

WHAT IS THE DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN?

July 2023



REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW



The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (also called the 'Regional Plan') sets out a common vision, principles, and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place.

The Regional Plan is a powerful document that guides the Municipality's planning and decision-making. The Draft Plan:

- Provides direction for regional and community level planning;
- Sets up region-wide land use by-law regulations;
- Establishes intent to conduct future research programs or studies;
- Identifies programming or partnership opportunities; and
- Guides municipal operations.

It was first adopted in 2006 and is reviewed approximately every five years to ensure it still reflects the municipality's goals for growth and development.

What is the Vision for the Region?

The Municipality's vision for the future is to enhance our quality of life by fostering the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, a strong and diverse economy, and sustainable environment.

What are the Main Ideas of the Draft Plan?

- Direct housing and employment growth to strategic locations across the region that supports building healthy, connected communities;
- Guide investments in physical and social infrastructure at the regional and local level;
- Encourage community-led initiatives and collaboration on planning, environmental management, and culture and heritage protection;
- Support increasing housing supply across the region to meet the needs of residents of all ages, income levels and abilities;
- Reflect HRM's commitment to Reconciliation, addressing Anti-Black Racism, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in municipal planning policies and programs.



Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is seeking feedback on the Draft Regional Plan (released June 2023). This Topic Summary provides a broad overview of objectives and policies contained in the Draft Plan. For further details, speak with a staff member or consult the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is available online and in Halifax Public Libraries.

shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan (or scan the QR Code)

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What does the Plan respond to?

The Draft Plan is responding to increased population growth and housing demand, the need to act on climate and equity, and the actions identified in the municipality's Priority Plans. The Priority Plans include:

- The Integrated Mobility Plan
- The Halifax Green Network Plan
- HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together
- Sharing Our Stories: The Culture & Heritage Priorities Plan.
- People Planet Prosperity: Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy

This period of growth, while challenging, also presents an opportunity for us to build the kind of community we want to see Halifax become. This Plan has been developed with a view to a longer-term horizon. Assuming a relatively high rate of growth continues, population projection scenarios have shown that the municipality is on track to double its population to around 1 million people in the next 25-30 years. This Plan asks: What does Halifax look like as a region of 1 million people?

The policies of the Draft Plan have been developed with a forward-looking view to supporting this growth in population over the long term, by strategically directing housing, jobs, and community infrastructure in a way that supports our goals for healthy, connected, inclusive and affordable communities.

Previous steps in the Regional Plan Review

The review of the Regional Plan started in 2020. Initial community engagement took place online and resulted in the 2021 Themes and Directions Report. In 2022, in response to feedback and to address Council priorities, Quick Adjustments were made to policy, with updated projected population scenarios, site-specific development approvals, and minor policy changes. In June 2023, staff released the Draft Regional Plan for community engagement.

Site Specific Requests

Site Specific Requests are applications for changes to policy to allow specific development(s) to take place. To find out where development requests are being considered, visit shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan

What comes next?

- Public engagement on the Draft Plan until October 27, 2023, followed by a What We Heard Report
- Finalize formal amendment package for Regional Council's review and approval