

**Appendix B: Public comments on draft plan, June 19-30**

\*Information related to an individual, community group or association has been removed.

	Comment	Outcome
1.	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see and read the draft update of Oakville’s Strategic Plan. It is very interesting and I commend the professionalism of the presentation. We are so happy that we have chosen Oakville as our retirement home.	No changes.
2.	I would like to provide feedback and make sure there's a development in our neighbourhood for below: 1) Park improvements - Improve Holton Heights park situated at 1315 Holton Heights Dr #1307. The park needs more facilities - a splash pad, seesaw and cleaner play area for toddlers and even young children and also a proper shaded seating area for seniors. 2) The neighbourhood needs better stop signs for pedestrians or some paintings on the roads 3) The neighbourhood needs more number of lights, better & modern lighting as well 4) More maintenance is required for roads as its an old neighbourhood	Sent to ServiceOakville for action.
3.	We have important concerns regarding the lack of identification, inclusion and protection of our Natural Municipal Assets in the strategy.  While the document states - CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION We will minimize the impact that the town has on climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporating climate mitigation and adaptation planning into policy, operational procedures, and risk management across all department areas; ... in actual fact we are doing the opposite.</li></ul> Currently, the Town of Oakville has a policy that roads with urban cross sections will be urbanized. Urbanization represents the introduction of what is known as grey infrastructure (below-level cement pipes, as well as curbs, gutters and catch basins) to convey rainwater to Lake Ontario. This process actually runs directly counter to the climate change practices we must adopt in the climate emergency we have declared. The runoff water is polluted by chemicals and other road debris. The speed of its movement is increased and it is dumped directly into Lake Ontario. Conversely, the wide network of open ditches, remnant channels, small streams and creeks we have act to slow and filter rainwater, thereby decreasing the amount of runoff into Lake Ontario and filtering the water that does.	Shared with the Asset Management and Parks and Open Spaces departments for consideration.  Several natural assets are included in the town’s inventory of resources. The town participated in the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) to help enhance practices related to assessing value and leveraging that information to develop by-laws and measures to protect and enhance Oakville’s natural resources. The province also now requires natural assets to be included in municipal asset management plans by 2025.  The town has the highest possible rating through Boating Ontario’s Clean Marine program. The town’s practices at its three

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	<p>1. As a municipality, we must first take the step of repealing the policy that dictates the conversion of urban roads to urbanized.</p> <p>2. Next, we must resurrect, review and include the action items that were provided in a 2018 staff report on Municipal Natural Assets (MNA) which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy framework integrating MNA will ensure the value of municipal services provided by MNA is recognized, protected wherever possible and even potentially restored to achieve the benefits of green infrastructure over gray.</li> <li>• MNA such as remnant channels, ditches and swales provide a key service that is relied upon for stormwater management. These assets are in public and private ownership. Policy development will recognize MNA services and benefits and how these services can be better supported through monitoring and maintenance and perhaps protection and enhancement to ensure these services are not compromised, degraded or lost. In cases where the MNA service can be quantified, replacement of like for like can be appropriately entertained. Before this pilot work, there was an incomplete understanding of the potential significance of MNA to provide municipal stormwater services. There is now a better comprehension of the benefits that MNA can provide in mitigating threats such as redevelopment, private landowner actions, and the shift from rural to urban road cross sections.</li> </ul> <p>I have attached a copy of the report for your files.</p> <p>3. Lake Ontario and its health must play a role in the policies we employ in fighting climate change.</p> <p>Climate change strategies must play a larger role in the Town's overall Strategic Plan. When we review the priority areas we find words relating to green space and natural areas, but no references to all the important areas noted above.</p>	<p>natural harbours are assessed every three years as part of its Clean Marine program designation. The harbours are assessed on natural resources protection, green boating practices, water quality, and waste management are assessed every three years to maintain or improve upon this certification.</p>
4.	<p>I have not read all the plans but I do have a concern that might be caused when we build and already have an existing problem that I don't think is addressed. When detached, town houses, semis are built, foreign and local "investment" is a concern. As a resident I expect the town to create rules and regulations to be designed. Example I buy a house, rent it out. The lawn, gardens and general appearance should reflect the values of the residence who are and owners and live in the area. There needs to be written rules and regulation for absentee owners.</p>	<p>Responded to resident with information about the town's property standards and lot maintenance by-laws.</p>

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	If there is such a thing please let me know. I know for a fact near by neighbours do not want to get involved nor should they have to. If there are written expectations please let me know.	
5.	<p>As an Oakville (Ward 3) resident and having read through the Strategic Plan, I have observations about current traffic conditions in the downtown area. Traffic was not addressed specifically in the plan but is obviously a major livability issue as population density increases. This email covers one small component of the wider problem.</p> <p>The renovated downtown core from Allan to Navy has been a great success. The wider sidewalks with attractive seating and plantings has enhanced walking visits to the shops, cafes and restaurants. It has given that stretch the feeling of a lively English market town, especially on summer weekdays. On weekends however the attractiveness of the downtown conspires with the reduction in road width to produce an unattractive traffic snarl. With every street parking spot filled, the slow creep of cars gives the feeling of four lanes of tightly compressed traffic. Sunny weekends also tend to attract processions of loud sports cars and motor-bikes filling the streetscape with high ambient sound levels. There is nothing better guaranteed to spoil al-fresco dining on one of the patios than to have your roadside table literally a metre from an idling Harley with it's sound system playing (and yes this is an actual experience). All of this is going to get very much worse over the next few years as the planned population densities bring increasing numbers to the downtown attractions. The golden goose is very likely to be a fatal victim.</p> <p>There are some changes that could help this that would only need to be implemented on weekends. In addition to traffic volume the congestion is made worse by cars attempting to parallel park and bringing things to a complete halt. So one suggestion would be to simply ban street parking on summer weekends, but I think a more radical long-term solution needs to be considered. Anyone who visits the UK knows that almost every attractive English market town has pedestrianized the main street. People love this as we know from Oakville's pre-pandemic Midnight Madness weekends, and it often seems that the more crowded the street the more attractive it is to people visiting. People watching becomes part of the draw as does the additional space for restaurants and of course the street performers who always appear. Implementing pedestrian only weekends for the summer and into the fall would allow an even larger population to enjoy our lovely main street, and would likely be a tourist draw too.</p>	Shared with the Transportation and Engineering department for consideration.

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6.	Keep the libraries I like the heritage seed project for example. The book club what about movie nights. For planting have fruit trees and have them accessible to be harvested. Have community gardens adjacent to libraries. The digital outreach is also good and makes tech accessible regardless of income.	Shared with the Oakville Public Library.
7.	<p>This report gets off on totally the wrong foot: the six guiding principles are couched using the verbs presented in present participle format. This signifies, in my mind, a passive mindset from the get-go. Try “Strive. Create. Welcome. Act. Make. Provide. Commit.” I always thought this was action-plans 101. Positivity.</p> <p>This is a report on the strategic principles as Oakville moves forward. The final statement of intent will continuously guide and govern Oakville’s path into the future. It does not need to use gerunds to convey this fact. Further, and perhaps more importantly, it has focussed my attention on the use of language in the report rather than the substantive issues I should be looking at. A distraction.</p> <p>I will now read on, with trepidation.</p> <p>“Town” moves to “Community”. Huh, baby steps! Why not “City”? I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 13:11: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. “Town” is so passé for a community that will grow to well in excess of 300,000 souls. Oakville may have started as a small town, a child sized group of people in the wider order of communities. Now is the time to let it stand on its own feet as an adult, one with wisdom and authority and call itself what it is – a City.</p> <p>Let me demonstrate how the writing of this report can be noticeably improved with some editing. Let’s look at the text in “Vision and Mission”. You have a vested interest in what has already been submitted, but try to be objective as to the quality of the flow <i>and intent</i> (meaning) of the edited statements. Simply compare the two versions.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The edited version:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">While the term "livable" captures the aspiration for a community where individuals of all ages and abilities can find a place to call home, the word "vibrant" conveys a vision of a future that is</p>	The content of the Strategic Plan was developed with input from Council, residents, community groups, businesses, and staff with best practices integrated from experts.

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	<p>dynamic, captivating, and brimming with vitality—a place that embraces art, culture, and an active lifestyle.</p> <p>The shift from referring to Oakville as a "town" in the previous vision statement to calling it a "community" signifies the deep sense of pride Oakville residents have in their tightly knit neighborhoods. It also emphasizes the significance of preserving this sentiment as the community expands and welcomes new inhabitants.</p> <p>Ultimately, this vision is "for all," recognizing the utmost importance of incorporating diverse perspectives and addressing the needs of every resident in shaping the future of Oakville. Throughout the engagement process, the values of unity and diversity emerged as consistent and integral themes.</p> <p>I am sure it will upset you to know I simply put this through AI's ChatGPT. (it took less than 10 seconds.) It's better than what is up for review. I suspect you'll consider rejecting this edited offering simply because it is AI generated, but I am hopeful you are sufficiently open minded (since this report is in the discussion stage of acceptance) to accept the changes or something you further edit from it.</p> <p>I have yet to read the rest, but you could do what I have just done and pass the whole document, in segments, through AI and see if what you have written has been improved in flow, readability and being on point.</p> <p>I have scanned the rest of the report and see that present participles are used throughout. This makes the report feel wishy-washy. A cursory look at the report suggests that most of the bases (headline issues) seem to be covered but stated without much conviction, despite the usual fancy circular diagrams. You should bear in mind that the comments you receive will be based on this rather ho-hum presentation.</p> <p>I do not think I will spend any more of my time reviewing the report as it stands.</p>	
8.	I want to express my complete displeasure of the tree clear cutting that took place at East st and Sovereign.	Sent to ServiceOakville for action.

	Comment	Outcome
	I hope there is a clear requirement for them to replace all the trees that were chopped down with new trees and not just leafy sticks that would take 20 years to mature.	
9.	I'm disappointed that any mention of bicycle occurs once in the plan. There should be more mention of cycling infrastructure development in the plan to support sustainable communities.	The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is included in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under strategic priority: Growth Management. The town is undertaking a new study which will serve as an update to the <a href="#">2018 Transportation Master Plan</a> and <a href="#">2017 Active Transportation Master Plan</a> . The process will use the <a href="#">Urban Mobility and Transportation Study</a> as a lens to develop a new plan to accommodate growth to 2051. The TMP will be completed at the end of 2024 and shared with the public in early 2025. The updated TMP will focus on building walkable, cycle/transit friendly neighbourhoods integrated with accessible transportation choices for all residents. The TMP will recommend a comprehensive, updated set of guidelines to enhance the town's transportation system to address the needs of all stakeholders and establish a path forward for all modes of transportation to support Oakville's vision.
10.	<p>On the planning and future proposed development on 6th Line of the condos.</p> <p>We have been residents of this area and Oakville for 35 years. My parents moved from Toronto in the 1985 to give me a proper home and a quiet life.</p> <p>Now Oakville is too developed and too many condos and we are not happy with all the changes and construction and environmental changes with construction and wildlife having no home.</p> <p>On a regular work week it takes me up Munn's to 6th line 7 minutes with school and people using Munn's I cant get out my driveway to get down 6th line to dundas or Uppermiddle rd with both schools</p>	<p>Growth Management is one of the four strategic priorities of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Shared with the Planning Services and Transportation and Engineering departments for consideration.</p>

	Comment	Outcome		
	<p>takes us 20 minutes with all the new development and people and before use to take us a minimum of 5 to 7 minutes.</p> <p>There are two schools on 6th line plus our fire department have a hard enough time getting through one lane of traffic to an emergency I have to see sometimes when they blow their horns to get to an emergency call.</p> <p>Plus cutting down the heritage behind what happens to our trees and homes for our wildlife.</p> <p>There is not enough space to build and construct on such little land and our housing to seniors and residents on 6th line will cause environmental changes for respiratory.</p> <p>My asthma and breathing has become a hard time now and is getting worse when I'm outside.</p> <p>We are both saying no to these proposed condos.</p> <p>Maybe put a park or something small for seniors in this area to have or sit.</p> <p>It's bad enough they have to worry to walk on the roads without the possibility of getting hit by car, thus construction would be worse.</p> <p>But these are our reasons please stop this.</p>			
11.	<p>I realize you must be very busy. To make the comparison of what is written in the draft report and the edited sentences included in Vision and Mission section of the draft report, I present them in a side by side comparison for your attention. I have highlighted the changes made to assist you in the comparison.</p> <table><tr><td>While “livable” reflects the desire for a community where people of all ages and abilities can have a place to call home, “vibrant” speaks to a future that is active,</td><td>While the term "livable" captures the aspiration for a community where individuals of all ages and abilities can find a place to call home, the word "vibrant" conveys a vision of a future that</td></tr></table>	While “livable” reflects the desire for a community where people of all ages and abilities can have a place to call home, “vibrant” speaks to a future that is active,	While the term "livable" captures the aspiration for a community where individuals of all ages and abilities can find a place to call home, the word "vibrant" conveys a vision of a future that	<p>The content of the Strategic Plan was developed with input from Council, residents, community groups, businesses, and staff with best practices integrated from experts.</p>
While “livable” reflects the desire for a community where people of all ages and abilities can have a place to call home, “vibrant” speaks to a future that is active,	While the term "livable" captures the aspiration for a community where individuals of all ages and abilities can find a place to call home, the word "vibrant" conveys a vision of a future that			



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	<p>beautiful, and full of life, a place of art and culture.</p> <p>The small shift from “town” in Oakville’s previous vision statement to “community” reflects the pride that Oakville residents feel when they think about their close-knit neighbourhoods, and the importance of sustaining this feeling as the town grows and welcomes new residents.</p> <p>Finally, the vision is “for all” reflecting the importance of ensuring the diverse perspectives and needs of residents are part of the future of Oakville. The importance of unity and diversity were consistent themes throughout engagement.</p>	<p>is dynamic, captivating, and brimming with vitality—a place that embraces art, culture, and an active lifestyle.</p> <p>The shift from referring to Oakville as a “town” in the previous vision statement to calling it a “community” signifies the deep sense of pride Oakville residents have in their tightly knit neighborhoods. It also emphasizes the significance of preserving this sentiment as the community expands and welcomes new inhabitants.</p> <p>Ultimately, this vision is “for all,” recognizing the utmost importance of incorporating diverse perspectives and addressing the needs of every resident in shaping the future of Oakville. Throughout the engagement process, the values of unity and diversity emerged as consistent and integral themes.</p>	
<p>I’m not sure I’d accept all the edits ChatGPT dished up but it does include some significant words, such as “aspiration”, “vitality”, and “dynamic”, and phrases, “Preserving this sentiment” and “every resident shaping the future..”, plus others and syntax changes, that are well worth considering.</p> <p>Looking at the rest of the report through a similar lens is up to you.</p> <p>One final thought, it is axiomatic that good laws flow from linguistically and precisely crafted legislation. I submit that a workable and <i>clearly articulated</i> Strategic Plan will give rise to an outcome for the future of Oakville that will, simply, achieve its objectives.</p>			



	Comment	Outcome
12.	<p>If we are to have inclusivity we need to have diverse housing options within Oakville, mixed housing neighborhoods and updated policies to accommodate the housing required would be an examples.</p> <p>And we need to have diverse economic opportunities within Oakville. Opening up our municipal economy to the legal cannabis industry would allow residents to put money back into the local economy instead of going to Burlington or Mississauga.</p> <p>Also there is a spelling mistake on slide number 6. It should be “where” instead of “were”.</p>	<p>A Housing Plan is included in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under strategic priority: Growth Management.</p> <p>Diverse economic opportunities are included under strategic priority: Growth Management, objective: Economic Development, and further addressed in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>Council’s opt-out position of allowing privately-operated cannabis retail stores was confirmed on February 28, 2022.</p> <p>The spelling error was updated.</p>
13.	<p>Please do not create a new mid-town that worsens already very bad traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- please do not allow ginormous tower blocks beyond what is already present &amp; established</li> <li>- all we want is-an original, relatively small town that welcomes “real” people, not some fantasy, woke</li> </ul> <p>As a very long term Oakville resident, can you please STOP bringing a very woke environmental issues policy to Oakville.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We do NOT need any further obstructive issues to economic growth, our brilliant council already achieves this</li> <li>- we need home inspired innovation, not beaucracy designed “solutions”, let private innovation develop NOT government intervention</li> </ul>	<p>Shared with the Midtown staff team.</p> <p>Shared with the Climate Action team.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan employs a three-pronged approach to sustainability where environmental, social and economic sustainability works together for success.</p>
14.	<p>I would observe that there is no mention in the Strategic Priorities section (p 12, Climate Change Mitigation section) of reducing, or helping to reduce, emissions in the broader community, which make up 98.5 of emissions (vs 1.5% corporate emissions from Town facilities/infrastructure). In fact, the priorities are exclusively based on <u>corporate</u> emissions:</p> <p><b>“We will minimize the impact that the town has on climate change by:</b></p>	<p>Wording adjustment made in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under strategic priority: Environmental Sustainability to integrate community energy.</p> <p>Shared with Climate Action for consideration.</p>

	Comment	Outcome
	<p>Incorporating climate mitigation and adaptation planning into policy, operational procedures, and risk management across all department areas; and Reducing GHG emissions across municipal facilities and operations.”</p> <p>Oakville is not, and cannot be, a sustainable community if we don’t reduce our emissions in line with global and national targets (45% below 2005 levels by 2030). In addition to mentioning a priority to help reduce community-based emissions, we also need to have specific targets for emissions reductions, at least on a 5-year basis going forward (ie targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, etc). The Town has declared a Climate Emergency four years ago, and currently has agreed to, via endorsement of the Community Energy Strategy developed by the Oakville Energy Task Force, an inadequate target of 40% emissions reduction by 2041, with no intermediate targets.</p> <p>The community-related activities/priorities shown in the Action Plan (page 18) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Community Energy Plan in partnership with community stakeholders</li> <li>•Climate Action and Sustainability Policy Review</li> <li>•District energy exploration of opportunities</li> <li>•Home energy retrofits education and outreach, and energy efficiency supports</li> <li>•Low Carbon Mobility Plan</li> <li>•Green Development Standards</li> </ul> <p>These actions are largely vague (what are ‘energy efficiency supports’ and what is a Low Carbon Mobility Plan?) and lack clarity; also they lack targets and indicators that would measure progress / success.</p> <p><b>The strategic priorities and actions expressed in the draft Strategic Plan are a woefully inadequate response to the Climate Emergency, and will not and cannot achieve environmental sustainability.</b> The Town could do more to educate its constituents, to encourage them to reduce emissions, to provide information to assist them in this effort, to facilitate private sector efforts to support emissions reduction initiatives and to reduce financial barriers that discourage homeowners from taking action. The Town has approximately 1.5 FTEs devoted to community-related Climate Action – we are spending about ¼ of 1% of the Town’s budget on this existential and</p>	

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	financially critical issue (anyone who has checked their air quality or home insurance rates lately should be upset that the Town is taking a lip-service, business-as-usual approach). We need to increase spending on this issue by 10-fold or more to enable proper action.	
15.	<p>Comments are targeted to address ways in which our municipality can plan for current and future impacts of the climate and biodiversity crisis.</p> <p><b>Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>We expect progressive municipalities to focus on green infrastructure as a way to sequester carbon, produce oxygen, manage stormwater during extreme weather events and to reduce heat island effect.</p> <p>Increasing green infrastructure also provides a welcoming outdoor environment that we know improves our physical and mental wellbeing, while combating the climate and biodiversity crisis.</p> <p>Green infrastructure can make our communities safer, healthier and more resilient.  <a href="https://greencommunitiescanada.org/how-green-infrastructure-can-make-our-cities-safer-healthier-and-more-climate-resilient/?fbclid=IwAR2YXUQBDaydo5UmOhKiuxEt4uXjJso628BNziHeyv7Xn-mld8BS3JLPFic">https://greencommunitiescanada.org/how-green-infrastructure-can-make-our-cities-safer-healthier-and-more-climate-resilient/?fbclid=IwAR2YXUQBDaydo5UmOhKiuxEt4uXjJso628BNziHeyv7Xn-mld8BS3JLPFic</a></p> <p>Please use a climate lens in all policy development. Greeninfrastructure (GI) and natural asset solutions must be considered for any building, development or infrastructure project.</p> <p>Grey infrastructure is costly and GI solutions have been proven more cost effective in the long run. Please emulate other communities currently employing innovative ideas and best practices.</p> <p>"Cities in Canada are losing greenspace at an alarming rate, <u>per a recent satellite study</u> conducted by Statistics Canada.</p> <p>The research found that three quarters of Canada's largest urban centres were detectably less green in 2019 than they were in 1999.</p> <p>The loss of natural ecosystems to 'development' makes our communities more vulnerable to climate change, further threatens biodiversity, and means residents have fewer spaces to connect with and be in nature.</p> <p>Reversing this trend is pivotal to environmental and human health."</p>	Shared with the Asset Management, Climate Action, Parks and Open Spaces, Planning Services, Transit, and Transportation and Engineering departments for consideration.

Comment	Outcome
<p>We have implemented several DePave Paradise projects, led a Ready for Rain workshop series for residents, to model creation of rain gardens and stormwater management on private property. We are proud to say that we have just begun a pilot project to create a Mini Forest, which uses the Miyawaki technique to grow native habitat and increase urban forest canopy. We urge the Town to provide financial incentives for residents to employ one or all of these strategies on their property, which ultimately benefits our community.</p> <div data-bbox="303 508 1443 1221"><p><b>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI)</b></p><p>Nature-based Solutions (NbS)/Nature-based Climate Solutions</p><p><b>Natural Infrastructure (NI)</b></p><p><b>Low Impact Development (LID)</b></p><p><b>NATURAL ASSETS:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wetlands</li><li>Forests</li><li>Parks</li><li>Meadows</li><li>Lawns and gardens</li><li>Soil</li></ul><p><b>ENHANCED ASSETS:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rain gardens</li><li>Green roofs and walls</li><li>Bioswales</li><li>Urban trees</li><li>Naturalized stormwater ponds</li></ul><p><b>ENGINEERED ASSETS:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Permeable pavement</li><li>Rain barrels</li><li>Cisterns</li><li>Perforated pipes</li><li>Infiltration trenches</li></ul><p><b>GREY INFRASTRUCTURE:</b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bridges</li><li>Roads</li><li>Parking lots</li><li>Culverts</li><li>Pipes</li></ul><p>Forest, Wetland, Meadow, Urban Trees, Rain Garden, Rain Barrel, Green Roof, Permeable Pavement</p><p><i>These are some key examples, but this is not a complete list</i></p><p><i>Different types of green infrastructure</i></p></div> <p><b>Green Building Standards</b></p> <p>Oakville and communities across the GTA are growing to accommodate an increasing population. We urge the Town to prioritize the development of Green Building Standards to ensure that “future homes” are built responsibly to reduce energy consumption.</p>	

	Comment	Outcome
	<p>Encourage the retrofitting of the current inventory of homes already built, to reduce energy consumption and save money for homeowners at the same time.</p> <p><b>Reducing gridlock and guidelines and policies for Complete Communities</b>  The elephant in the room.... is getting away from a car-focused community. This is the single most cause of harmful pollution and carbon emissions.  Nearby City of Waterloo, has made great strides with their LRT and other impressive, innovative community solutions.  One more road and one more lane ....are NOT solutions to the gridlock that we are experiencing at peak hours. Offering travel mode alternatives makes it easier on all, even those who still require their cars.</p> <p>Examine and update land-use planning and opt for walkable communities for ease of access for daily household needs and services, whether it be groceries, school, daycare or health care. Intensification within already urbanized areas stops unnecessary sprawl into valuable farmland and green space. Save the Greenbelt and ensure that it is protected in perpetuity. Despite provincial pressures, you would find strong support in our community, to protect the Greenbelt and the environmental and economic benefits it provides.</p> <p><b>Backyard Treeplanting Incentive Programs</b>  Provide financial incentives to residents to plant trees on private property. Multiple GTA municipalities offer subsidies to residents.  We ran a very successful subsidized Backyard Treeplanting pilot, modelled after a 25 year program by LEAF (<a href="http://leaf.org">leaf.org</a>) in Toronto. We planted 100 trees and almost as many native shrubs in just over a year.  With 60% of plantable land being on private property, this would be a worthwhile endeavour to increase the urban forest canopy and all of its climate benefits.  While FREE tree giveaways are popular with the public, the money could be better spent to provide funds to an organization that can provide proper consultation to residents. Consultation is the key action to ensure the "Right tree in the Right place" for a positive increase in the urban forest.</p> <p><b>Deep Energy Retrofits.</b></p>	

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	<p>Please provide education and incentives to increase people's understanding about heat pumps and alternatives, in order to reduce consumption/emissions related to home heating/cooling.</p> <p>This could be an easy win!</p> <p>Green Communities Canada has a program model that would be worth investigating. REEP Solutions and Green Venture (GCC members ) are local NFPs who have been rolling out this practical info to residents.</p> <p>By modelling a successful, already developed program, the Town could move forward quickly to reduce local energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions.</p>	
16.	<p>There are some immutable principles that must be part of The Plan, and specifically included in the substance of the plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Diffusion.</b> Physical activities and services offered by the City shall be diffused throughout the whole municipality dependent on the nature of the activity or service. For Example, and I am sure is already in place, no residence shall be greater than &lt;x&gt; number of minutes' walk from a bus stop. Youth services should be widely dispersed to preempt the possibility of gang activity as part of the plan. Under normal conditions proportional emergency or police service is no more than &lt;x&gt; minutes away. Planning should be such that food deserts do not develop in low income areas. Of course, say, an Opera House (if one was ever considered) could be a half and hour by car away from the most distant part of the City. And so on, applied to all services. Of course, those services capable of being offered by telephone or over the internet are virtually instantaneous, and should be recognized in the report and encouraged.</li> <li>2. <b>Excellence.</b> There should be constant striving for excellence involving constant improvement. Every activity should have measurable goals and performance is judged against those goals. This may reflect current practice, but its inclusion in the report will codify this principle. I recommend that a small office should be established to research world-wide best practices that relate to the City's new initiatives and ongoing activity, with the power to initiate, advise and audit across the whole board of activities.</li> <li>3. <b>Responsibility:</b> An independent audit department be given significant authority to constantly review both Council's, committees', and departments' activities (not just financial matters) to measure their performance against the City's values and immutable principles established (see some ideas above). It could also cover the ethical issues that arise. Its annual report would be</li> </ol>	<p>The principles are addressed in the Strategic Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>References to specific jobs or functions are considered based on Council priority and budget.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan will continue to be reported to Council and the public annually and updated every four years, with the term of Council.</p>



	Comment	Outcome
	<p>made public. The Director would serve at the discretion of Council, but it would require a two-thirds Council vote or being found guilty of a criminal misdemeanor to remove the incumbent.</p> <p>4. <b>Review:</b> The Strategic plan be visited every four years after the arrival of the newly elected Council to establish conformance and to update as circumstances dictate.</p>	
17.	<p>My comments aren't about what's included, they are about what's not included. I realize these comments are more action items than strategic, but think they are worth considering just the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town should prohibit further drive-thrus at businesses. First, the vehicles sitting in line are damaging the environment. Second, it doesn't hurt to get out of the car and walk a bit.</li> <li>• The plan doesn't address the ever increasing noise pollution from cars, trucks and motorcycles exhaust - some clearly illegal. Nor does it address speeding on town streets or aggressive driving. Add thousands of more vehicles and traffic will resemble NYC at rush hour.</li> <li>• What's happened to the Kerr Street underpass? It was postponed because the price went up. But, the price of electric buses went up significantly and the Town found the money for those.</li> </ul> <p>Many towns have eliminated the use of gas powered leaf blowers. They pollute and they are noisy.</p>	<p>Shared with Climate Action, Municipal Enforcement Services, Planning Services, Transit, and Transportation and Engineering departments for consideration.</p> <p>The cost-sharing agreement for the Kerr St. grade separation (underpass) project was not reached. The project was deferred by Metrolinx.</p>
18.	<p><b><u>Community Indicators</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under Environmental Sustainability, add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protection of the existing tree canopy and tracking progress to tree canopy target.</li> <li>○ Tracking approved development proposals that have incorporated green/sustainability standards to help determine if climate change adaptation tools are succeeding.</li> <li>○ Parkland per hectare per population (as done in past).</li> <li>○ <b>NB:</b> what indicator is measuring “successfully implementing improved resilience to weather related events for natural and built assets”?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Under Transportation, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Frequency of transit service to ensure that the number of trips per capita does not mislead. In our JCRA community, transit service has been reduced over 80% in the past six years (unrelated to COVID). The number of trips made will be low b/c the service frequency is so minimal that public transit is not a reasonable or viable option; it does not include evenings or weekend, and does not provide transit to the closest community centre, Downtown Oakville or points west such as Coronation Park, Shell Park, Bronte Waterfront Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>“Safety” was added in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under strategic priority: Growth Management – Transportation.</p> <p>“Traffic calming” was added in the 2023-2026 Action Plan under strategic priority: Growth Management – Transportation.</p> <p>The strategic plan key community indicators provide the community with an overall snapshot of the health of the town. The <a href="#">budget documents</a> provide a fulsome list of all of the town’s indicators.</p>



	Comment	Outcome
	<p><b><u>Accountable Government Actions for Service Excellence should also include:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation and feedback</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Growth Management Actions for Transportation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the words “and safety” as shown below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Address goods and people movement in ways that provide modal choice that is sensitive to climate impacts, impacts on congestion and promote community health <b>and safety</b> through the following:”</li> </ul> </li> <li>With the other tools to address People and Goods Movement, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic Calming</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Environmental Sustainability Actions for Climate Change Adaptation should also include:</u></b>  Promoting residential use of climate adaptation tools such as solar, heat pumps, rain gauges etc.</p>	