

Peel 2051 Official Plan Update- Summer 2021 Public Consultation

Peel staff organized three online “drop-in” consultation sessions for members of the public and stakeholders to provide an update on the overall Regional Official Plan Review and Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) process and to answer questions related to the draft Regional Official Plan policies. A virtual consultation approach was taken due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency and public gathering restrictions. To maintain privacy of the attendees and any identifiable information that may be discussed during the sessions, these consultations were not recorded.

The sessions were structured as drop-in question and answer format, with a brief overview presentation from staff at the beginning of each session to provide context. Whereas the virtual consultation sessions in the Fall of 2020 were more formal and structured, the Summer 2021 consultations aimed to replace the informal community outreach that staff would typically conduct during the course of an Official Plan Review. While it is unfortunate that staff could not be out in the community at farmers’ markets and festivals, the online consultations were a safe alternative that would keep members of the public and stakeholders engaged and up to date on the Peel 2051 Official Plan Review process.

The first two consultations were general sessions where all focus area topics were discussed, and the third session was specifically for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion and Rural Settlement Area Boundary Refinement topics.

Each session began with a welcome message from a facilitator who explained the format and how to ask questions using the chat function. Staff then provided a brief overview presentation of the Peel 2051 Official Plan Review process, focus areas, and next steps, before turning it back over to the facilitator to address questions from the public. Staff provided links to the Region’s webpage where members of the public could share additional thoughts and provide comments separately via a short survey if they wished to do so.

Online Drop-In #1: General Session

Thursday July 29, 2021

The first live virtual consultation session took place on July 29, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The session had approximately 35 attendees with a total of 27 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

Key policy themes discussed during this session included climate change and the preservation of rural landscapes, agricultural lands, and natural heritage systems. Staff also received questions on affordable housing, healthy and complete communities, and the changing economy and how land use can support job growth, and fiscally sustainable growth in Peel Region.

Online Drop-In #2: General Session

Wednesday August 4, 2021

The second live virtual consultation session took place on August 4, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The session had approximately 31 attendees with a total of 15 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

The second general session questions focused heavily on transportation, transit, and the impacts of the GTA West Highway. This was tied into inquiries about population densities in Major Transit Station Areas, and the types of lands that may surround the GTA West Highway.

Online Drop-In #3: Settlement Area Boundary Expansion & Rural Settlement Area Boundary Refinement

Wednesday August 18, 2021

The third and final live virtual consultation session took place on August 18, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The session was scheduled for 90 minutes instead of the regular 60 minutes to account for the level of interest in boundary expansion policies. There were approximately 54 attendees with a total of 28 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

As this session focused on two specific topics, the key policy themes included road and water/wastewater infrastructure servicing plans, studies, and phasing of implementation. The timing and location of proposed boundary expansions, as well as the ability to accommodate forecasted growth were also discussed. There were also questions regarding the appropriateness of the density and intensification targets that have been set out for Peel Region by the Province.