

Appendix B: Virtual Public Information Centre

On May 7, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., project team members hosted a virtual public information centre. Seventeen (17) people attended the online event. City staff delivered a presentation regarding Pickering's key community elements and infrastructure, including policies in place to enhance and protect transportation, cultural heritage, and parks.

Questions and Answers

Following the presentation, participants were invited to ask questions of clarification. These are summarized below, with questions noted with a 'Q,' and answers noted with an 'A'.

- **Q.** Is there a way to access current transit information and future plans?
 - **A.** City staff are creating a long-range plan outlining what Pickering will look like in 25 years, including phased development to ensure services are introduced correctly. The project team aims for a balanced, complete community where daily needs are within walking distance. Additionally, remember that the municipality doesn't provide all services—some services, like transit, are provided by other levels of government.
- **Q.** What's the plan for integrating north Pickering with the city centre? There's a lot of development in north Pickering but limited infrastructure. What's being done as density increases?
 - **A.** The City is developing a transportation plan to ensure roads accommodate residents, goods movement, and even agricultural traffic. This work is being done in coordination with the Region of Durham. Additionally, the City's Transportation Master Plan, available on the Pickering Forward website, includes a map of the future road network. It highlights key east-west and north-south routes supporting connectivity in areas like Seaton.
- **Q.** I live in Whitevale and am concerned about losing heritage buildings like the Vardon House and the former Whitevale School. Why not repurpose these buildings instead of demolishing them?
 - **A.** Seaton lands are provincially owned, and the Province isn't subject to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. We can't designate these properties. While our heritage team assesses and documents properties' historical value, relocation and restoration have become more expensive and challenging. If there are specific properties of concern, please email the project team.
- **Q:** How is sustainability integrated into park planning—e.g., conserving water, including community gardens?
 - **A.** A Recreation and Parks 10-year Master Plan completed last Fall guides efforts. The City ensures enough park space for projected populations. The planning team work closely with its sustainability team to embed features like community gardens in new neighbourhood plans to support resilient communities.

- **Q.** There's a lot of development along Kingston Road, but concerns remain about greenspace, transit, schools, and traffic. How does the City work with the Province to ensure resources are in place?
 - **A.** The City's first priority is to secure public land for parks. The team is currently exploring creative approaches like linear and urban parks. The transportation team has conducted a recent needs review for transportation in the city centre. Developers must submit a traffic study, reviewed by the City, before proceeding. For schools, the City has been in discussions with the school boards and has involved them in major development proposals—some proposals include schools in podium levels of new buildings. While the Province funds schools, the City works with boards to forecast needs. They then apply to the Province, but funding is limited and competitive, so it often takes multiple attempts.
- **Q.** For the podium schools in new towers, will developers build them even without provincial funding? I'm concerned kids will have to travel far for school.
 - **A.** Schools often come after residents move in. The Province requires evidence of demand before providing funding. Developers may include the space, but it won't be operational without funding. The Province sets the timeline.

To conclude the meeting, the project team provided participants with the next steps and future engagement opportunities, noting that the next PIC will be held in June 2025 to discuss *Housing and Affordability*.