

December 30, 2022.

Electronic Submission only

ATT: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
parkwaybeltwestplan@ontario.ca

RE: Proposed Revocation of the Parkway Belt West Plan

Seeking feedback on a proposal to revoke the Parkway Belt West Plan, 1978
[ERO Posting 019-6167](#)

Background

The Parkway Belt West Plan is Ontario's first provincial land use plan, originally created in 1978 by Order-in-Council under the authority of the *Parkway Belt Planning and Development Act, 1978*.

The Plan is now under the jurisdiction of the *Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994*.

In 1973, fourteen Minister's Zoning Orders were also put in place to identify, protect lands and specify permitted uses and standards to support the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan was originally created with four goals:

1. Provide separation and definition of urban area boundaries;
2. Create links between urban areas by providing space for movement of people, goods, energy, and information (e.g., Hwy 407, inter-urban transit);
3. Provide a land reserve for future linear facilities (e.g., hydro corridors); and,
4. Provide a system of open space and recreational facilities (e.g., public open space, golf driving ranges).

There are two general land use designations in the Plan: Public Use Areas and Complementary Use Areas. Amendments have been made to the Plan to redesignate and/or remove lands over the years, with the Plan's focus evolving to support an infrastructure corridor.

Comments

The Parkway Belt West Plan includes lands within the City of Burlington. The City commends the Province for considering an opportunity to examine the revocation of the

Parkway Belt West Plan. The posting background provides good context (historical and geographical) for the creation and evolution of a less understood long-standing Provincial Plan.

Echoing feedback provided by the Region of Halton, the removal of this additional layer of Provincial planning policy that applies in Burlington is supported in principle. It is recommended that the Province set up a clear process in partnership with municipalities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and other stakeholders to determine the approach to revocation, to ensure that:

- the revocation does not undermine the people, goods, energy and information objectives of the plan; and,
- that no gaps in local planning documents are created.

This exercise should likely be undertaken alongside other transportation and infrastructure agencies or stakeholders to ensure a holistic analysis. This is particularly important as it relates to the four key goals of the Provincial Plan as set out in 1978. Staff agree that the revocation exercise can be accomplished in tandem with any changes required at a local level. Working collaboratively will ensure that the revocation does not introduce any gaps or undermine long term, inter-regional planning from a transportation and infrastructure perspective.

Staff support the posting detail that notes the importance of considering the existing remaining MZOs in Burlington. The posting acknowledges that those MZOs would need to be revoked or deemed as local zoning by-laws through a separate process. Staff recommend that these MZOs be considered in tandem with the broader revocation discussion.

Please accept this letter as the City of Burlington submission on ERO Posting 019-6167. Given the short period for consultation the attached comments have not been approved by City Council. This letter will be shared with the City's Committee's and Council at the earliest opportunity. Should Council determine any additional comments or refinements to the attached comments are required the Province will be advised at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark H. Simeoni', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark H. Simeoni, MCIP, RPP
Director of Community Planning
Community Planning Department
City of Burlington