

**Item 9.1.1**



# **REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW**

## **Themes and Directions**

**Women's Advisory Committee**

**June 3, 2021**

# **HALIFAX**

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# OVERVIEW

- »» Why are We Here Today?
- »» What are the Themes & Directions?
- »» How are we Engaging the Public?
- »» Theme 5: Social Planning for Community Well-Being
- »» Theme 7: Integrating Community Facilities and Parks





## 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. We are kicking off a month-long engagement period on this work, including visiting all relevant boards and committees.

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.**



## **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. 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](http://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](http://www.shapeyourcityhaifax.ca/regional-plan)

Email: [regionalplan@halifax.ca](mailto: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.

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- Conducting population and housing growth analysis
- Assessing Service Boundary Expansion requests including Future Serviced 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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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



# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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.

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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- 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

**THEME 5:**  
**Social Planning for**  
**Community Well-Being**

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

## Theme 5: Social Planning for Community Well-Being

In April 2020, HRM adopted a Social Policy Administrative Order with goals to “strengthen community health and wellbeing, enhance equity and inclusion, and build on social assets and community capacity”. The Regional Plan Review will be exploring ways to introduce social planning by creating new policy and setting up future work.



# Housing



As Halifax continues to grow and develop, housing affordability has become an increasing issue. The Municipality's role in supporting and encouraging affordable housing has increased steadily over the past several years.



## The Regional Plan Review will:

- Encourage a diversity of housing forms;
- Identify planning tools to ensure no loss of housing during redevelopment;
- Update the Housing Needs Assessment annually;
- Remove barriers to the development and retention of housing;
- Study possible tools to leverage surplus or available land; and
- Develop a region-wide density bonusing program.





# Food Security

It is estimated that between 1 in 5 and 1 in 7 households in HRM experience food insecurity. In 2020, the Municipality partnered with the Food Policy Alliance to develop JustFOOD. JustFOOD is centred on food justice and working together towards a region where no one is hungry, where food and people are celebrated, and our local food system is prosperous and sustainable.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Direct the use of JustFOOD tools when updating/creating policies; and**
- **Remove barriers and create incentives for food uses.**

# Inclusivity and Public Participation



Creating equitable complete communities requires an understanding of the lived experiences of the diverse residents that call HRM home. The Municipality must continue to develop an understanding of the effects of existing policies that disproportionately affect historically underserved and underrepresented groups.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Engage the Diversity and Inclusion Office as a resource during planning projects; and**
- **Review engagement policies through the upcoming Public Engagement Guidebook.**



# Community Partnerships

HRM has several initiatives and commitments to better partner with, serve, and represent underrepresented groups. This includes the creation of the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History and the approval of the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity.

## The Regional Plan Review will:

- **Ensure the Regional Plan is aligned with the 94 Calls to Action, recommendations from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History, and the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity.**



# Accessibility

The World Health Organization says that 15 percent of the world's population lives with an impairment or disability. Persons with disabilities continue to face attitudinal and environmental barriers that prevent them from achieving their full and equal participation in society. In HRM, the Diversity and Inclusion Office and the Accessibility Advisory Committee have been working to direct changes in planning policies that impact individuals with disabilities.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Review and update planning documents that bring HRM closer to the goal of being a city for people of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds; and**
- **Include the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Diversity & Inclusion Office in the review of the upcoming engagement tool.**

# THEME 5 Q&A

**THEME 7:**  
**Integrating Community  
Facilities and Parks**

# THEMES & DIRECTIONS

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## Theme 7: Integrating Community Facilities & Parks

Parks and community facilities are an essential component of complete communities that support healthy lifestyles for all residents. The Regional Plan Review will be exploring ways to ensure that the role of parks and facilities provided by the Municipality and other organizations is considered when planning for development.





# Indoor Community Facilities



The Municipality provides a variety of indoor community facilities designed to meet local and regional needs. The Community Facility Master Plan 2 was adopted in 2017 and provides broad direction for the renewal and enhancement of HRM's recreation facilities.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Continue to implement the recommendations of the Community Facilities Master Plan 2; and**
- **Review recreation trends, demographics, community needs when planning for complete communities.**





# Facilities Provided by Other Organizations

## Libraries

Libraries provide a vast range of free services and communal space where everyone is welcome to gather. Libraries are managed by Halifax Public Libraries.

## Schools

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) oversees English public schools and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) oversees all French public schools. Eleven private schools are also located in HRM.

## Emergency Services

Adequate emergency services to ensure the safety of all residents. Emergency services are provided by several different organizations, and their approaches to locating and expanding their services vary.

### The Regional Plan Review will:

- **Consider the location of these facilities when locating growth and ensure services are available and planned to accommodate new development.**

# Parks



Parks provide residents will access to green space and support active living. The Halifax Green Network Plan introduced a Park Spectrum which is used to develop Level of Service Standards that inform planning park locations, sizes, amenities and programming to ensure equitable access based on settlement patterns.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Incorporate the Park Spectrum;**
- **Develop Level of Service Standards;**
- **Amend the Regional Subdivision By-law to reflect the Level of Service Standards; and**
- **Explore the use of policy tools to support parkland dedication.**



# Wilderness Parks

HRM is home to a network of municipally, provincially, federally and non-profit owned parks and open spaces that provide wilderness protection and recreation opportunities. The primary intent of the Wilderness Parks is for the lands to be largely retained in a natural state, offering passive access to nature.

## **The Regional Plan Review will:**

- **Apply the Open Space and Natural Resources Designation and Regional Park Zone to publicly owned Wilderness Park lands; and**
- **Work with other levels of government and conservation groups to increase access to open spaces.**

# THEME 7 Q&A

## Important Dates:

### Overall Comment Period

May 20 – July 16

### Survey

June 2 – July 16

### Virtual Presentation + Q&A

Social Policy – June 11

Housing – 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](#)

[Home](#) » [Regional Plan Review](#)

## Regional Plan Review



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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: