

Appendix A: In-Person Public Information Centre

On May 6th, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., project team members hosted an in-person Public Information Centre at the Purpose Church (1527 Bayly Street). Eight (8) people attended the event. At the event's start, City staff delivered a presentation addressing Pickering's key community elements and infrastructure, including policies in place to enhance and protect transportation, cultural heritage, parks and open spaces. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period.

Questions and Answers

Participants were invited to ask questions of clarification. These are summarized below, with questions noted with a 'Q,' and answers noted with an 'A'. Comments are noted with a "C".

- **Q.** The Limit of Consumption concept in a 1.5°C City report targets zero cars by 2030. Does the City consider reports like this in city planning?
 - **A:** The City is required to follow the Provincial *Planning Act*, which guides how it plans and develops. The City also incorporates public feedback and monitors strategies used by other municipalities. While reducing car dependence is important, reaching zero cars is not a current objective. Personal vehicles will remain part of the overall transportation network. That said, the City is prioritizing multimodal options to ensure residents without cars can still move around easily.
- **Q.** With so much condominium development around Pickering Town Centre, how is the City planning for traffic? Will roads like Liverpool be widened?
 - **A.** A dedicated transportation study for the City Centre is underway. It examines how anticipated population growth will affect surrounding roads and what changes may be required. The City is seeing a significant shift in parking demand. For example, San Francisco by the Bay condominiums started with under one parking space per unit. By their third tower, they had reduced to 0.6 spaces per unit. CentreCourt is now building with just 0.4–0.5 spaces per unit. Buyers living near transit and amenities often don't want parking—they use rideshare services, rent vehicles, or walk.
- **Q.** There are reports that condominium developments at Pickering Town Centre are delayed due to the market. What does that mean for the Centre's future?
 - **A.** The developer is still committed to revitalizing the area. They're working to bring in new tenants and may relocate key retail anchors. While the plan is evolving, the retail aspect of the centre will remain.
- **Q.** Will any streets be car-free? Are there simulation models to assess traffic, especially with emergency access needs?
 - **A.** Every development application must include a transportation study that aligns with municipal and regional transportation policies. If traffic projections exceed current capacity, developers are responsible for making or funding improvements before moving forward. No existing streets are planned to become car-free.

Private developments—such as the Pickering City Centre—may include pedestrian-only areas.

- **Q.** What is the City's approach to public-private partnerships for community facilities like parks and recreation spaces?
 - **A.** The City completed a 10-year Recreation and Parks Master Plan last fall, which included recommendations on prioritizing City-owned park land. In denser areas, like the City Centre and the Kingston Road Corridor, finding space for facilities like soccer fields is harder. Where appropriate, the City may explore partnerships or creative approaches to acquire larger land parcels to meet those needs.
- **Q.** What about bike lanes? Why are some removed or blocked?
 - **A.** The issue of bike lanes is covered in the Community Elements Discussion Paper. The Province has disallowed bike lanes on certain thoroughfares. While this limits opportunities, it doesn't eliminate them altogether. We will continue to look for ways to expand bike lanes that align with provincial requirements.
- **C.** Consider advertising through Metroland (used in Ajax and Whitby) to reach a wider audience.

Open House Activity

After the question and answer period, members of the public were invited to provide feedback and talk to staff at three (3) stations regarding transportation, cultural heritage, and parks. Members of the public shared feedback either by using sticky notes, dot stickers and markers on display panels or by speaking with City staff members at each designated station.

Transportation

Discussions focused on different transportation options participants use to get around and suggested improvements to the safety and functionality of these options in Pickering today and in the future. The following display boards prompted the discussions:

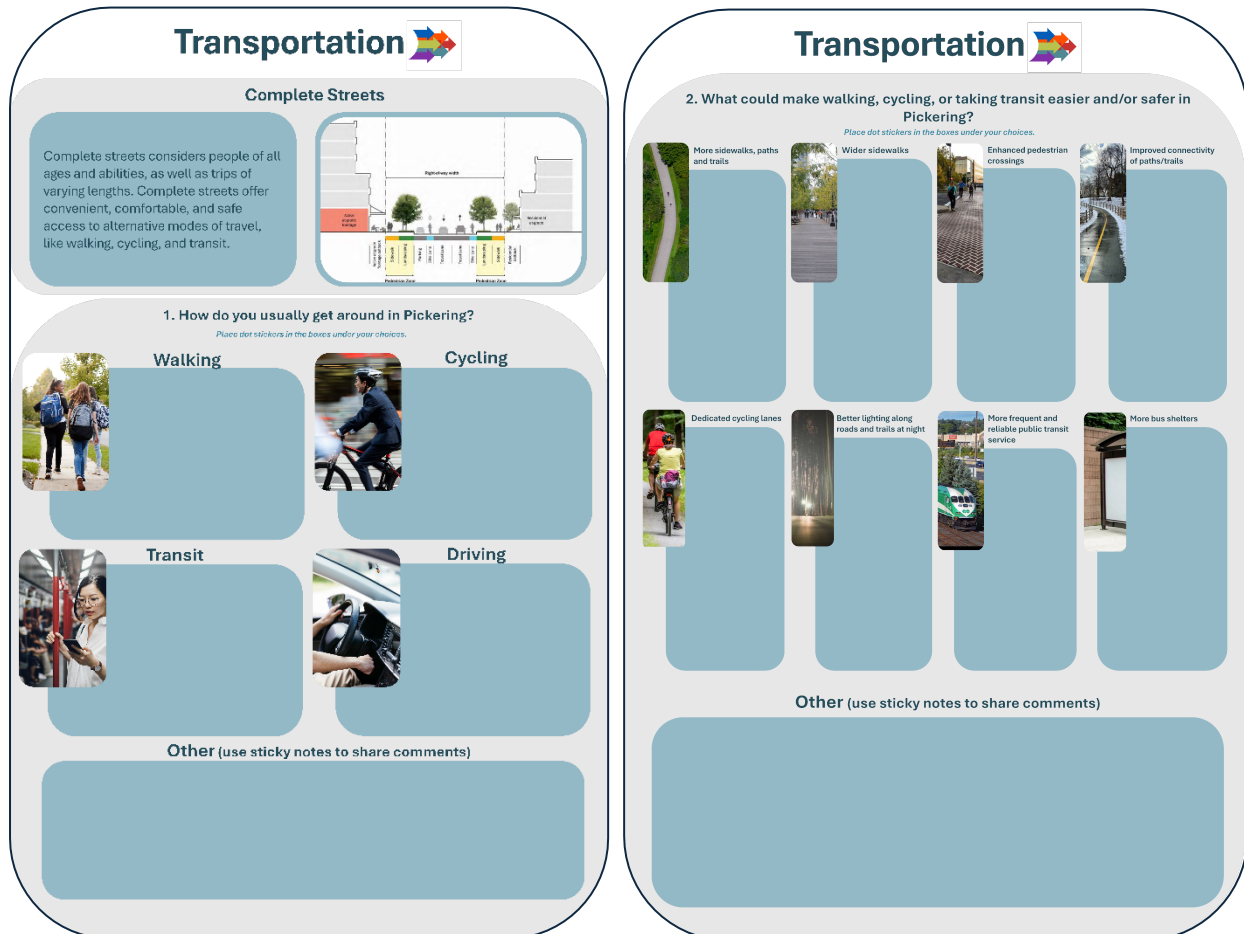



Figure 1 – Transportation display boards showcased at the in-person PIC.

Cultural Heritage Elements


Discussions focused on cultural heritage elements that should be protected and suggestions for preserving and protecting heritage buildings in areas being redeveloped. The following display boards prompted the discussions:

Cultural Heritage Elements


1. Aside from heritage buildings, what other cultural heritage elements in Pickering should be protected?
Place dot stickers in the boxes under your choices.




Landmark




Cemeteries




Public Art



Landscapes



Celebration Spaces




Commemoration Spaces


Other (use sticky notes to share comments)

Cultural Heritage Elements


2. What is the best way to preserve and protect heritage buildings in neighbourhoods that are being redeveloped?
Place dot stickers in the boxes under your choices.


Buffer heritage buildings from new development







Integrate heritage buildings within new development





Relocate heritage buildings away from new development





Other (use sticky notes to share comments)

Figure 2 – Cultural Heritage Elements display boards showcased at the in-person PIC.

Open House Activity Comment Details

The following are verbal and written comments captured on sticky notes and dot stickers on the display boards at each station.

Transportation

1. How do you usually get around in Pickering?

- **Walking:** 5 dot stickers
- **Cycling:** 3 dot stickers
- **Transit:** 4 dot stickers
- **Driving:** 7 dot stickers
- **Other:**
 - Make transit safe.
 - Make Highway 7 safe.
 - Make transit more accessible.
 - Less traffic.
 - Expand roads.
 - Make transit dependable.
 - Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
 - Traffic with growth is important to consider.

2. What could make walking, cycling, or taking transit easier and/or safer in Pickering?

- **More sidewalks, paths and trails:** 3 dot stickers
- **Wider sidewalks:** 2 dot stickers
- **Enhanced pedestrian crossings:** 0 dot stickers
- **Improved connectivity of paths/trails:** 1 dot sticker
- **Dedicated cycling lanes:** 2 dot stickers
- **Better lighting along roads and trails at night:** 2 dot stickers
- **More frequent and reliable public transit service:** 0 dot stickers
- **More bus shelters:** 0 dot stickers
- **Other:**
 - Bioswales. Better pavement. Make it a better experience for walking.
 - Wider lanes.
 - Lack of sidewalks. Wider sidewalks.
 - Better lighting – wider sidewalks.
 - Bikelane, connectivity, separating lanes for safety.
 - Separate bike lanes and people.
 - Night-friendly lighting.
 - Street calming.
 - Less pollution.
 - Mobility for disabled and elderly.
 - Make bus shelters that are safe (not glass).

- Example: New Hampshire – bike lanes are not separated.
- Example: Amsterdam – separate bike lanes.
- No mopeds or electric scooters in bike lanes.

Cultural Heritage Elements

1. Aside from heritage buildings, what other cultural heritage elements in Pickering should be protected?

- **Landmark:** 1 dot stickers
- **Cemeteries:** 2 dot stickers
 - Intangible heritage stories
 - Urban design improvements - plaques
- **Public Art:** 2 dot stickers
 - Need more of this. Please don't overdo it in one spot
- **Landscapes:** 1 dot sticker
 - Vistas
- **Celebration Spaces:** 2 dot stickers
 - Need more than just Esplanade Park (i.e., Rick Johnson)
- **Commemoration Spaces:** 3 dot stickers
- **Other:**
 - Storytelling - integrative, origin stories colliding resources.
 - Make an insurance carrier for heritage.
 - Need plaques in historical sites and places.
 - Display elements of cultural heritage throughout the city.
 - "In the footsteps" approach.
 - Performing Arts Centre.
 - Cross-jurisdictional planning - communication development.
 - Museum.
 - "Eat More Scarborough" style.
 - Encourage the development of local identity.

2. What is the best way to preserve and protect heritage buildings in neighbourhoods that are being redeveloped?

- **Buffer heritage buildings from new development:** 2 dot stickers
 - Provide incentives for more protection.
 - Public Use.
- **Integrate heritage buildings with new development:** 0 dot stickers
- **Relocate heritage buildings away from new development:** 0 dot stickers
 - Removes context.
- **Other:**
 - Explore alternative forms of ownership.
 - It depends on the needs of the community.
 - It depends on the building.

- Group by vintage - 1820s – wartime.

Parks

1. What types of parks are most needed in Pickering?

- **A few large-sized parks:** 2 dot stickers
- **Several smaller-sized parks:** 3 dot stickers
- **Other:**
 - More parking.
 - Trail connectivity within the neighbourhood.
 - Parks designed for all ages, accessibility to parks, and parking access.
 - Programming that meets multiple needs. Places where people can gather and meet.
 - Need to be able to walk to a park.
 - Large parks for sports infrastructure (clusters).
 - Avoid paving over front yards.
 - Plan for natural/park areas in industrial areas for employees.
 - Green open spaces should be found throughout, in all nooks of the city.
 - Connect green spaces in employment areas to existing trails.
 - Parks that follow natural features.
 - Cycling safety in linear parks is needed.
 - Stormwater management, bioswales and hydro pavers are needed.
 - Walkways through new developments (connectivity).
 - The County of Brant has a park radius within the Official Plan that Pickering should consider.

2. What parks in Pickering do you love?

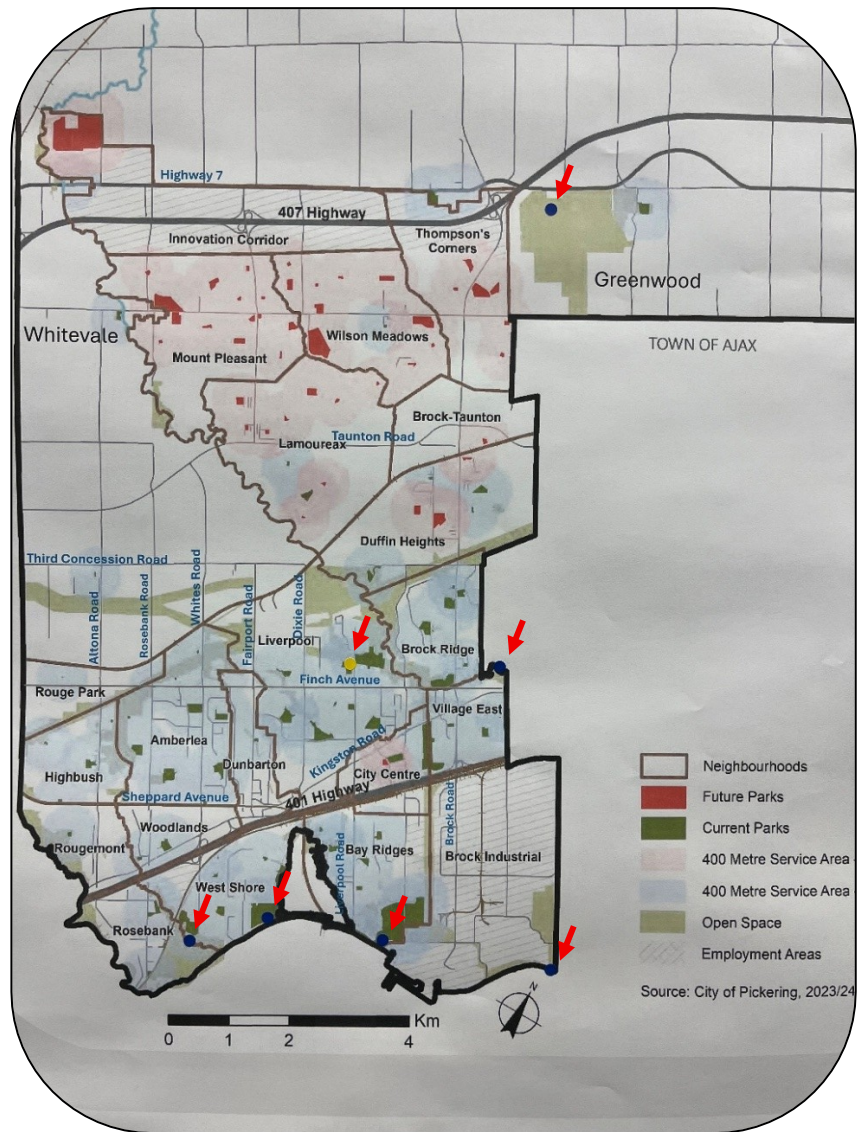


Figure 4 – Photo of participant dot sticker responses to the question "What parks in Pickering do you love?"

3. Why do you love these parks?

- Good for mental health - need more!
- It is great when you don't have a yard or need more space to enjoy the outdoors.
- FREE recreation opportunities.
- New, fresh look and inviting feel.
- Playground, soccer, tennis, walkable greenspace - Maple Ridge Park.
- Bev Morgan Park - accessible track, sledding hill in winter - sometimes the track is locked.
- Walkable to people in the neighbourhood

Display Panel Comments

The following written comments were posted on the display panels at the event.

Growth Management & Urban Structure

- Don't make condos...too many, too high.
- Living in a high-rise is not practical or desired for many people.

Natural Heritage, Hazards, and Sustainability

- Keep as much "green" as possible...keep mature trees.

Agriculture and Rural Areas

- Don't pave. We need farmland.
- Why are you paving over Class A farmland?

Community Elements and Infrastructure

- It's great to have multi-purpose parks – kid's activities, seating, small flower gardens, mini artwork displays, pathways...where possible. Include washrooms where possible.
- When starting projects, let surrounding residents know what is happening beforehand...get them engaged..., and advise them of the road closures and benefits of the project.
- Include smaller meeting areas for community events close to home within the residential areas, such as "people meeting places."
- Good transportation access by foot, bus, road, bicycle, wheelchair, and motorized scooters.

Housing and Affordability

- Residential areas must be more multi-purpose, including family, singles, seniors, and disabled, as well as rent/coop/ownership.