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DATE: October 24, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH INITIATIVES UPDATE**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services  
David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC, Medical Officer of Health

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the proposed direction for built environment and health initiatives, in accordance with the report of the Commissioner of Health Services and the Medical Officer of Health, dated November 24, 2011, titled “Built Environment and Health Initiatives Update”, be endorsed.**

**And further, that Peel Public Health be directed to make a presentation to each local area municipal Council to discuss joint health and built environment initiatives;**

**And further, that the report of the Commissioner of Health Services and the Medical Officer of Health, dated November 24, 2011, titled “Built Environment and Health Initiatives Update” be sent to the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon.**

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Peel Public Health has had many successes in moving the health and built environment agenda forward.
- Several Healthy Canada By Design projects have been completed, including the Health Background Study Terms of Reference and the Healthy Development Index Refinement Study. These projects will provide the basis for future healthy built environments initiatives.
- Peel Public Health will continue to encourage and support the local municipalities in their continued efforts to promote increased physical activity and create opportunities for social connectedness. Efforts to increase physical activity also have positive impacts on air quality.
- Peel Public Health will continue to work with other Regional departments and the area municipalities to develop an integrated strategy that improves the health of Peel's communities through community design.
- As a first step to develop a strategy, Peel Public Health will make a presentation to each local area municipal Council to discuss joint health and the built environment initiatives in Peel.

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### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Background**

In December 2005, Health Services and Planning (now Public Works) presented a joint report to Council on obesity prevention. To help prevent obesity, Regional Council recognized the need for healthy built environments and provided direction that Health Services staff be requested to comment on any development applications that come into the Region for review, develop planning policies for active living, and advocate for provincial policy.

In October 2008, following an update report, Regional Council provided further direction that Peel Public Health, in collaboration with Planning, develop policy for the Regional Official Plan, and for the Municipal Secondary Plans, and advocate for provincial policy.

In July 2010, Peel Public Health presented the Healthy Development Index, an evidence-based review which identifies built environment characteristics that affect health, along with corresponding numerical targets and ranges that represent optimal design for a healthy community. The report to Council also outlined external funding that was secured from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer for the Healthy Canada By Design national project. As part of this project, Peel Public Health joined a national coalition of health units, planning organizations and non governmental organizations to develop tools to support policy-makers, public health officials, planners and developers to move towards the shared goal of healthy built environments.

#### **2. 2011-2014 Strategic Plan and Term of Council Priorities**

The 2011 – 2014 Strategic Plan highlights Council's focus on maintaining and improving the health of Peel's community (Goal 3). Strategic action 3.1 is to "influence healthy living through community design". In addition, Strategic action 1.3 is to improve air quality, mitigate and adapt to climate change. Peel Health's health and built environment initiatives help achieve this action.

Several Term of Council Priorities also align directly with Peel Public Health's work on healthy built environments, including increase active transportation and promote a supportive environment for healthy weights.

#### **3. Update on Built Environment and Health Projects**

At a time of increasing evidence for a strong relationship between health and built environments, it is crucial that the fields of planning and public health collaborate to achieve the common goal of creating healthy, sustainable communities. While Peel Public Health has had many successes in moving the healthy built environment agenda forward as illustrated in Appendix I, this report will focus on built environment initiatives related to Healthy Canada By Design, which will provide the foundation for future healthy built environments initiatives. The completed Healthy Canada By Design projects include:

##### **a) Health Background Study Terms of Reference**

The Health Background Study included the development of Terms of Reference and a framework for municipally-mandated Health Background Studies. The framework is applicable across a range of different contexts and allows developers to identify and preemptively mitigate any potential health impacts associated with their development

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proposals. The framework has been developed in such a manner that it can be refined by the local municipalities to suit their needs and contexts. The preface is attached in Appendix II and the complete Health Background Study Framework is available in the Clerk's office.

Comments received through both stakeholder workshops and through correspondence have been incorporated into the final report. Where additional comments have been received directly by Regional staff from the Building Industry and Land Development Association and industry representatives, Peel Public Health staff have worked with these stakeholders to address their concerns and will continue to engage feedback from stakeholders throughout the implementation process.

### **b) Health Development Index Refinement Study**

The Index Refinement Study tested the feasibility of the index in several Peel sites that were chosen by the area municipalities. The insights from this exercise will facilitate use of the index in municipal planning processes such as the development of design guidelines in Brampton. To make significant strides in the development of healthy built environments regional and municipal policy changes in this study must be realized in conjunction with the use of the index. The executive summary is attached in Appendix III and the complete Health Development Index Refinement report is available in the Clerk's office.

### **c) Residential Preferences Survey**

The Residential Preferences Survey is a survey that determines the demand for walkable communities among Peel residents. Residents are also asked to explain if they would prefer to live in a more walkable neighborhood but have chosen to live in a less walkable neighborhood because of the proximity to their workplace among other reasons. The survey, which is currently in progress, is being done in partnership with public health staff in the City of Toronto and the City of Vancouver.

In addition to the Healthy Canada By Design projects, Peel Public Health has been working with Public Works on active transportation related initiatives including the following projects:

#### **a) Active Transportation Plan**

The Plan will be finalized shortly and will be presented to Council when completed.

#### **b) Stepping It Up**

Planning staff have led this project which aims to increase public and active transportation, especially among school children and their parents/guardians and school staff. Programs include Active and Safe School Routes to School and Smart Commute, as well as the development of School Travel Plans for each participating school.

#### **c) Active Transportation Communication and Social Marketing Initiative**

Planning staff's Walk 'N Roll website ([www.walkandrollpeel.ca](http://www.walkandrollpeel.ca)) is the primary platform to share active transportation information with the public and to encourage walking and cycling.

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Peel Public Health is also developing a Diabetes Atlas expected to be completed in early 2012. In collaboration with the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences and the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, University of Toronto, Peel Health is identifying the geographic patterns of diabetes in relation to other chronic conditions and risk factors that are of major importance to the population of Peel. The atlas will serve as a body of evidence to support decision makers in program and policy development.

Peel Public Health has actively shared Peel's experiences at various speaking engagements, conferences and through publications. Among these, Peel Public Health's work has been featured in the Ontario Planning Journal - Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Peel Public Health will continue to showcase our work to encourage other municipalities to follow Peel's leadership in this area.

### **4. Collaboration with Local Area Municipalities**

As Appendix I outlines, Peel Public Health has been able to offer support to the local area municipalities depending on their needs and current projects on healthy built environments. Of particular note are the Liveable Streets and Sustainable Development Design Guidelines in the City of Brampton and the amendments to the Official Plan which reference the development of an assessment tool for healthy development in the Town of Caledon. The City of Mississauga has also provided correspondence providing direction for future health and the built environment work (Appendix IV).

Peel Public Health will continue to work with and offer support to staff from the local area municipalities on health and the built environment initiatives through:

- Medical Officer of Health endorsement for projects and policy development that support healthy built environments.
- Assistance to develop grant funding applications.
- Health data and other assistance for healthy built environment policy development.

### **5. Proposed Direction**

While Peel Public Health has been successful in moving the healthy built environment agenda forward, there is a need to develop a strategy which integrate areas of regional and municipal planning that are relevant to the development of a healthy built environment. The strategy will continue to build on the momentum of the Healthy Canada By Design projects by implementing the recommendations from these projects and will focus on increasing the health impact agenda in the planning and development processes. Peel Public Health will work with the other regional departments and the area municipalities to develop the strategy. In addition, Peel Public Health will make a presentation to each of the local area municipalities to discuss joint health and the built environment initiatives. Discussion from these presentations will inform the strategy's development.

In the interim, Peel Public Health will continue to encourage and support the local municipalities in their continued efforts to influence healthy living through community design.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Healthy Canada By Design projects are made possible through funding support from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer initiative which in turn is funded by Health Canada. This funding is scheduled to end March 2012 but there is a potential to extend the funding to March 2013 and also to compete for renewed funding.

Within the current Public Health budget there is sufficient funding to support ongoing work on the development of healthy built environments. As the program develops and partners make requests, staff will report to Council for any additional funding and resource needs.

**CONCLUSION**

Public Health has worked with stakeholders in the Region of Peel and beyond to move towards the shared goal of a built environment which supports and promotes health. This has included providing support for, and participating in, land use planning decisions and advocating for policies that support the development of healthy communities. Peel Public Health staff with regional and municipal planning staff have completed several reviews which indicate the need for a built environment strategy. A key element of the strategy will be an integrated approach so that regional and municipal staff can effectively develop a built environment that promotes the health of Peel residents.



Janette Smith  
Commissioner of Health Services



David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Gayle Burse at extension 2617 or via email at [gayle.burse@peelregion.ca](mailto:gayle.burse@peelregion.ca)*

*Authored By: Christine Gutmann*

c. Legislative Services  
 Manager, Financial Support Unit (FSU)

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**APPENDIX I**

**REGION OF PEEL  
BUILT ENVIRONMENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

This document outlines the various projects and partnerships Peel Public Health (Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division) has been involved with as part of the Health and Built Environment work.

Regional

	Project Name	Description	Status
1	<b><i>Conceptual Models: The Relationship Between Built Environment and Health</i></b>	Conceptual models are spatial maps depicting the links between land use, transportation, public policy, physical environment and health. <a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/healthbydesign/pdf/Conceptual-Model-Document.pdf">http://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/healthbydesign/pdf/Conceptual-Model-Document.pdf</a>	Completed 2008
2	<b><i>Healthy Development Index</i></b>	Recognizing the need for consistent, quantifiable standards to inform planning decisions, in 2009 Peel Health sought out experts in the field to support the development of a healthy development evaluation tool (i.e. Health Development Index - HDI). The process and outcome of this exercise will inform forthcoming Regional directions and strategies to facilitate the development of health-promoting communities.	Completed 2009
3	<b><i>Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System Urban Design Module Development</i></b>	The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System is an annual Ontario-wide telephone survey that collects information on core questions relevant to public health as well as a set of optional topic based questions. The survey for Peel collects data from approximately 100 residents each month for a total sample of 1200 each year. Two optional modules related to built environment have now been created: (1) Walking distance from home and (2) The importance of neighbourhood characteristics.	Completed 2009
4	<b><i>LEED-Neighbourhood Design Core Committee</i></b>	Peel Public Health played an advisory role in the Canada Green Building Council's Core Committee to bring LEED-Neighbourhood Design (LEED-ND) to Canada. Being a leading health unit working to advance the healthy built environments agenda, Peel provided a health unit's perspective to the new LEED-ND certification to be piloted and implemented in Canada. The LEED-ND Core Committee also received endorsement from the Urban Public Health Network regarding the importance of implementing LEED-ND in Canada.	Completed 2010

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5	<b>Diabetes Atlas</b>	In collaboration with the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences and Centre for Research on Inner City Health, Peel Health is currently developing a <b>Diabetes Atlas</b> to identify the geographic patterns of Diabetes in relation to other chronic conditions and risk factors that are of major importance to the population of Peel. The atlas is being developed to illustrate and measure patterns of relationships between neighbourhood characteristics and the local prevalence of Diabetes in the Region of Peel. The atlas will serve as a body of evidence to support decision makers in program and policy development.	Ongoing
6	<b>Urban Built Environment and Health: Implications for Diabetes Prevention study</b>	Peel Public Health will likely be playing an advisory role in facilitating research and knowledge translation on the <b>Urban Built Environment and Health: Implications for Diabetes Prevention</b> study, currently in the grant application process. This project, led by a team of researchers and experts at St. Michael's Hospital, aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine factors in the urban environments and their contribution to rise in diabetes</li> <li>• create tools to identify high risk communities (ideal for applying prevention strategies), and</li> <li>• examine potential health benefits associated with such interventions.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
7	<b>Active Transportation Study</b> <i>(Partnering with Public Works)</i>	Working in collaboration with the Transportation Planning Division, the Region of Peel's first Active Transportation Study recommends making all Regional roads and communities favourable for walking, cycling and accessibility. New proposed policies aim to make communities more accommodating to walking and cycling by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and improving the Region's process to accommodate active transportation,</li> <li>• Implement a cycling and pedestrian network, and</li> <li>• Support the development of walkable and bicycle-friendly communities.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
8	<b>Walking and Cycling Strategy Development</b> <i>(Partnering with Healthy City Stewardship Centre)</i>	The Healthy City Stewardship Centre in Mississauga received a Healthy Communities Fund grant from the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport and working in partnership with Peel Public Health, University of Toronto Mississauga, United Way of Peel Region, the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group, and the Multi Inter-Agency Group of Peel (MIAG), as well as other stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining assets and barriers within a local community (Cooksville, Mississauga) that influence the participation in walking and cycling with specific reference to the diverse ethnic needs in the community and injury prevention.</li> <li>• The final product will be a replicable 'strategy' and associated tools to allow this research method to</li> </ul>	Ongoing

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		<p>be used in other local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be used as a case study for a Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition’s project funded as part of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer initiative.</li> </ul>	
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Healthy Canada by Design

	Project	Description	Status
1	<b>Health Background Studies</b>	<p>In collaboration with Toronto Public Health, staff worked with the Toronto-based planning and urban design firm The Planning Partnership to develop a framework for <b>Health Background Studies</b>. The Health Background Study framework is designed to be applicable across a range of different contexts and would allow developers to identify and mitigate potential health impacts associated with their development proposals. Regional staff, staff from local area municipalities, the development community and industry representatives have been involved in the development process.</p> <p><b>Future Work:</b> Future work coming out of the framework would include working with local area municipalities in tailoring the framework to each local municipality.</p>	Completed April 2011
2	<b>Refinement/ calibration of the Healthy Development Index standards</b>	<p>The Peel Healthy Development Index standards will be applied to selected sites in Peel that are planned with the principles of environmental sustainability, transit-oriented development and complete communities in mind. This will allow for the <b>refinement/ calibration of the Healthy Development Index standards</b> to reflect the needs of different contexts within the municipalities of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. It will also help to determine the degree of commonality and overlap between Peel’s healthy communities agenda and similar agendas for green development, transit-friendly development, etc. at the area municipal level.</p>	Completed October 2011
3	<b>Residential Preferences Survey</b>	<p>A <b>Residential Preferences Survey</b> will be undertaken in the Greater Toronto and Greater Vancouver areas to document the demand for different types of residential community environments ranging from walkable to auto-oriented settings, and to document people’s satisfaction with their current residential community design within the Greater Toronto and Vancouver Regions. Approximately 1,500 online surveys will be completed in the GTA and another 1,500 in the Greater Vancouver Area.</p>	On going

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Partnerships

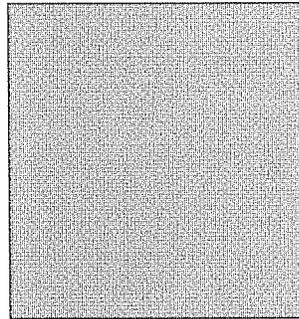
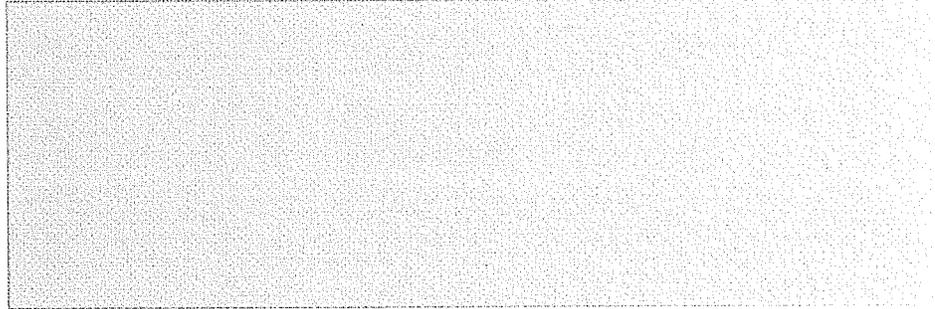
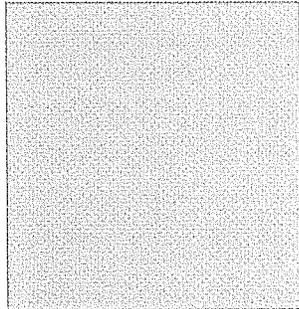
	Project Name and Lead	Description
1	<b>Liveable Streets (City of Brampton)</b>	The City of Brampton will be starting a project on Liveable Streets (Complete Streets). The project will commence with a workshop, expected fall 2011, engaging various groups including engineering staff, planning staff and health staff from which future work will be determined.
2	<b>Sustainability Guidelines (City of Brampton)</b>	The City of Brampton is developing a chapter in their Urban Design Guidelines document which speaks to sustainability. The City will be utilizing the principles and standards developed through the Healthy Development Index and Healthy Background Study framework as part of their resource base in developing these Guidelines.
3	<b>Strategic Goods Movement Network (Transportation Planning division)</b>	The Peel Region Strategic Goods Movement Network should be designed to optimize the efficient performance of our land-intensively multi-modal transportation system, reduce congestion and travel time to moving goods and delivering services. This two-phase project will 1) review, preserve and protect the existing network; 2) taking future growth and projections into consideration to expand the network.
4	<b>Characterization of Regional Roads (Transportation Planning division)</b>	The purpose of the study is to examine the objectives, needs and intended roles of Regional roads and assess how more effective use can be made of the available right of way to balance competing uses.
5	<b>Climate Change Strategy (Integrated Planning/ Environmental Health division)</b>	The Region of Peel is developing a Climate Change strategy in partnership with the area municipalities and conservation authorities. Integrated Planning staff is evaluating the economic risks and opportunities of Climate Change. Findings will inform strategy implementation and raise awareness on the complete costs of status quo vs. taking actions.
6	<b>Regional Planning and Health Working Group</b>	In an effort to break down barriers, a Regional Planning and Health Working Group will be formed. The working group will consist of staff from Transportation Planning, Integrated Planning, Development Services and Public Health. The group will meet regularly to discuss on going projects to ensure collaboration and prevent overlap in scope.

Other Advocacy Work

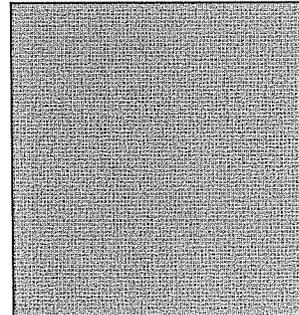
Peel developed an advocacy brief for Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health on provincial advocacy needed between Ministries for integration of health and planning. The brief addresses creating linkages between Ministries of Health, Energy and Infrastructure, Education, Environment, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Transportation.

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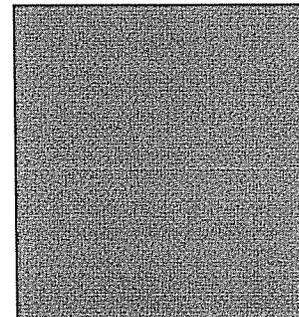
APPENDIX II



Region of Peel  
**Health Background Study**  
DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH BACKGROUND  
STUDY FRAMEWORK



Final Draft - March 31, 2011  
Prepared by The Planning Partnership



**In Association With:**

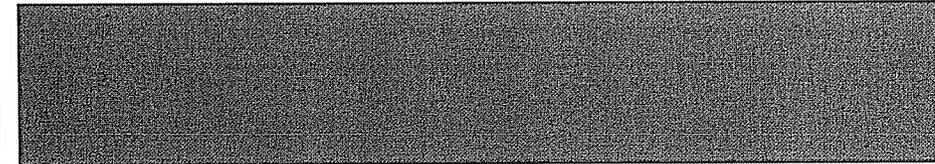
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# Preface

### 1.0 What is the Health Background Study Framework?

The following compilation of documents comprehensively details the key deliverables produced as part of joint initiative between Region of Peel Public Health and Toronto Public Health to develop a framework for municipalities to establish a mechanism to integrate considerations of health impacts into the land use development approvals process. Building on the extensive work undertaken by the Peel of Region to develop the Healthy Development Index, the primary outcomes of this initiative include a stakeholder-tested Health Background Study Terms of Reference/User Guide, and a corresponding Implementation Strategy that provides recommendations on implementation responsibilities and how/where in the planning process the Health Background Study requirement best fits.

### 2.0 Study Structure

The Terms of Reference and supporting User Guide are the product of an exceptionally collaborative working relationship between the Region of Peel Public Health and Toronto Public Health Departments, working with a team of professional planning consultants. In order to get a broader perspective on the local context and professional practices of those who would be implementing such a planning requirement and its impact, dozens of interviews were conducted with local and regional municipal public health and planning staff, private development interests and private planning consultants. The stakeholder consultation process included:

- **Key informant interviews:** to establish a local and professional knowledge base from which to scope the framework for the Terms of Reference.
- **Workshop 1 (Nov./Dec. 2011):** to review the draft Terms of Reference and provide a forum for discussion to further its development.
- **Workshop 2 (March 2011) – Feasibility Workshop:** to test the revised Terms of Reference and User Guide in the evaluation of actual/hypothetical development scenarios and to discuss overall feasibility/usability and potential modifications to the draft Terms of Reference.

The complete Healthy Development Framework ensures that this complex process is done in a way that ensures that healthy design is integrated throughout the evolution of a project. From major area regeneration schemes or extensions to small applications for infill development, individual buildings or spaces, the Healthy Development Framework can provide both private developers and the evaluating team with the triggers it requires to ensure that the core elements/criteria are understood and that a comprehensive assessment of a project's healthy design potential can occur. Building on Peel Region's

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Health Development Index, this package of documents includes the following:

- **Situation Assessment** – provides an overview of the current policy context in Ontario in relation to the linkage between public health and land use planning, while examining current work at the municipal level to implement Health Impact Assessments. It examines existing municipal studies required as part of the development process. It also reviews how health-related initiatives are being implemented by other municipal jurisdictions, to inform the development of the health background studies framework and the identification of its core elements.
- **Health Background Study Terms of Reference and User Guide** – the Health Background Study (HBS) Terms of Reference is intended to serve as a ‘checklist’ to evaluate the success of new developments in achieving minimum standards of community health and a forum to encourage applicants to justify their development decisions. The aim of the User Guide is to support the HBS Terms of Reference by giving additional information corresponding to each of the key healthy community design elements that promote higher development standards for practical application in new development and re-development within existing communities.
- **Evaluation Report** – provides an overview of the feedback received and lessons learned from the Feasibility Workshop, held on March 4, 2011 to pilot test the applicability, usability and application of the new Health Background Study (HBS) User Guide in the context of different development typologies.
- **Implementation Document** – builds on the User Guide by providing the Region of Peel a game plan for implementing the Health Background Study, should it chose to do so. It presents the requirements for a supportive legislative environment, specific procedural details such as who does what and when, and a plan for monitoring the implementation and success of the Health Background Study.

### 3.0 How to use this document

The Healthy Development Framework has been constructed in such a way that it can be read as a single coherent narrative, tracing the healthy design qualities of a project from first principles to specific features, but at the same time it can be dipped into on a topic-by-topic basis and used as an education tool, or to inform and augment current and future planning practices. Thus, throughout the report, there are many criteria and guideline values that should be considered in drawing up development proposals, as well as by the reviewer, evaluating these proposals. Different sections of the Terms of Reference and User Guide will be relevant to different types and scales of projects. In recognition of this, both of these documents provide direction on what aspects are applicable in different development typologies. In respect of significant area regeneration schemes, city extensions or new settlements, most of the material contained in this document package will be relevant. For smaller infill schemes, it is the case of extracting those items that are applicable in any given case. Remember, even the most straightforward infill scheme must have due respect for its site context and its overall contribution to the neighbouring urban structure.

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### APPENDIX III

## PEEL HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT INDEX RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Gladki Planning Associates** and **du Toit Allsopp Hillier** were retained by the **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada** to assist in the refinement, evaluation and implementation of the Region of Peel's Healthy Development Index (HDI) Standards.

### Purpose

The HDI is a tool for assessing the urban form of existing and proposed communities along standards that support active living and thereby positive health outcomes. Active living is a lifestyle in which physical activity, such as walking or cycling, is incorporated into day-to-day life. The HDI is evidence-based and isolates elements and measures that can be quantitatively assessed. The elements and targets established in the HDI serve as a checklist and evaluation form for assessing whether a particular urban form meets healthy development criteria.

The practical purpose of the HDI is to enable the Region and local municipalities to assess planning policies, zoning by-laws, secondary plans and site development proposals using well-grounded and defensible criteria. It will also allow an evaluation of existing communities and provide some direction on how they might evolve over time to reflect healthy community principles.

This report makes recommendations on the refinement and implementation of the HDI. The recommendations present a framework for strengthening the HDI as an assessment tool and integrating its principles into the policy-making, planning and development process.

### Methodology

To form our recommendations we tested the HDI by using it to assess proposed and existing urban form, a process referred to as a situational assessment. In completing the situational assessments, the HDI was evaluated taking into consideration two different aspects: 1) The practicality of completing the HDI using available data; and 2) The appropriateness of the elements and indicators of the HDI in reflecting a healthy community.

Two existing and three proposed communities in Peel were the subject of situational assessments. Communities were chosen to represent a range of community types: from communities designed based on current conceptions of good planning to more traditional suburban form. Once completed, the findings of the situational assessments were presented to an Advisory Committee at a workshop to solicit further insight from Regional and local area municipality staff.

### Recommendations

The strengths of the HDI are significant. It is an excellent distillation of the components that make up complete communities and healthy built form. The indicators attempt the difficult task of providing a quantitative analysis of elements that do not always lend themselves easily to this approach. The results of the situational assessments of the communities under study made intuitive sense and clearly indicate where improvements can be made.

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Despite these many positive aspects, there are opportunities to refine the HDI further and improve its usefulness as an appropriate measure of healthy community principles and a practical tool well-suited to the different circumstances in which it will be used.

Our recommendations focus on maintaining the quantitative foundation of the HDI, but improving the ease of assessing individual measures. They also suggest the incorporation of qualitative means of assessment when quantitative measures on their own fail to account for the breadth of possible responses that would meet healthy built form standards. Also, it is recommended that the HDI be presented in a manner which uses narrative to clearly communicate the principles that are the foundation of the HDI and the links between these principles and individual elements and measures.

A further recommendation concerns implementation and the desire for the application of the HDI to have the fullest impact possible. Using the HDI to assess plans and development proposals and hold development proponents to a high standard will be important. However, in tandem with the use of the HDI as an assessment tool, the Region and area municipalities must also work to ensure that their standards, policies and practices work in common purpose with HDI principles. Regional and municipal standards and policies influence built form and in many instances present barriers to the realization of the principles embodied in the HDI. A comprehensive review of these standards and policies are required in order to create the conditions whereby healthy communities are possible.

Building communities along healthy community principles is a departure from the status quo and therefore likely a long term project. A revised HDI will be a useful point of departure and guide for realizing healthy built form in Peel.

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### APPENDIX IV

*Planning and Building Department*

City of Mississauga  
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MISSISSAUGA ON L5B 3C1

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905-896-5638 (Building)  
www.mississauga.ca



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July 28, 2011

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Ms. Christine Gutmann  
Health Planning Facilitator  
Public Health, Region of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

Dear Ms. Gutmann:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Peel Health with input relating to the measures that the Region can take to assist The City of Mississauga in creating healthy built environments by better linking planning and health.

We have consulted with staff from a number of City Departments and have brainstormed a number of ideas for Peel Health that will help us to better link planning and health. Our ideas are outlined below and categorized by theme.

#### Transportation Issues

- Embrace transportation policies and practices that are more supportive of cycling and walking. Regular pedestrian and cycling counts should be mandated and followed up with attitudinal surveys. Particular attention could be paid to school children in keeping with Peel Health's focus on nurturing the next generation and reducing obesity;
- Traditional traffic base-line data (Cordon Count, TTS Survey) is skewed towards the movement of cars not people. Transportation studies and plans also need to address the impact that developments have on transit, cycling and pedestrian movements;
- The Region of Peel Long Range Transportation Plan needs to strive for a greater shift from an automobile dependent society to one that focuses on opportunities for transit and active transportation. For example, primary cycling routes should be shown on the appropriate Region of Peel Official Plan schedule;
- Region of Peel needs to consider the transportation improvements that are necessary to enhance the modal split towards more sustainable modes;
- Ensure regional roads are designed to be transit and pedestrian accessible and supportive with complementary streetscape amenities (bus shelters, street furniture, street trees and protection from inclement weather); and
- Development along regional roads should reflect the principles of transit oriented development.

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH INITIATIVES UPDATE

### Connectivity

- The Region should consider improving connectivity in its evaluation of development and capital works plans. In this regard, it should seek to secure land for key points of connection throughout the Region; and
- The City of Mississauga Strategic Plan introduces the concept of a Connectivity Index. The Region could examine the opportunity for increased connectivity within the Region and develop a standard and a performance measure based on this standard.

### Support Intensification

- Growth should be encouraged within Mississauga in appropriate locations. Additional growth should be added to Mississauga in the next allocation process to support intensification within the City in accordance with the policies of the new proposed Official Plan. The Plan has identified Intensification Areas in order to direct growth to appropriate locations; and
- Support intensification by providing incentives through Community Improvement Plans (CIP) in partnership with the City (e.g. reduce development charges).

### Promote Complete Communities

- The Region should promote a balance and mix of uses in nodes/intensification areas and not just the achievement of overall population and employment targets;
- The Region should focus on promoting healthy environments in areas under its jurisdiction which are not addressed at the municipal level but which are important for the creation of complete communities (e.g. affordable housing, transportation services for seniors and the disabled, access to mental health services, etc.);
- Promote community building partnerships between the Region and school boards or places of religious assembly to develop services lacking in the existing community as a preferred alternative, e.g. seniors housing and school;
- The Region should lead by example in terms of building practices and site selection. Regional facilities should be located in nodes and intensification areas. Opportunities to locate Regional service buildings within intensification areas in Mississauga should be considered; and
- Locate Peel housing in places of need; with access to transit and in areas with access to services such as along corridors.

### Urban Growth Boundary Expansions

- The municipal comprehensive review process focuses on sustainability but is not directed to health impacts. The Region of Peel Official Plan should include policies specifically on the health impacts related to urban boundary expansions.

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH INITIATIVES UPDATE**

**Advocacy**

- The Region of Peel needs to act as advocate, on behalf of area municipalities, for various issues:
  - At the Provincial level there is a disconnect between the policies directing the environmental assessment process, which examines automobile impacts, whereas the Growth Secretariat focuses on active transportation opportunities. The Province needs to provide better guidance and clarity concerning these matters;
  - The Region of Peel should advocate for additional funding for transportation improvements throughout the Region; and
  - Lobby Province to stop the closure of schools. The closure and consolidation of schools results in children getting bussed to schools away from home; away from their community.

The Region is the model for area municipalities to follow regarding the linking of planning and public health. The implementation of any of the above ideas will enhance our City and the Region and provide healthier communities for residents.

Regards,



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