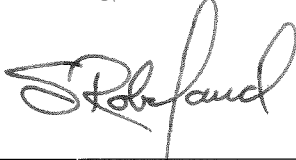


Hamilton

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 14, 2022
SUBJECT:	GRIDS 2 / MCR – Update on Provincial Review of Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 167 to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and OPA 34 to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director Planning, and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide Council with an update on the Provincial review of Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 167 to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP) and OPA 34 to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan (RHOP). The two OPAs were approved by Council on June 8, 2022 to implement the Council direction regarding the No Urban Boundary Expansion growth scenario resulting from the GRIDS 2 / MCR process and to conform to revised provincial policies. The OPAs, approved under Section 26 of the Planning Act, require approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) prior to coming into force and effect.

Provincial Review

The Council-approved OPAs were provided to MMAH for approval on June 10, 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. Additional supporting information was forwarded to MMAH on June 27, 2022. A summary of the Provincial response to the submitted OPAs received to date has been provided below.

Environmental Registry of Ontario

On September 8, 2022, OPA 167 to the UHOP and OPA 34 to the RHOP were posted on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario \(ERO\)](#) for review and comment. The ERO is a provincial registry which allows members of the public to review and provide comments

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SUBJECT: GRIDS 2 / MCR – Update on Provincial Review of Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 167 to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and OPA 34 to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan (City Wide) - Page 2 of 3

on the OPAs. The City of Hamilton OPAs are posted as ERO #019-5732 and are open for a 30-day commenting period from September 8, 2022 to October 8, 2022. Of note, 12 other municipal Official Plan Amendments implementing MCRs of other municipalities were posted to the ERO on the same date.

120 Day Approval Timeline

The *Planning Act* requires the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to make a decision on the City's OPAs within 120 days of receipt of the OPAs. However, through the *Planning Act* changes approved through Bill 109 earlier this year, the Minister now has the authority to suspend the decision-making time period on OPAs.

On September 12, 2022, the City Clerk received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing notifying the City that the Minister has suspended the 120 day timeline for the review of the City's OPA 167 and OPA 34. The letter was received by City Council at their meeting of September 14, 2022. A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix "A" to this update.

Consultation with Indigenous Communities

On September 12, 2022, City staff received email notification from MMAH staff that OPA 167 and OPA 34 have been circulated for review and comment to local Indigenous Communities. The OPAs were circulated to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council. The correspondence sent to the Indigenous Communities requested a reply be provided by October 11, 2022.

Staff note that the circulation to the Indigenous Communities is a standard procedure for MMAH to follow when reviewing and approving OPAs. The letter to the Indigenous Communities from MMAH notes that the City of Hamilton has engaged with Indigenous Communities throughout the process including virtual meetings, emails and information sharing. As noted in previous staff reports, throughout the GRIDS 2 / MCR process, staff provided information and consulted with local Indigenous Communities and organizations to ensure that consultation and feedback was shared in a meaningful way. Through the most recent round of consultation on the draft OPAs, staff invited 11 local Indigenous community contacts and an additional 15 Indigenous communities, based on advice from the Province, to meet virtually to discuss the proposed amendments to the Urban and Rural Hamilton Official Plans. Staff met with and received comments from three groups, including the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

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Amendment (OPA) 167 to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and OPA
34 to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan (City Wide) - Page 3 of 3**

Next Steps

Staff will continue to provide Council updates in response to any important communications received from the Province related to the review of OPA 167 and OPA 34.

If you require any further information on the above matter, please contact Steve Robichaud, Director of Planning and Chief Planner by email at Steve.Robichaud@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4281 or Heather Travis, Senior Project Manager by e-mail at Heather.Travis@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4168.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Letter from Minister Steve Clark

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



Ontario

234-2022-4000

September 12, 2022

Andrea Holland
City Clerk
City of Hamilton,
71 Main St W, 4th floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5
clerk@hamilton.ca

Dear Andrea Holland:

Bill 109, the *More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022* was passed by the Legislature and received Royal Assent on April 14, 2022. Schedule 5 of the Bill makes changes to the *Planning Act* to:

- expedite approvals and incent timely decisions for zoning, plan of subdivision and site plan applications, and
- ensure provincial housing policies are implemented and priority projects are expedited by providing the province with new tools to address dispute resolution.

One of the *Planning Act* changes provides a new discretionary authority for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to suspend the time period to make a decision on official plans and official plan amendments.

I am writing to notify you that I am using this authority, pursuant to ss. 17(40.1) of the *Planning Act*, to suspend the 120-day timeline for the amendments to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Rural Hamilton Official Plan, which were adopted on June 8, 2022.

You will be notified when the Minister takes further steps under the *Planning Act* in relation to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark
Minister

c. Steve Robichaud, Chief Planner and Director of Planning, City of Hamilton