



Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Planningconsultation@ontario.ca

Date Nov. 21, 2025

RE: ERO 025-1099 Consultation on simplifying and standardizing official plans

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre would like to submit the following in response to the above referenced ERO Posting:

Standardizing Official Plan Land Use Designations

- This proposal to standardize land use designations in official plans across the province could be a positive way of promoting consistency and predictability throughout the province, but the key will be further meaningful consultation (technical consultation) with municipalities throughout the province, including both large and smaller municipalities.
- Official Plans are key documents for municipalities to define their long term development goals and vision. Municipalities spend a considerable amount of time and resources on preparing these official plans, incorporating community and stakeholder input, so it will be crucial to provide enough time for municipalities to plan ahead, should the province be considering these changes.
- The key concern we have with this proposal is the administrative burden, cost, and operational complexity involved. The following, at minimum, would need to be considered in detail:
 - What will this mean for existing land use planning approvals that may not align with the proposed definitions?
 - What will the transition period be?
 - What resources will be provided to municipal staff for implementing the proposed changes?
 - How will these requirements relate to/be integrated with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024? What will the mechanism be for mandating the definitions within Municipal Official Plans?
 - How will appeals be considered or managed? Significant transition regulations should be considered to address existing or ongoing appeals;



Summary

We encourage the province to consider extensive technical consultation with municipal staff, councils, and industry stakeholders to ensure any changes can be implemented while still maintaining appropriate local flexibility.

Overall, the municipality has significant concerns over the pace of legislative change, without appropriate implementation support. We urge the Province to better help municipalities navigate these constant changes and support consistent implementation across municipalities.

Municipalities are working hard every day to get shovels in the ground. Particularly for smaller municipalities, constant legislative changes with little support for operationalizing these changes takes time and resources away from the day to day work needed to get shovels in the ground and more homes built faster. While we are supportive of making positive change to streamline processes, we respectfully request more support for making these transitions smoother and more consistent across the province.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bergman, RPP
Manager of Planning and Development
Municipality of Middlesex Centre