

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Resident Feedback of PLANAPP-2025-00797:

**A Development Agreement for an Expansion of a non-conforming institutional use in the ER-3 (Existing Residential 3) Zone
In the Regional Centre Planning District
Located at 6421 Cork Street in Halifax.**

The feedback notice time frame to residents was between **September 22nd to October 31st, 2025**. Comments could be emailed to the planner processing the application, Craig Wournell, at craig.wournell@halifax.ca or by phone at 902-221-0113. The following questions were asked in the notice to residents:

Things to consider when providing your comments/responses:

- What are your thoughts regarding the proposed expansion of this non-conforming use?
- Do you have any information you would like to share about your neighbourhood that might be useful to the application?

As of November 4th, 2025, **25 residents responded**

- 4 – Expressed concerns with the greater traffic issues this would cause, but were not opposed to the project nor did they support it,
- 18 - opposed, and
- 3 - supporting the proposal.

SUMMARY of COMMENTS:

- Temple adds cultural vibrancy to the community
- Inadequate parking for the use
- Events continually cause traffic hazards
- Expansion supports inclusivity, diversity

Below is a summary of the public comments and concerns received regarding impacts the proposed development may have on the existing neighbourhood.

Parking & Traffic Issues:

All 25 residents who responded to the engagement letter expressed concerns about parking in the community to some capacity. A common issue raised was the ability to park on both sides of Cork Street. This was said to create access and egress challenges to and from the street and into residential driveways. Several residents emphasized that during temple events, and to a greater extent, when those businesses surrounding the area are operating at full capacity the congested street could/ would prevent emergency vehicles from reaching homes.

The temple's provision of only eight parking spaces is widely viewed as inadequate for both current and future attendance. Additionally, there is no clear transportation or traffic management plan in place to address any future concerns.

Some residents acknowledged that traffic congestion is not unique to the temple and it reflects the broader urban growth challenges in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

To help mitigate these concerns, residents suggested implementing traffic calming measures, eliminating/ adjusting on street parking, establishing park-and-ride systems, and adopting structured event scheduling to better manage peak activity periods.

Support for Expansion:

Several residents of Cork Street and the surrounding community expressed support for the proposed temple expansion. Some noted that the continued growth of the Hindu community in Downtown Halifax is reflected in the strong sense of connection the temple fosters within the neighborhood. The expansion is seen as a meaningful way to accommodate long-time attendees and welcome newcomers, further strengthening community ties.

The temple is recognized as a longstanding and valued part of the area, contributing to its cultural diversity and vibrancy. Expanding the space would allow for a larger congregation and enhance the temple's role as a hub for cultural and spiritual engagement in the community.

Not in Support of the Expansion:

Many residents of Cork Street and the surrounding neighborhood expressed concerns about the proposed temple expansion. A recurring issue was the traffic/ parking issues caused during temple events, which residents say makes the area unsafe and restricts access to and from Cork Street, and residential driveways. There is particular concern that emergency vehicles may be unable to reach homes during peak attendance times. However, most residents note that traffic issues are not unique to the temple and reflect broader urban growth challenges.

In addition to traffic concerns, some residents voiced apprehension about the changing built form of the community. They feel that the proposed addition to the existing structure may further alter the character of the neighborhood, contributing to a sense of overdevelopment.