

City Planning Framework Implementation

In order to effectively implement and achieve the city-building goals and aspirations of The City Plan, a modernized approach to land use policy and plan development will be required. This will be accomplished through the City Planning Framework Implementation project.

The City Planning Framework implementation project will:

- Simplify and clarify the suite and purpose of planning tools (like ASPs, strategies and guidelines) so that the direction for planning decisions is more consistent;
- Align our process with budget cycles to better enable our projects to be appropriately resourced;
- Create lifecycles for our tools to ensure we are able to keep them up to date and appropriately resourced; and
- Complete an initial round of tool amendments and repeals of tools that have served their purpose.

A project outcome is improved customer experience where roles and processes are clear, providing a more streamlined and simplified planning and implementation approach designed to reduce complexity, redundancy and areas of policy conflict between planning tools.

This will be accomplished through the proactive monitoring and updating of the City's planning tools coupled with streamlined processes for how planning tools are created, adjusted and repealed over time.

The framework will help ensure that the right planning tools and implementation activities are strategically aligned to business planning and corporate budget cycles. In addition, given its timeline relative to that of District Planning, the framework will help clarify the role of district plans and help determine how other tools will inform District Planning.

Need for City Planning Framework

The need for this framework was set out by the work of The City Plan. As the extent of the shift that The City Plan was proposing became apparent, the need to modernize the policy landscape to support new direction became more pressing. The need was also identified for the City to be better positioned to manage its internal resources while enabling corporate adaptation as we implement The City Plan.

Outcomes

Outcomes of implementing the City Planning Framework will be:

- Reduction in the total number of planning tools by repealing those that have served their purpose,
- Providing Council, residents and the development industry with a simplified planning landscape on which they can be informed, base their decisions and achieve City Building goals,
- Creating a clear link between planning tools and corporate business planning and budget cycles,
- Defining clear roles and accountability so Administration is able to manage workload and priorities related to planning tool maintenance, and
- Developing a clear and simple approach for how planning tools are administered, which can be communicated to all stakeholders

Engagement

The City Planning Framework is focused primarily on establishing internal Administrative processes and structure. As such it is in a good position to leverage previous internal engagement undertaken in 2019 and to continue to engage internal stakeholders as the need arises.

Engagement with external stakeholders will occur throughout the course of the project and focus on sharing information on the project progress, proposed new processes, and gathering feedback.

Any proposed amendments or repeals of statutory plans will be subject to a Land Development Application and related engagement activities, and a Public Hearing.

Project timeline

It is anticipated that the City Planning Framework Implementation will be completed by early 2022. Key milestones are:

- Administration proposes bylaw amendments or repeals for land use plans in effect that have served their purpose - Q2 2021
- New lifecycle process for planning tools in place - Q1 2022
- Information report to Urban Planning Committee at the conclusion of the project, Q1 2022. This report will provide details on the new City Planning Framework and a work plan for 2022-2024 which will identify planning tools to be reviewed as part of the new ongoing cyclical review schedule.