

Appendix B: Virtual Public Information Centre

On November 28, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., members of the project team hosted a virtual public information centre via Zoom. Approximately 22 people attended the online event. A presentation was delivered by City staff, discussing Pickering’s growth management and urban structure, including how many people and jobs are projected to be accommodated in the future, the provincial and regional rules that the City must follow, as well as the importance of imagining how, where and in what form the growth will occur within the city in the future. Additionally, the presentation spoke to strategic growth areas, current and developing greenfield communities, future greenfield development, existing neighbourhoods, employment land areas, and urban design.

Question and Answer

Following the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of clarification. These are summarized below, with questions noted with a ‘Q’ and answers noted with an ‘A’.

- **Q.** Growth of condos is not producing expected effects, such as increased traffic, higher store patronage, or busier GO parking lots. Are there significant changes in movement patterns or behaviour resulting from this growth?
 - **A.** Transportation plans and retail market studies guide the Official Plan to address movement patterns and retail/service space needs. Additionally, the pandemic caused shifts in behaviour, with remote work, reducing road activity, and online shopping decreasing the need for large retail spaces. Population growth now manifests differently, requiring a rebalancing of services and infrastructure.
- **Q.** What improvements will result from this growth?
 - **A.** Over time, communities such as Seaton will gain amenities, such as parks, retail, and public spaces as population thresholds are met. An increased capacity would also result in major transit and streetscape improvements, such as the Kingston Road Bus Rapid system, enhancing connectivity and supporting complete communities. Growth requires long-term planning and collaboration to successfully build complete communities.
- **Q.** Who owns lands in the northeast portion of Pickering?
 - **A.** Ownership includes a mix of developers, farmers, and independent landowners, including areas such as the Kingsvale Hamlet.



- **Q.** Recent data shows an increase in Ontarians with disabilities, rising from 22% to 27% by 2022. How is accessibility being addressed in the Official Plan?
 - **A.** Accessibility remains a priority to the City, with designs being created to accommodate all age groups and needs. The project team is looking at best practices from other cities as case studies inspiring efforts to create inclusive and connected spaces in Pickering.

Following the question-and-answer portion of the event, the project team provided attendees with the next steps and future engagement opportunities before concluding the virtual event.