



REPORT

Special Council

Meeting Date: June 22, 2021

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: June 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Discussion Report – Midtown Oakville Urban Growth Area Review – Urban Design Workshop

LOCATION: Midtown Oakville

WARD: Ward 3

Page 1

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the staff report titled “Discussion Report – Midtown Oakville Urban Growth Area Review – Urban Design Workshop” dated June 8, 2021, be received.
2. That the presentation to Council, as modified through the workshop, be received.

KEY FACTS:

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

- The Special Council meeting on June 22, 2021 includes a Council Workshop designed to provide Council with an opportunity to receive information and ask questions about urban design related issues in Midtown.
- No decisions are proposed to be made as a result of the discussion.

BACKGROUND:

At the March 22, 2021 Special Planning and Development Council meeting, a report was tabled regarding a proposed town-initiated official plan amendment (OPA) to the Livable Oakville Plan that implements the findings of the Midtown Oakville Growth Area Review by updating the land use policies and mapping related to Midtown Oakville, the town’s Urban Growth Centre.

The Midtown Oakville Growth Area Review is part of the town's Official Plan Review whereby the town's Official Plan documents are being updated to conform with the latest Provincial plans and policies. This work is being co-ordinated with Halton Region's ongoing Regional Official Plan Review – a Municipal Comprehensive Review – that will determine how the Region's forecasted population and employment growth to the year 2051 should be distributed among, and within, the local municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

Since 2006, Midtown Oakville has been one of 25 urban growth centres identified in the Province's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (the Growth Plan). Urban growth centres are to be transit-supportive, regional focal areas that are required to accommodate a significant portion of future population and employment growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Midtown Oakville will continue to be an important component of the Region and town's overall growth management strategy.

Through the town-initiated official plan review process, the community development vision and urban design direction are being evaluated and updated to ensure the fundamental organizing elements of this mixed-use urban community – its transportation network, public squares and open spaces, development blocks and innovative built form – are strategically planned and achieve a high standard of urban design, accessibility and sustainability that will become a model for the Town and for other communities.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

The Urban Design Workshop will include a presentation by staff that further describes the urban form of Midtown and how the policy framework can achieve a compact urban community. The presentation will highlight the role of urban design in place-making and community development, and will describe how the streetscapes, urban open spaces, mix of uses, transit facilities, and buildings can be designed as vibrant and engaging places for people, making Midtown a new community and destination in Oakville.

A joint Planning, Transportation and Urban Design virtual public information centre is scheduled for June 28, 2021. Staff anticipate bringing forward a recommended OPA for Council's consideration in fall 2021.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The Special Council meeting is a Council Workshop and was made available on the town's calendar of Council meetings. No direct public notification was required. The meeting is open to the public on You-tube. Members of the public wishing to speak must register with the Town Clerk no later than noon on the day of the meeting.

(B) FINANCIAL

Future funding for improvements and enhancement of town-owned land and infrastructure in Midtown will be requested through the Capital Budget process.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Planning and Transportation & Engineering staff are working closely together on advancing policy direction and developing implementation strategies associated with Midtown.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- Enhance our economic development
- Continuously improve our programs and services
- Be innovative in everything we do
- Be the most liveable town in Canada

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

Midtown Oakville is a designated urban growth area to be designed with a compact urban form, a compatible mix of uses, optimal utilization of existing infrastructure and sustainable mobility choices. The urban design policies and direction will further promote the creation of climate-resilient buildings, places, and infrastructure.

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