



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: June 19, 2023

Report No: DS-032-23

Subject: We Make Milton - Moving in Milton

Recommendation: **THAT Council receive Report DS-032-23 for information;  
AND THAT the recommended policy considerations for the theme of Moving in Milton be endorsed by Council and that they be used to guide subsequent stages of We Make Milton.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Milton's new Official Plan project, known as We Make Milton began in 2019.
- Stages One and Two (Listening and Learning, and Vision and Guiding Principles) were completed in February 2021. As a result Council endorsed the Vision and Guiding Principles based on extensive community involvement and input.
- Stage Three (Big Questions) is a topic based exploration of four themes relating to Living, Moving, Working and Growing in Milton.
- In June 2022, council endorsed the policy considerations for the first of the four themes, Living in Milton.
- This report identifies the Big Questions for the second theme, Moving in Milton, and is requesting council endorsement of these policy considerations to be used to develop policy, through Stage Four of the We Make Milton project, Drafting and Discussing.

## REPORT

### Background

#### We Make Milton Summary of Stages One and Two

We Make Milton is a multi-year initiative that was launched in July 2019 and includes five project stages:

- Stage One - Listening and Learning
- Stage Two - Vision and Guiding Principles

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- Stage Three - Big Questions
- Stage Four - Drafting and Discussing
- Stage Five - New Official Plan

One of the initial steps of the new Official Plan project was to determine if the existing planning vision, as established in Milton's current Official Plan, still reflects the ideas of the community. As such, early stages of our new Official Plan project focused on:

- Listening and learning about the community's ideas on planning issues, opportunities, and challenges (Stage One); and
- Undertaking a community visioning exercise and creating a new Vision Statement for land use planning (Stage Two).

The work undertaken in Stage One and Stage Two resulted in the creation of a new land use planning Vision Statement and Guiding Principles that were endorsed by Council in February 2021 through Report DS-005-21. They have been used to guide the development of policy considerations through the Big Questions stage.

### **We Make Milton Stage Three - Big Questions**

Following Council endorsement of the new planning Vision Statement and Guiding Principles in February 2021, Stage Three of We Make Milton was initiated. The purpose of Stage Three is to investigate and understand the current planning context of Milton in more detail and to explore specific land use planning matters raised by the community so far, including how they can be addressed by our new Official Plan. The Big Questions focus on identifying the policy considerations for local planning opportunities and challenges, which emerged from the feedback of stakeholders and the community through extensive engagement in Stages 1 and 2. These policy considerations will guide the development of the new Official Plan in Stage 4 (Drafting and Discussing).

To organize information and explore community ideas about key land use planning issues, a series of We Make Milton reports is being prepared. The reports are focused on four themes - Living, Moving, Working and Growing. However, it is noted that there is crossover between themes.

For each theme, two separate reports were prepared, for the purpose of facilitating additional discussion with the community, updating and informing Council and setting guidance for drafting the New Official Plan. This includes:

1. A 'Background and Information' Report, which provides an overview of the planning context of Milton as well as an analysis of community and stakeholder input received so far. It leads to a series of Big Questions about how to manage change

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and provide more choice to the year 2051, in accordance with our new land use planning vision and guiding principles, endorsed by Council.

2. A ‘Policy Considerations’ Report, which provides an exploration of the Big Questions and the identification of various policy considerations, that link to the Council endorsed Guiding Principles, intended to answer the Big Questions and that are to be considered as the New Official Plan is drafted in the next stages.

Attachment 1 to this Report is the Moving in Milton: Big Questions - Background and Information Report. Attachment 2 is the Moving in Milton: Big Questions - Policy Considerations. The “Living in Milton” theme of Stage Three was completed in June of 2022 and endorsed by Council. The remaining themes of “Working in Milton” and “Growing in Milton” will be completed later this year.

## Discussion

### Moving in Milton

The focus of Moving in Milton is about how people and goods move around. It considers how our new Official Plan will implement key transportation related directions as identified by various Town documents, including the 2019 Milton Transportation Master Plan (T.M.P.), and anticipated 2023 T.M.P. Update. It also explores how the Official Plan can face local challenges while supporting opportunities for moving in Milton, including traffic congestion, transit ridership, infrastructure gaps, sustainability, and traffic safety, for example. The theme of Moving in Milton, will explore options for the new Official Plan to promote viable transportation alternatives that support quality of life and sustainable choices for present and future generations.

### Big Questions and Policy Considerations

In April 2022, Staff released the Moving in Milton Big Questions Reports for community and technical advisory review and comment. These reports included six Big Questions and twenty-one Policy Considerations. Following engagement, which is summarized below, these reports have been updated to reflect commentary received through the engagement process. These updates have led to an additional policy consideration (now totalling twenty-two), changes to some of the existing policy considerations, additional guidelines to be considered, and refinement of language and context to clarify and elaborate.

## Discussion

The final Big Questions and Policy Considerations for Moving in Milton are:

### **Big Question 1: Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion**

How can the New Official Plan support our diverse community by accommodating all modes of travel and users of different ages and abilities

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 1.1:**
  - The New Official Plan should provide policies that support the availability of equitable and inclusive transportation options and alternatives
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 1.2:**
  - The New Official Plan must provide policies and directions for the creation of complete streets.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 1.3:**
  - The New Official Plan must provide direction for building accessible spaces and connections, ensuring that all Miltonians, of all ages and abilities, have equitable access.

### **Big Question 2: Connectivity, Continuity and Convenience**

How can the new Official Plan encourage a safe, seamless, continuous and efficient network for different transportation options? How can we help improve connections to adjacent and nearby communities/hubs?

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 2.1:**
  - The New Official Plan, in conjunction with the Transportation Master Plan, should plan for improved connections within the Town, including better connecting existing areas and planning for connections to future growth areas.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 2.2:**
  - The New Official Plan should provide active transportation connections and access, including policies that promote and support the importance of first-mile/last-mile connections.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 2.3:**
  - The New Official Plan should recognize the importance of coordination between community partners, stakeholder agencies and neighbouring municipalities.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 2.4:**
  - The New Official Plan should coordinate with the Milton's Transit Master Plan and provide policies that prioritize and incentivize transit ridership.

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### Big Question 3: Growth and Traffic Management

How can our transportation network account for expected growth? How can the New Official Plan encourage and support balanced transportation planning and prioritization? How can we manage mobility and provide more

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 3.1:**
  - The New Official Plan should implement Transportation Demand Management policies as recommend through the Transportation Master Plan.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 3.2:**
  - The New Official Plan should consider reviewing parking requirements in specific areas and neighbourhoods, looking towards a reduction in parking requirements where appropriate.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 3.3:**
  - The New Official Plan should provide a policy framework that supports and implements the Town's Traffic Calming Policy.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 3.4:**
  - The New Official Plan must provide direction on Right-Of-Way designs and road classifications that align with Complete Streets objectives and allow for safe and efficient streets, while supporting transit delivery and operational needs and requirements.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 3.5:**
  - The New Official Plan should implement the Transportation Master Plan recommendations to address identified gaps in transportation infrastructure and services (i.e. future required roads).

### Big Question 4: Moving Goods and Services

How can the New Official Plan help support an efficient network for movement of goods and services for businesses and residents, including the movement of manufacturing, agricultural, and resource goods?

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 4.1:**
  - The New Official Plan should identify preferred truck routes for safe and efficient goods movement by vehicle through Milton, to and from businesses and operations and to their destination and to highways.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 4.2:**
  - The New Official Plan should minimize conflicts between goods movement and community areas.

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- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 4.3:**
  - The New Official Plan should encourage multi-functional use of utility corridors, such as accommodating active transportation links, where possible.

### Big Question 5: Sustainability

What can the New Official Plan do to balance different needs, minimize impacts on environmental sustainability, and promote safe and comfortable mobility?

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 5.1:**
  - The New Official Plan should promote appropriate land use planning that accommodates transit supportive neighbourhoods.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 5.2:**
  - The New Official Plan must provide for measures to address environmental sustainability, climate adaptation and resiliency to be incorporated into future transportation planning and design.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 5.3:**
  - The New Official Plan should provide land use planning direction that promotes walkable neighbourhoods, providing parks, schools, retail and, where possible, compatible employment.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 5.4:**
  - The New Official Plan should include policies that balance the need to protect sensitive environmental features and protected areas, and avoid natural hazards (such as floodplains), with the provision of new roads and active transportation where necessary.

### Big Question 6: Rural Area

How can different transportation infrastructure needs be balanced within the Town's Rural Area and access to transportation options to the rural community be improved or supported through the New Official Plan?

- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 6.1:**
  - The New Official Plan should provide a road network that includes connectivity to the Town's Rural Area to ensure access for rural residents and businesses.
- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 6.2:**
  - The New Official Plan should implement the Town's Active Transportation Strategy, including the recommended improvements to the active transportation network in and to the rural area.

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- **Moving in Milton Policy Consideration 6.3:**
  - The New Official Plan's road classifications should recognize the unique rural character and needs.

## Summary of Engagement

Engagement is a crucial part of We Make Milton. Stage Three (Big Questions) provides significant opportunities for the community to stay involved. A summary of engagement can be found below, as well as next steps in the project that include additional opportunities for community input.

Engagement on the Official Plan Review began in late 2021. Engagement involved obtaining feedback from Town staff, the public, stakeholders, community leaders, and local organizations, agencies, and advisory committees/task forces.

The following summarizes the audiences we consulted, how we consulted them, and participation rates.

### Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (January 12, 2023 and May 3, 2023)

- Staff established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to obtain technical advice and knowledge throughout We Make Milton, and to help identify and resolve planning issues. TAC members include staff from the Town of Milton, Halton Region, conservation authorities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, school boards and other relevant agencies. The TAC met to provide input on proposed policy options/considerations. Staff adjusted reports based on TAC feedback before further consultation.

### Public Engagement Online (Ongoing)

- The Let's Talk Milton website has served as the main platform for public engagement and input into the Official Plan project since its launch. The Feedback Forum remained open throughout the project, and continued to receive comments from across the OP review's themes.
- The Moving in Milton report was shared on Let's Talk Milton on April 11, 2023.

### Moving in Milton Survey (April 11 to May 3, 2023)

- Members of the public were invited to have their say about the policy considerations identified for each Big Question through an online Let's Talk Milton survey.

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- The survey was promoted using social media posts, social media ads, notices in the Chamber newsletter, media stories, website posts, printed flyers, digital signs, and more.
- A record of the survey participation is provided below.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- The We Make Milton team continues to engage with a variety of key stakeholders, using direct communication with those identified as having a unique interest in the OP review.
- Staff expanded the stakeholder list developed at the beginning of the OP project.
- Stakeholders were invited to participate in the public information sessions, the survey and all other avenues, while we also offered to hold sessions for stakeholder groups upon request. For this phase, two stakeholder groups, Sustainable Milton and Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee requested stakeholder engagement meetings. These meetings were held on May 4, 2023

## Public Virtual Feedback Sessions (April 18, April 20 and May 1)

- Virtual Public Feedback sessions provided an opportunity for discussion in more detail than is possible using the online survey.
- The virtual sessions used a variety of tools to collect feedback, including verbal comments shared over Zoom and the Zoom chat tool.

## Summary of Participation - Moving in Milton:

During the Moving in Milton phase of the We Make Milton project, staff evaluated engagement in a variety of ways, focusing on how many citizens were aware, informed and engaged in the project.

Overall, survey respondents were in favour of the policy considerations identified in the Moving in Milton survey. Please see the full record of survey results in Attachment 3. The public engagement sessions and stakeholder meetings gave productive conversation that provided more context into community concerns related to Moving in Milton, resulting in an additional policy consideration and refinement to existing considerations. Staff will be continuing to engage with the public and stakeholder groups through the next phases of the project.

The shareholder and public sessions saw good representation from a reasonable cross-section of different stakeholders and community interests.





## Discussion

### Next Steps

Based on the input received, it is recommended that all of the policy considerations identified for the theme of Moving in Milton be carried forward and used to inform subsequent stages of the new Official Plan project. As we advance into Stage Four (Drafting and Discussing) there will be continued opportunities for the community to help us draft, discuss, and refine new land use planning policies, based on these recommended policy directions. In the coming months, Staff will be undertaking the same process for the themes of Working and Growing in Milton and we look forward to collecting additional feedback and input on these important policy areas.

Following the completion of Stage Three (Big Questions), late summer/early fall this year, Stage Four (Drafting and Discussing) will commence.

The New Official Plan will be brought forward in two parts. The first part will set the high-level vision, strategic goals and objectives, and strategic policy directions in the form of a new municipal land use structure and growth management strategy. The second part will be fully implementing Milton's New Official Plan through more detailed and area specific land use policies.

## Financial Impact

There is no financial impact arising from this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan  
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: Megan Lovell

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## Attachments

Attachment 1 - Moving in Milton Background and Information Report

Attachment 2 - Moving in Milton Policy Considerations Report

Attachment 3 - Moving in Milton Survey Results

Approved by CAO  
Andrew M. Siltala  
Chief Administrative Officer



## Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.