

Re: Item No. 15.1.9



# REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW

Phase 4 Engagement: What We Heard

December 12, 2023

HALIFAX

# PURPOSE TODAY

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- Provide an overview of feedback on the **Draft Regional Plan** (June 20 to October 27, 2023)
- Discuss upcoming **next steps** in the Regional Plan Review.



# WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

| <b>Phase 1<br/>2020</b>  | <b>Phase 2<br/>2021</b>   | <b>Phase 3<br/>2022</b>  | <b>Phase 4<br/>2023/24</b>  | <b>Phase 5<br/>2024 -</b>   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initiation</li><li>• Research</li><li>• Early Engagement</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Themes &amp; Directions Document</li><li>• Public Engagement</li><li>• Committee Engagement</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Quick Housing Adjustments</b></li><li>• Additional Policy Work</li><li>• Public Engagement</li><li>• Approval Process</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Draft Regional Plan</b> ✓</li><li>• Public Engagement ✓</li><li>• Approval Process</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Review of Future Growth Areas</b></li><li>• Public Engagement</li><li>• Approval Process</li></ul> |



# THE REGIONAL PLAN

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**REGIONAL CENTRE**

**SUBURBAN AREA**

**RURAL AREA**

- »» Vision for whole municipality
- »» Where, when and how future growth and development should take place
- »» Responds to changing needs
- »» Integrates new priorities
- »» Sets up future work



# ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

**June 20 – October 27, 2023**

Webpage views



**19,200**

In-person events



**600+**

Written submissions



**122**



# WHAT WE HEARD

## Feedback - Urban Communities

- » Walkable, mixed-use communities with transit, services, shops, employment and housing
- » Questions about impact to existing neighbourhoods
- » Need for investment in mobility infrastructure, especially transit and active transportation, to connect within and between communities



# WHAT WE HEARD

## Feedback - Rural Communities

- » Community-led approach to rural planning
- » Rural economic development that maintains rural character, supports main streets, ensures access to nature
- » Investment in mobility options and infrastructure
- » Concerns over groundwater, coastlines and agricultural lands
- » Emergency planning and access/egress

# RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK

- » Terminology, plain language and readability
- » Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Planning
  - » Park planning
  - » Emergency services
  - » Mobility
- » Community Planning
  - » Housing Accelerator Fund
  - » Future Serviced Communities



# RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK

## Environment & Climate

- » Halifax Green Network Plan implementation and future work including:
  - » Watershed management
  - » Wetland protection
  - » Flood risk management
- » Regulating development in ecological corridors



# SITE-SPECIFIC REQUESTS

- » Requests for amendments to the Regional Plan for specific properties is provided in Attachment B
- » 9 new requests received since June 2023
  - » 8 to be considered during Phase 5
  - » 1 to be referred to Rural Community Planning
- » **To be managed in Phase 4 (current)**
  - » Purcell's Cove Backlands
  - » Lake Banook boardwalk
  - » Adaptive reuse
  - » Burnside and Aerotech



# SITE-SPECIFIC REQUESTS

- » **To be managed in Phase 5 (Future Growth)**
  - » Urban Service Area expansion (Urban Reserves, Middle Sackville)
  - » Growth controls (Schedule J)



# NEXT STEPS

## » Regional Plan Phase 4

- » Final Document & Amendment Package
- » Public hearing must be held
- » Targeting Regional Council March/April 2024

## » Regional Plan Phase 5

- » Begin once approval of Phase 4 is completed
- » Includes a Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Priorities Plan
- » Further assess growth, infrastructure and services



# RECOMMENDATION

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It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Accept the Draft Regional Plan What We Heard Report included as Attachment A; and
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to follow the recommended approach to site-specific requests for Regional Plan amendments as generally outlined in Attachment B.

»» **THANK YOU**

**HALIFAX**