



## REPORT

### Midtown Oakville

**Meeting Date: July 18, 2023**

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**FROM:** Planning Services Department

**DATE:** July 4, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Committee of the Whole – Midtown Vision**

**LOCATION:** Midtown Oakville

**WARD:** Town-wide

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee of the Whole – Midtown Oakville provide any comments for staff's consideration in respect of presentation from the Midtown consultant team.

### KEY FACTS

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

- Planning & Development Council passed a motion in May 2023 which directed that the Midtown Official Plan Amendment be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole.
- The intent of holding Committee of the Whole meetings is to allow the Midtown consultant team to present to Council and the public on a number areas of study including, but not limited to: Midtown Vision, population and employment forecasts, community design matters and infrastructure timing.
- The presentation by the Midtown consultant team will provide context for the Committee of the Whole for future deliberations, and for input to finalising the Official Plan Amendment.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Midtown Oakville Official Plan Amendment (OPA) is to implement the findings of the Midtown Oakville Growth Area Review by updating the land use designations and policies for the town's Urban Growth Centre and Protected Major Transit Station Area to the year 2051. The review has been underway since January 2018 and has included several workshops, open houses and three statutory public meetings.

The Vision for Midtown was established in 1999 through Council's adoption of the Midtown Core Land Use Planning Study. As outlined in the study, Midtown was being planned as a complete urban community and destination for residents, workers, and visitors, where people can live, work, and play in walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods, connected to the rest of Oakville and surrounding municipalities by pedestrian, cycling, transit, and street networks.

The Vision for Midtown as an urban, mixed-use community has been reinforced by the province through the establishment of the Urban Growth Centre designation and accompanying policies in the 2006 Growth Plan, which establish minimum thresholds for population and employment targets in the Growth Centre. Metrolinx also upheld the Vision through its approval of the 2012 Midtown Mobility Hub Study. Council has recognised the importance of Midtown over the last 10 years through its support for Designing Midtown (2013), Midtown Parking Strategy (2014), the Midtown Transportation & Stormwater Class EA (2014), OPA 14 Midtown & Transportation Network Updates (2014), and the adoption of the town's Urban Structure (2017).

## COMMENT

The intent for Midtown Oakville to be a key strategic growth area has remained consistent since the Vision for the area was adopted in 1999. The land use policies have evolved though, to ensure the Vision can still be achieved while responding to changing provincial policy, Halton Region land use policy updates, increasing population and employment targets, and infrastructure requirements.

The Vision for Midtown, as presented to Council in June 2021, is:

*Midtown Oakville is being planned as a dynamic urban destination where people embrace healthy, active lifestyles by living, working and playing in a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use neighbourhood, connected to the rest of Oakville by pedestrian, cycling, transit and street networks.*

The town has recently engaged the Midtown consultant team – being led by *Jacobs* – to advance a number of technical studies needed to support and refine the midtown

OPA. The Midtown consultant team shall provide an overview presentation to the Committee of the Whole outlining the work and studies that will support and serve to refine the Midtown OPA, and engage council in a discussion of the benefits and challenges of the development of a complete urban community that can provide a vibrant and transit-supportive place that can support multiple opportunities to live, work and recreate.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### **(A) PUBLIC**

The town has hosted three statutory public meetings, several workshops and open houses on the Midtown OPA. The public may submit comments on the draft OPA up until the time that Council makes a decision on the matter.

### **(B) FINANCIAL**

The additional support being provided by *Jacobs* to the Committee of the Whole is anticipated to be \$200,000. A budget request for a funding increase on the Midtown Implementation project was approved by Council on June 19, 2023.

### **(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The Midtown OPA and Implementation project involves co-ordination among numerous town departments.

### **(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to be the most liveable town in Canada.

### **(E) CLIMATE CHANGE / ACTION**

The Midtown consultant team will provide a future presentation and overview on the Community Energy Plan which is a key component of the Midtown Implementation project.

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