



Community Engagement Next Steps & Timeline

Background

On February 26, 2019 Council approved the 90 percent construction design plan for the Cogswell District. Staff were also directed to develop a public engagement plan outlining timelines and processes to complete the creation and adoption of amendments for the Cogswell District in the Downtown Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy, Land Use By-law and Design Manual by March 31, 2019.

The next steps of community engagement will build on the extensive public and stakeholder consultation that has already taken place as part of the 90 percent construction design process. The “Shaping the Cogswell Experience Engagement Report” (FBM, 2019), and the “Towards a Human Scale Cogswell District” (Gehl, 2019) report will serve as a starting point for the upcoming consultation. The process will also take into consideration Council’s approved goals for the Cogswell District, the Regional Plan, and the Downtown Halifax Plan.

As these lands are municipally owned and controlled, their sale and development will be carefully managed to ensure all key municipal policy objectives are met, and the desired people-focused design of the district is maintained. A key consideration is that new streets and servicing infrastructure must be in place and functional before the development blocks are created, as this project is closely tied to the construction and subdivision process.

Engagement Approach and Key Activities

The purpose of this public engagement plan is to provide timelines and next steps for the planning process. Details will be provided closer to the start of the engagement process in fall 2019. Engagement techniques will be adopted to optimize the efforts of municipal staff in providing effective and accessible communication and consultation with the public, communities and stakeholders.

The main purpose of the engagement process will be to develop draft planning documents, including planning policies, regulations, and design requirements for the lands. Since this is a plan for public lands, other strategic policies will also be considered.

A variety of engagement tools and opportunities will be used, including but not limited to:

- Technical review of public feedback to date (FBM & Gehl reports)
- Stakeholder meetings
- Design charrette with the participation of the design and development communities, stakeholders, and community members
- Open houses
- Pop-ups
- Online portal – Shape Your City Halifax
- Feedback received through correspondence

“What We Heard” reports will be produced during the development of draft planning documents.

Engagement Timeline

The anticipated timeline for presenting draft Cogswell District planning documents for adoption is early 2021. It should be noted that although the formal consultation events recommended as part of this plan are set to conclude in June of 2020, engagement and information sharing will continue to be part of the formal adoption process.

Table 1 illustrates the anticipated engagement timelines for reviewing the proposed planning documents for the Cogswell District as part of amendments to the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law, and any other planning documents that may be necessary. The process will also be guided by the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee.

Further details regarding specific dates and locations for engagement opportunities will be available by fall 2019.

For more information about the Cogswell District please visit: shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/cogswell-district



Table 1. General Cogswell District Planning Process

Project Phase	April – Sept. 2019	Sept. – Nov. 2019	Nov. 2019 – Feb. 2020	Feb. - April 2020	April – June 2020	July 2020 – Jan. 2021
Complete details of engagement process (dates, elements, locations)						
Technical review of input to date, establish design options, communicate details regarding engagement process						
Conduct design charrette; evaluate options						
Develop draft planning policies, regulations and design requirements						
Present draft planning documents for feedback						
Revise and present for adoption of planning documents						