

A Timeline of Growth Management Policy Changes

City Actions

2018

Planning For Growth: The City launches the Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS) 2 process to plan for growth to 2041 (eventually updated to 2051).

November 2021

- **Review of Growth Scenarios:** Using the Province's methodology for land needs assessments, the City reviewed and assessed two alternative growth scenarios (Ambitious Density and No Urban Boundary Expansion).
- **No Boundary Expansion:** Hamilton City Council votes to adopt a "no urban boundary expansion" growth strategy.

June 2022

Council Adopts Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 167: The amendment implements the No Boundary Expansion growth strategy to the Hamilton Urban Official Plan and Rural Hamilton Official Plan.

September 2023

Hamilton Opposes Greenbelt Development: Through City-led public engagement, majority of residents express opposition to Greenbelt changes.

November 2023

Hamilton Supports Reversals: City Council supports the reversals of Greenbelt development and urban boundary expansion policies.

April 2024

Council Recommits to Firm Urban Boundary: Hamilton City Council opposes Bill 185 and the undermining of its "no expansion" policy.

August 2024

Draft Framework Developed: Anticipating privately initiated urban boundary expansion applications, Council approves the Draft Urban Boundary Expansion Application Framework.

October to November 2024

City of Hamilton engages the community and stakeholder groups on the Draft Urban Boundary Expansion Application Framework.

Provincial Actions

November 2021

Updated Growth Projections: Ontario mandates updated official plans; Hamilton's population forecasted to reach 820,000 by 2051.

November 2022

No Boundary Expansion Overruled, Greenbelt Lands Opened Up: The Province approves OPA 167 with a series of modifications, including the addition of an over 2,200 hectare expansion.

September 2023

Greenbelt Decision Reversed: Premier Ford reverses proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan.

October to December 2023

Urban Boundary Expansion Reversed: Province announces reversal of November 2022 decision to modify municipal urban plans, including Hamilton's urban boundary expansion. This is put into force by passing of Bill 150, removing the 2,200 hectares of land previously added to Hamilton's urban boundary.

April 2024

Urban Boundary Expansion Reopened: Province introduces Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024, opening the door for new privately initiated urban boundary expansion applications to be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

August 2024

New Provincial Planning Statement Approved: Province approves new Provincial Planning Statement, removing the requirement for a Municipal Comprehensive Review for boundary expansions.

October 2024

New Provincial Planning Statement In Effect: New provincial policies in effect, opening the door for urban boundary expansion applications.

The Impacts of Recent Policy Changes on Hamilton's Growth Management

The City of Hamilton, guided by extensive community engagement and its 2051 Growth Management Strategy, remains committed to accommodating growth within its existing urban boundary. However, recent provincial policy changes, including the removal of mandatory Municipal Comprehensive Reviews (MCRs) and the introduction of Bill 185, have empowered landowners and proponents to propose urban boundary expansions of any size at any time, challenging the City's ability to manage growth.

Here's how the new Provincial rules affect Hamilton

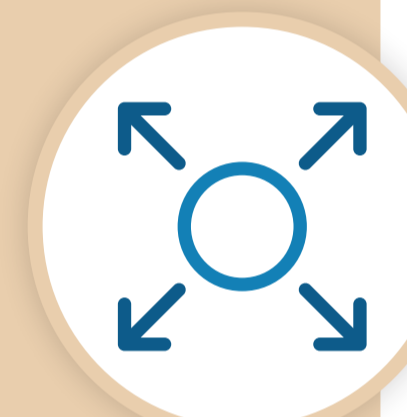
Influx of Urban Boundary Expansion Applications:



The new policies are likely to trigger urban boundary expansion requests from proponents, potentially leading to conflicts with the City's existing growth management strategy, which prioritizes intensification within the current urban boundary.

Challenges in Maintaining a Firm Urban Boundary:

The City's commitment to a firm urban boundary is challenged by recent changes to the Provincial Planning Statement and Bill 185. The new provincial rules enable proponents to bypass the City and potentially expand the urban boundary through direct appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal.



Green Space and Farmland Preservation:



With less emphasis on comprehensive planning and more focus on individual development applications, the City might face challenges in preserving its green spaces and farmland.

Financial Implications:

Defending against Ontario Land Tribunal appeals on urban boundary expansions poses significant financial burdens for the City.

