1.4 Safety

- Concern about loitering from youth and marginalized individuals, with some individuals feeling increasingly less safe in their homes and communities.
- Increased support required to counter marginalization and homelessness.

3.2 Arts, Equity & Cultural Heritage

3.2.1 Arts/Culture

- Host community events and encourage practice of culture.
- Encourage recreation in the city for seniors.
- Ensure that the revitalization effort for the Brampton Heritage Theatre is successful in turning it into a useful instrument for the community of all ages and abilities.

3.2.2 Equity

- Ensure cultural groups are engaged with in an appropriate manner.
- Employ the usage of census data to best inform policy.
- Ensure all communities have ample access to high quality food, and of a high variety to best accommodate all cultural and culinary practices.
- Provide options for homecare as well as long-term care homes, to best account for individual and cultural preferences and needs.

3.3 Open Spaces and the Environment

3.3.1 Creating Equitable Access to Green Spaces in the City

- Ensuring every neighborhood and community has ample access to quality parks, greenery and recreation spaces.
- Encouraging the development of green roofs.
- Mixed-use developments with residential, office, commercial and public spaces integrated together, to best ensure accessibility and walkability for citizens.

3.4 Growth and Urban Design

3.4.1 Downtown Revitalization

- Concern expressed over timeline of downtown development.
- Ensure an accessibility lens is applied in the redevelopment of downtown revitalization infrastructure.
- Ensure the negative effects of construction and development throughout the downtown corridor is alleviated to best maintain safety and quality of life.

- Concern over road closures and lane reductions as the Downtown expands and as the LRT network is built. Pedestrian and traffic safety should be prioritized during such expansions.

3.4.2 Growth

- Ensure high quality, inclusive and accessible communities are developed as the city expands.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Upcoming Events

There will be several opportunities to participate in the Brampton Official Plan Review process. One way is to provide your input on a series of Discussion Papers related to the Official Plan, which are presented to the public during three (3) Public Open House meetings scheduled on June 7, 2021, June 21, 2021 and July 26, 2021. Public Engagement events, as they are scheduled, and a link to a survey, can be found on the project webpage at the link below:

[City of Brampton | Official Plan | Brampton Plan Engagement](#)

Email the City at the email address below to be informed of upcoming engagement events.

opreview@brampton.ca

Appendix A - Meeting Agenda

AGENDA



Job Title	City of Brampton Official Plan Review		
Date	Wednesday June 16th, 2021	Time	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Venue	Webex		
Purpose	Focus Group Meeting – Seniors and Accessibility		

1) Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

- Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
- Introduction from Mayor and Staff
- Agenda overview
- Polling explanation

2) Presentation

- Brampton 2040 Vision
- Planning 101
- Brampton Plan Overview
- Engagement and Next Steps

3) Discussion

- Polling to inform discussion areas

4) Next Steps and adjournment

- Ways to stay engaged

Appendix B – Polling Questions

#	Question	Choice	Answers	Percentages
1	WHAT CITY-BUILDING THEMES ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING? (SELECT YOUR TOP THREE)	A	Natural Heritage, Climate Change and Resiliency	11%
		B	Social Equity, Attainable and Supportive Housing	44%
		C	Arts, Culture and Events	33%
		D	Growth	22%
		E	Urban Design, Open Spaces and Recreation	33%
		F	Employment and Retail	11%
		G	Transportation and Connectivity	22%
		H	Preserving Heritage	11%
		I	Other	0%
			No Answer	33%
2	WHAT CHARACTERISTICS CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR IDEA OF A HEALTHY AND COMPLETE COMMUNITY (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)	A	Active Transportation Options (i.e. walking, cycling, transit)	30%
		B	Creating affordable and different housing types	20%
		C	Creating a connected and accessible network of green spaces (i.e. parks, trails, natural areas)	20%
		D	Having a variety of employment areas and jobs	0%
		E	Equitable access to community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, recreation centres, parks)	10%
		F	Ensuring a community has places to live, work, exercise, play and buy local and healthy foods	20%
		G	All of the above	40%
		H	Other (please enter your answers in the chat)	0%
			No Answer	30%
3	WHAT AREAS OF SOCIAL EQUITY SHOULD BRAMPTON PRIORITIZE IN THE LONG-TERM? (SELECT YOUR TOP THREE)	A	Housing and Affordability	55%
		B	Transit and Transportation Methods	30%
		C	Jobs and Employment	30%
		D	Health Sector	20%
		E	Social Services	40%
		F	Access to Green Space	10%
		G	Food Equity	5%
			No Answer	10%
4	WHICH OF THESE HOUSING POLICY AREAS DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE THE BIGGEST IMPACT FOR SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)	A	Lodging Houses and Other Rentals for Single	20%
		B	Family-Friendly Apartments	50%
		C	Mixed Uses	20%
		D	Range of Seniors-Oriented Housing	60%
		E	Accessible and Adaptable Housing	30%
		F	Other (Please enter your answers in the chat)	0%
			No Answer	40%

Appendix C – Questions and Answers

#	Question	Answers
1	Housing Brampton proposes a range of seniors oriented housing. Which ones of these do you think should Brampton focus on?	Cost effectiveness and affordability are a priority concern
		Multi-Use Housing of lower rise units and green roofs should be a focus
		Support for Seniors will be provided through the use of a social support task force, adopting an Age-friendly strategy and ensuring that engagement doesn't stop
		Constant input from citizens to improve service of community is vital
		Concerns over safety and a sense of security around home--proposal of a senior gated community for a safe community that empowers & supports single seniors to live semi-autonomously in a safe & quiet manner
		Housing Catalyst Capital Projects: city-funded incentives for non-profit developments of non-traditional housing methods and constructs
		Single Room Occupancy Buildings - designed for single folks to best accommodate demand of specific demographics (such as seniors and students)
		Questions on the usage of the Heritage Theatre (as it is currently not in use)
		Concern about the prevalence of homeless and marginalized folk in Downtown regions (especially around Nelson & George). Such individuals require support as to best ensure the safety & overall positive outcomes for the community
2	Would Seniors Prefer Living in Multi-Unit Housing if it were a lot more accessible?	Federal Government program regarding the assistance for seniors to stay in their own homes - 19 million dollars over 3 years in the National Housing Strategy
3	What can the city do to ensure a social equity lens is applied to all of its policies?	Lots of cultural groups need to be engaged with in different ways
		Question on if Brampton has access to census data - The City of Brampton's policy is informed in-part through the analysis and usage of Federal Census data
		Due to the diverse ethnic and cultural groups & communities in Brampton, to best reach a socially equitable end, we must diversify our methods and account for the various communities that make up our city
		A major issue to pay attention to is of accessibility to various foods & variety -- if one is not capable of accessing their preferred types of food, it can result in worse outcomes as local cultures may stifle due to culinary 'blandification'. Various cultures have different culinary practices and dishes, accessibility to appropriate foods & ingredients will both improve individual health and happiness as citizens are free to continue participating in various cultural practices and resume traditional diets
		Homecare as well as long-term care homes should be options, to best fit everyone's individual needs & preferences as they age
4	(Question asked after presentation) What can be done in the near term? What is to happen with the Downtown Revitalization?	Concern expressed over delays that have occurred with Downtown revitalization
		Additional concern expressed over road closures due to future LRT construction and pipe renovations.
		Lane reductions both decrease speed of traffic flow & increase the risk of accidents happening
		Issues will always persist as the Downtown remains in a state of constant development and change