



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: March 28, 2022

FROM: Strategy, Policy and Communications Department

DATE: March 22, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Priority Intergovernmental Requests

LOCATION:

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2022 priority intergovernmental requests identified in Appendix A of this report be approved.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Intergovernmental relations efforts by the town to date have been successful but conducted in an ad hoc manner
- Strategic documents outlining the town's priorities include Vision 2057, Council's Strategic Plan Refresh (2019–2022) and Livable Oakville
- Consultation with the town's Executive Management Team (EMT) indicated an opportunity to develop a more effective and focused approach to intergovernmental relations to align efforts with priorities
- A list of Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Area of Focus is provided in Appendix A

BACKGROUND:

In recent years, the leadership efforts of the community, the Mayor and Members of Council have led to a number of achievements that demonstrate the value of productively engaging other levels of government. These achievements include the cancellation of a gas plant in 2010, avoidance of a forced amalgamation of Halton municipalities in 2019, the conservation of the Glen Abbey golf course lands in 2021, and federal and provincial funding for electric buses totalling almost 50 million dollars.

While these efforts have resulted in gains for the town, to continue to effectively pursue the town's vision and long-term growth targets, a more systematic approach is needed to focus and align intergovernmental requests to Town priorities.

The town's priorities are set out through a number of strategic documents.

Vision 2057 and the Strategic Plan

[Vision 2057](#), the town's cohesive road map for the future, notes that the [Strategic Plan](#) sets the direction for all of the town plans in line with the town's three fundamental elements: its vision (to be the most livable town in Canada), its mission, and its values. Vision 2057 also recognizes that over time, new priorities, new opportunities, new demands, and new challenges will emerge, requiring the flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to changing directions. In 2021, through Council's mid-term [2019–2022 Strategic Plan Refresh](#), priorities were identified or reaffirmed around the five areas of focus from the Strategic Plan:

- **Livability:** To be the most livable town in Canada
- **Engaged Community:** Foster a community environment that engages residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- **Accountable Government:** Inspire public confidence through open, accountable and efficient delivery of government services
- **Mobility:** Improve town's multi-modal transportation network to support effective movement of people and goods
- **Environment:** Protect greenspace and promote environmentally sustainable practices

Official Plan Review – Achieving Growth Targets

The Town of Oakville is currently undergoing an [Official Plan Review](#) (OPR) to review and align the town's land use policies, as required under the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13. The primary purpose of the OPR is to ensure conformity with provincial legislation and policies—including the requirement to plan for forecasted population and employment growth to the year 2051, as per the Provincial [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#)—as well as the Region of Halton Official Plan as amended through the [Regional Official Plan Review](#) (ROPR).

The OPR is also an opportunity to set into policy the community's vision for how the Town develops in the future, providing important guidance on what is needed from other levels of government to realize that vision.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Based on consultation with the town's Executive Management Team (EMT) in 2021/22, it was recognized that a coordinated approach to intergovernmental requests would help direct future actions and strengthen partnerships with all levels of government (federal, provincial, and regional). It also would further support collaboration and alignment with other municipalities, organizations, networks, tables, and associations, given the myriad interconnections on issues especially in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

To advance the town's priority needs, particularly around infrastructure, funding, and policy and regulatory frameworks, activities to further intergovernmental relations are required.

In light of the above, in 2022 staff identified 17 specific areas for priority intergovernmental requests, outlined below and organized around the areas of focus from Council's [2019–2022 Strategic Plan Refresh](#) – livability, engaged community, accountable government, mobility and environment. These priorities are connected to the town's vision, strategic plan, official plan, and other key pieces, as follows:

- **Livability**

- **Midtown Oakville** – As one of the three Urban Growth Centres for Halton Region, delivering infrastructure to advance the development of Midtown Oakville will address current Provincial and Regional growth forecasts and policies, including the plan for growth to 2051, and provide clearer direction about the future look and feel of Midtown.
- **Auto Industry** – The vision of the town's [Economic Development Strategy, 2019–2024](#), includes goals of attracting new investment and jobs and growing the local economy. The advocacy efforts of the Ontario Auto Mayors also help support the town's biggest employer and maintain a resilient local economy.
- **Bronte Harbour** – Urgently negotiating ownership of Bronte Outer Harbour Marina and associated parkland within Bronte inner harbour will help ensure appropriate planning and protect a cultural heritage asset, especially as the town already owns the bulk of harbour lands in Oakville.
- **Community Infrastructure** – The town's Official Plan addresses issues such as whether and where new schools are needed, as part of how the community grows, and requires appropriate funding at the right time. A new courthouse in Oakville is required to address increased caseloads and ensure reasonable access to the justice system. Expansion of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital will address the growing healthcare needs of the community.

- **Accountable Government**

- **COVID-19 Recovery** – To further the Town's [2021-22 COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan](#) and its five key areas – restoring our community vibrancy, supporting our local businesses, keeping our community safe, keeping our corporation resilient, and preserving our strong financial health – additional efforts to address lost revenues and additional expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic will help further public confidence in the delivery of government services.
- **Digital Infrastructure** – Digital connectivity is critical for economic, educational and social functioning. The town's [Digital Oakville Plan](#) embraces continuous improvement and digital innovation to meet resident needs. A commitment to enhancing digital service delivery and infrastructure well positions the town to take advantage of economic, social and environmental opportunities.
- **Courts – Taxation – Financial Tools** – Collectively addressing issues related to these three areas will help alleviate pressures on municipal finances and inspire public confidence through open, accountable and efficient delivery of government services.

- **Mobility**

- **Kerr Street Grade Separation** – Identified in the town's transportation master planning process, the Kerr Street underpass is a long-pending, central and critical infrastructure enhancement that would ease train and roadway traffic and significantly improve the movement of people and goods in both the immediate area and other neighbourhoods. Its deferral will impact traffic and there is a cascading effect on the ability to accommodate development.
- **Burloak Drive Grade Separation** – The need for a grade separation at Burloak Drive was identified in 1994 through a joint transportation Environmental Assessment study with the City of Burlington, with the project being critical to easing traffic congestion and creating safer and smoother traveling for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and GO commuters.
- **Transit** – Improving the town's multi-modal transportation network to support the effective movement of people and building a transit station at Neyagawa along the 407 transit way to improve mobility within this urban centre growth node.
- **Automated Speed Enforcement** – Improving issues related to automated speed enforcement will help promote safe travel on town roads.

- **Environment**

- **Electric Buses – Green Buildings – Rainwater Management** - The creation of a climate change resilient community and transition to a low-carbon future will be furthered through addressing these issues.
- **Glenorchy** – Protecting greenspace and ensuring effective stewardship of the town’s natural environment.
- **Expansion of the Greenbelt** – protecting the town’s natural heritage system by including the urban river valley system in the greenbelt.

Details on the specific requests for the list of priority intergovernmental requests are included in *Appendix A – Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Area of Focus*. This list provides the basis for intergovernmental relations to focus efforts over the coming year. This list will be subject to review and updating on an ongoing basis.

CONSIDERATIONS:**(A) PUBLIC**

Council’s 2019–2022 Strategic Plan Refresh, which includes a number of the priority intergovernmental requests outlined in this report, was an update to the Strategic Plan that was approved by Council on April 29, 2019, which followed broad public input through the 2019 Citizen Survey.

(B) FINANCIAL

Advancing the priority intergovernmental requests outlined in this report may have impacts on financial decision-making, including considerations related to long-range financial forecasts, the annual budgeting process, and the 10-year capital budgeting process.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The priority intergovernmental requests may influence every department across the organization. Departmental work plans and budgets will reflect strategic directions established by Council, including those that lead to the identification of activities requiring enhanced priority intergovernmental requests, with results to be reported through annual departmental business plans and the budgeting process.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

The priority intergovernmental requests address the corporate strategic goals via initiatives identified for advancement under each area of focus:

- **Livability:** To be the most livable town in Canada.
- **Engaged Community:** foster a community environment that engages residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

- **Accountable Government:** Inspire public confidence through open, accountable and efficient delivery of government services.
- **Mobility:** Improve town's multi-modal transportation network to support effective movement of people and goods.
- **Environment:** Protect greenspace and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

The priority intergovernmental requests collectively address a number of initiatives that will help the Town and community adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including advancements related to electric buses, building retrofits, green development standards, rainwater management, and the effective management of conservation areas.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Area of Focus

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