

»» REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW

THEMES & DIRECTIONS

Community Planning & Economic Development Committee
May 20, 2021

CORE PROJECT TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- »» Why are We Here Today?
- »» What are the Themes & Directions?
- »» How are we Engaging the Public?





WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

We are reviewing the Regional Plan.

We are here to provide an **overview of the proposed Themes and Directions**. This is the first major deliverable of the Regional Plan Review. The Community Planning and Economic Development Committee is our primary Council advisory body. This meeting is our first step in kicking off a month-long engagement period on this work.

The comment period will close on July 2, 2021.

The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) is a strategic document built on a common vision and principles for the municipality to achieve balanced and sustainable growth.

Originally adopted in 2006, the Regional Plan provided the first comprehensive guide for future growth for the entire municipality following amalgamation. It outlines where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031.

REGIONAL PLAN TIMELINE



CURRENT RP REVIEW TIMELINE



Regional Plan Review 2020-2022

**2022 is our target for delivery of a
draft set of amendments*

Phase 1 - 2020

- Initiation
- Research
- Early Engagement

Phase 2 - 2021

- Themes & Directions Document
- Broad Engagement
- Committee Engagement



And Here

Phase 3 - 2022

- Further Research
- Draft Amendments
- Broad Engagement
- Approval Process



WHAT ARE THE THEMES & DIRECTIONS?

Key Ideas, Issues and Potential Changes.

The Themes & Directions document **shares ideas about key planning issues and provides details of the work** that will be completed during the Review. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate the scope of the Regional Plan Review to the public, stakeholders, Council, and ultimately to seek feedback on the content.

The feedback will help provide focus and direction for our work during the Review.

We can decide how we want Halifax to grow.

We can make smart decisions about housing and employment and use the Regional Plan to quickly direct growth to the right places, in a way that furthers our community goals, and builds a healthy, thriving economy.

We can create change through new partnerships.

We can use the Regional Plan Review to act on new partnerships, grow in a new way, and pursue opportunities for meaningful change together.

We can make it easier for people to move.

We can use the Regional Plan to link decisions on land use and our mobility system by focusing on the movement of people, not just vehicles, be it by walking, rolling, cycling, transit or in a vehicle.

We can protect what matters.

We can use the Regional Plan to strengthen and protect important natural and cultural places and use them to shape our region's communities.

We can transform.

We can use the Regional Plan Review to help us generate ideas about how to change and transform as a community.



- Conducting population and housing growth analysis
- Assessing Service Boundary Expansion requests including Future Served Communities
- Revisiting the Urban Reserve Designation where conditions have changed
- Lifting of the Urban Reserve Designation from the Akoma properties and surrounding lands to enable master planning



- Creating Policy Direction for the Secondary Plan & By-law Simplification Program
- Directing Intensification in Suburban and Rural Areas and reclassifying Growth Centres
- Creation of policy guidance for suburban development proposals
- Review of conservation design policies



- Updating Employment Trends modelling analysis
- Monitoring the impact of COVID on employment trends
- Protecting industrial lands
- Supporting rural economic development



- Designing policy to support Transit Oriented Development
- Updating the mode share targets based on growth patterns
- Responding to requests and concerns regarding the Urban Transit Service Boundary and Rural Mobility



- Establishing a region-wide interim density bonusing program
- Aligning work with the Social Policy Committee, including affordable housing, connecting communities and food policy.
- Implementing initiatives and commitments to partner with, serve, and represent underrepresented communities
- Improving community engagement to reflect diversity and inclusion



- Implementing the recommendations of Sharing Our Stories
- Supporting Heritage Property Program initiatives
- Creating a region-wide heritage development agreement policy



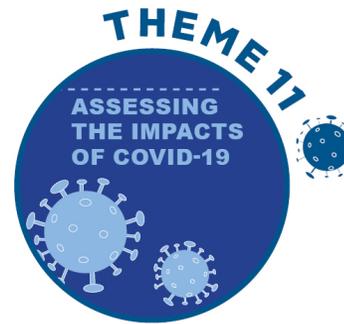
- Implementing the Parks Spectrum and Level of Service Standards
- Consideration of schools, libraries, emergency services and community facilities during the evaluation of future serviced growth centres



- Set up a program of study to develop and model several alternate future scenarios based on stable and uncertain variables
- Engage communities on what they think should be studied and considered when planning for the future of HRM to inform the 2030-2050 Regional Plan.



- Developing a program of study for the protection of wildlife corridors
- Reviewing the Municipality's ability to protect environmentally sensitive or important lands
- Improving protection for watercourses, wetlands and coastal areas

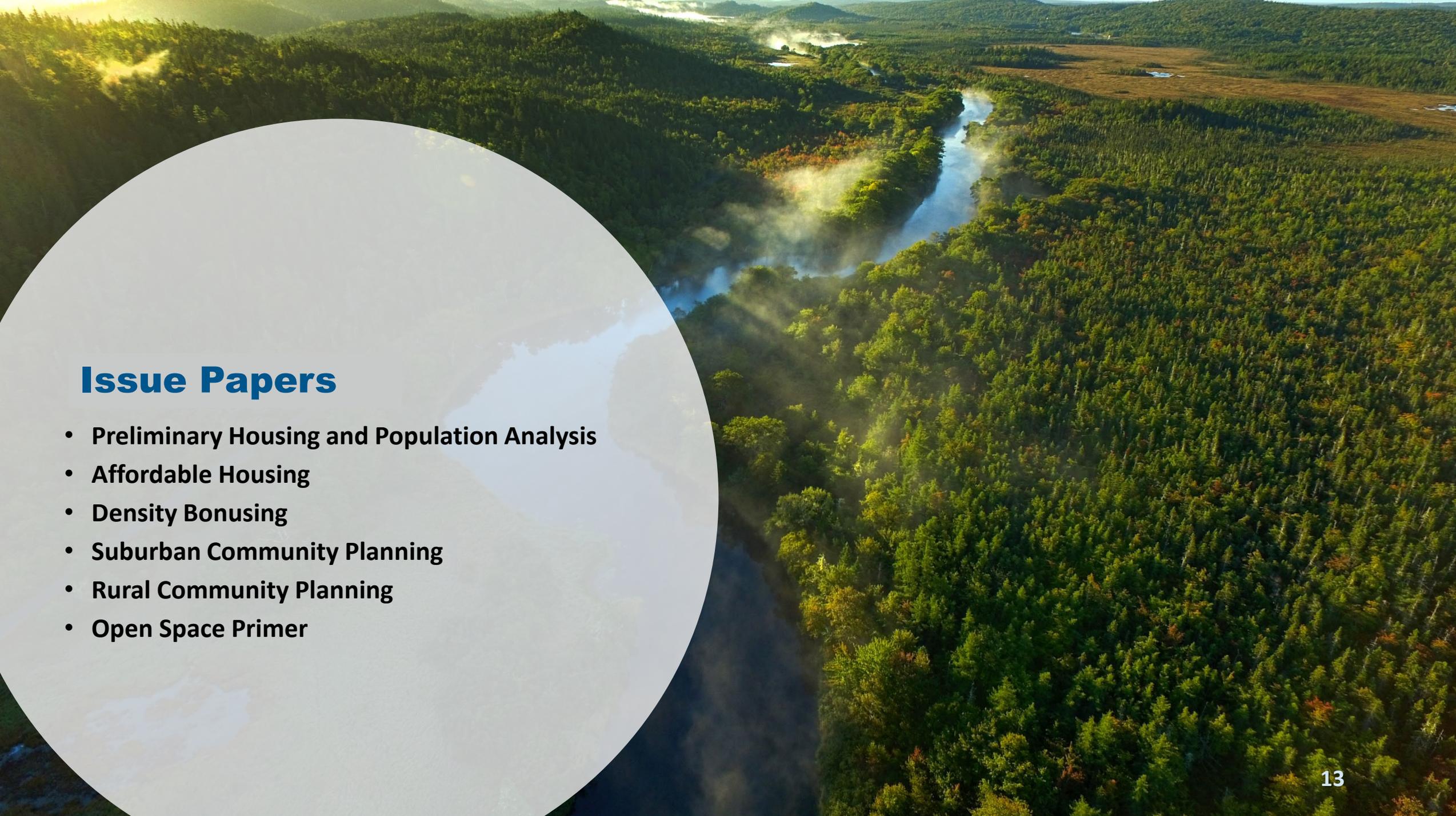


- Using an equity lens, monitor the pandemic's impacts and establish a framework to track impacts over time
- Including the public in considering the broader impacts over time



- Establishing a program of study to assess climate risks and community preparedness, including analysis of critical infrastructure.
- Adopt policy to direct consideration of alternative energy systems, such as district energy and microgrids





Issue Papers

- **Preliminary Housing and Population Analysis**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Density Bonusing**
- **Suburban Community Planning**
- **Rural Community Planning**
- **Open Space Primer**



HOW ARE WE ENGAGING THE PUBLIC?

Virtual Tools and Community Networks.

Social media, print media and community networks will be used to **get the word out and receive feedback**. The team will be available to provide presentations to stakeholders and community groups. A variety of virtual engagement tools will be used such as pre-recorded webinars, a live workshops, surveys, an interactive map, and question & answer pages. The team will also consult with Standing Committees of Council, Advisory Boards and Committees, and internal staff teams.

The Regional Plan Review webpage is the primary point for engagement:

www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan

To learn more, ask questions, join the project's mailing list and make your voice heard:

Visit: www.shapeyourcityhaifax.ca/regional-plan

Email: regionalplan@halifax.ca

Phone: 902.233.2501

Stay updated on other events and engagement opportunities by following the Halifax Regional Municipality on social media and Shape Your City.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee		
				Themes & Directions Website Live		
23	24 Victoria Day	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee + Women's Advisory Committee	4	5
6	7	8 Regional Council (COW REQUESTED)	9 Virtual Q&A #1 (Housing)	10 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board	11	12
13	14 Virtual Q&A #2 (Social Policy)	15 Virtual Q&A #3 (Climate Change) + Virtual Q&A #4 (Environment)	16 Virtual Q&A #5 (Mobility) + Virtual Q&A #6 (Long-Range Planning)	17 Active Transportation Advisory Committee + Youth Advisory Committee	18	19
20	21 Accessibility Advisory Committee + Halifax Peninsula PAC	22	23	24 Transportation Standing Committee	25	26
27	28 Executive Standing Committee	29	30			

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Canada Day ¹	Close of Public Comment Period ²	³
⁴	<i>Review engagement material and prepare What We Heard Report for CPED Aug 19th</i> ⁵	⁶	North West Planning Advisory Committee ⁷	⁸	⁹	¹⁰
¹¹	¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵	¹⁶	¹⁷
¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²²	²³	²⁴
²⁵	²⁶	²⁷	Heritage & Community Design Advisory Committees ²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	³¹
						18

Important Dates:

Overall Comment Period
May 20 – July 2

Survey
June 2 – July 2

Virtual Presentation + Q&A

Housing – June 9

Social Policy – June 14

Climate Change - June 15

Environment – June 15

Mobility – June 16

Long-Range Planning – June 16

For More Information Please
Visit Shape Your City Halifax

See: [Regional Plan Review](#)

https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan

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Regional Plan Review

The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) is a strategic document built on a common vision and principles for the municipality to achieve balanced and sustainable growth. Originally adopted in 2006, the Regional Plan provided the first comprehensive guide for future growth for the entire municipality following amalgamation.

This website is the place where you can access content, materials and supporting research for the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy Plan Review. You can also find out about the project process, including public engagement activities. We welcome your input and participation in the process. Through the Regional Plan Review we are focused on the following ideas:

- We can decide how we want Halifax to grow.**
We can make smart decisions about housing and employment and use the Regional Plan to quickly direct growth to the right places, in a way that furthers our community goals, and builds a healthy, thriving economy.
- We can create change through new partnerships.**
We can use the Regional Plan to act on new partnerships, to rethink our values, and include underrepresented or untold views and histories.
- We can make it easier for people to move.**
We can use the Regional Plan to link land use and our mobility system by focusing on the movement of people, not just vehicles, be it by walking, rolling, cycling, transit or in a vehicle.
- We can protect what matters.**
We can use the Regional Plan to strengthen and protect important natural and cultural places and use them to shape our region's communities.
- We can transform.**
We can use the Regional Plan Review to help us generate ideas about how to change and transform as a community.

Project Timeline

- Summer 2019 - Winter 2020**
Develop scope and work plan; engage with key internal and external stakeholders; Regional Council initiation February 25, 2020.
- Spring 2021**
Publish Themes & Direction report; conduct Phase 2 community engagement through virtual meetings, pre-recorded webinars, surveys, maps, forums, and online resources.
- Summer 2021**
Publish "What We Heard" report on Phase 2 engagement.
- Winter 2022**
Publish draft revised Regional Plan; conduct Phase 3 community engagement through virtual meetings, pre-recorded webinars, surveys, maps, forums, and online resources.
- Fall 2022**
Finalize draft Regional Plan amendments; begin Regional Council approval process.

FAQs

- What is the Regional Plan and why is it being reviewed?
- What does the Regional Plan do?
- What exactly is being reviewed?
- How is it being reviewed and where are we in the process?
- What are the next steps?
- How do I participate?

Themes & Directions Background Documents

- Halifax Green Network Plan
- Integrated Mobility Plan
- HalFACT
- more...

Initiation Documents

- Updated Engagement Plan Report - November 2020

Public Consultation

Right now we are starting Phase 2 of our engagement process and will be asking for public input on our Themes and Directions. The feedback we receive will help provide focus and direction for future work during the project. Please stay tuned. Our engagement materials are **Coming Soon**.

Themes and Directions

The Themes introduce the main overall topic areas. There are 11 themes in total. In the table, each theme is briefly described and explained. If you would like to read the entire theme, there is a link to read the theme in more detail. You may also dive deeper into issue papers that relate to the theme or read further into the background materials that helped to develop the theme. Please stay tuned. Our Themes and Directions materials are **Coming Soon**.

Theme	Description and Supporting Documents
	To find a quick snapshot of the Regional Plan ideas can be found here: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Summary (Coming Soon)