

APPENDIX F

KEY THEMES TABLE

THEME 1: CONSIDERING THE REGIONAL SCALE FIRST

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Regional Growth	- Support for continued population growth. - Requests for clear, transparent, and measurable criteria to justify the locations selected for growth and development. - Support for the growth targets suggested by Integrated Mobility Plan. - Support for basing decision-making on high growth scenario projections. - Support for the consideration of the recommendations of the Halifax Green Network Plan in development decisions.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Review and confirm the Regional Plan's development and growth policies by considering where and how the Municipality will grow within the life of this Plan. - Assess progress towards achieving household growth targets, including population and housing forecasts and their implications in relation to the available supply of developable land, housing supply and demand, and the provision of a range of housing choices. - Adopt Regional Plan policy requiring that the Halifax Green Network Plan's Green Network Ecology Map is used to help guide regional planning decisions.
	Urban Service Area	- Requests to include additional lands within the Urban Service Area. - Requests to maintain the current Urban Service Area boundary and intensify development within it. - Support for intensifying growth in existing urban areas with defined targets for density, to limit greenfield development and save costs associated with expanding infrastructure.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Identify any developer requests for expansions to the Urban Service Area boundary and assess whether the request should be considered, based on existing policy and the proposed future policy framework. - The Regional Plan's growth management policies work to encourage intensification in existing serviced areas, including on brownfield sites. The Urban Settlement designation and Urban Service Area boundary defines where serviced development can be located. The

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
		Requests to encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites.	Regional Centre Plan encourages significant intensification in the core of the city. Future work in the suburban and rural areas will explore ways to further incentivize development in existing communities.
	Future Serviced Communities	Requests to delay or prevent secondary planning for the Future Serviced Communities located near Sandy Lake Regional Park and Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area.	- The Preliminary Population and Housing Analysis has shown that there is a need for additional land to accommodate HRM's growing population. Population growth since 2016 and expected continued growth has put pressure on the HRM's housing market availability. - Staff recommend initiating study on potential secondary planning for the lands west of Sandy Lake and the Highway 102 West Corridor. This work will require considering the policies and actions of HRM's priorities plans (including the Halifax Green Network Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, HalifACT and Sharing Our Stories) and planning for existing and future parkland and wilderness areas. Background studies will include watershed studies, land suitability analyses (environmental and cultural features), and baseline infrastructure studies (transportation and water/wastewater services).
	Urban Reserve Areas	- Requests to review the Urban Reserve designation and allow development of these lands. - Support for including Akoma lands within the Urban Service Area Boundary.	The African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity supports development on the lands owned by Akoma Holdings. The Preliminary Population and Housing Analysis has shown that there is a need for additional land to accommodate HRM's growing population. Population growth since 2016 and expected continued growth has put pressure on the HRM's housing market availability.

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			Staff recommend initiating comprehensive planning for the entire area designated Urban Reserve. This work will require considering the policies and actions of HRM's priorities plans (including the Halifax Green Network Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, HalifACT and Sharing Our Stories). Background studies will include watershed studies, a land suitability analysis (environmental and cultural features), and a baseline infrastructure study (transportation and water/wastewater services).

THEME 2: BUILDING HEALTHIER AND MORE COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Secondary Planning	- Support for using the recommendations of the priorities plans to guide the development of the Suburban and Rural plans. - Requests for general and site-specific policies to be considered through the Plan & By-law Simplification Program, including requests to permit larger and more intense commercial development in suburban and rural centres and consider secondary plan regulations around specific uses and building features to address concerns.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Adopt policy in the Regional Plan to support the implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan, HalifACT, Integrated Mobility Plan, and Sharing Our Stories. - Establish the Secondary Plan and By-law Simplification Program in policy with the following broad objectives: - Implement the Regional Plan and priorities plans through land use and community design policies and regulations; - Organize the planning framework around Regional Centre, Suburban and Rural geographic areas; - Direct intensification to areas that support the building of healthier and more complete communities; - Affirm that each new plan and land use by-law will respond to local conditions and needs of our diverse communities. Community input and participation in this process will be critical, providing a primary source of guiding knowledge for the plans.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
			Consider if the interim policy guidance may also be used to improve the processing of discretionary applications such as development agreements to further the goals and objectives of the Regional Plan.
	Complete Communities	- Support for planning for complete communities, including establishing a clear set of defined building blocks. - Support for continued engagement with communities to identify their vision and needs for creating a complete community. - Interest in ensuring that suburban and rural areas are also designed as complete communities. - Concern regarding car dependency as a result of limited local access to services and amenities, and lacking connections between communities. - Concern that the Themes & Directions survey asked participants to prioritize features of complete communities, as most participants believed all the features were important. The most popular feature was access to public open spaces (local parks, plazas and other public spaces).	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Review and revise the Regional Plan's Settlement policies to better support the Municipality's goal of building complete communities and implementing the direction of the Priorities Plans. - Review and revise the Regional Plan's growth centre policies using a 'complete communities' analysis by: - Defining different types of centres and adopting land use policies reflecting appropriate levels of growth for each; - Refining the expected population growth projections based on recent observed trends; - Identifying environmental and other physical constraints; - In Suburban communities, targeting new development around frequent transit networks; and

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
		- Support for intensifying growth in existing urban areas with defined targets for density. - Request to remove Beechville as a growth centre.	In Rural communities, maintaining the Regional Plan's overall approach to limit sprawl and cluster development that encourages strong rural centres.
	Regional Centre	Concern regarding building height on the Halifax Peninsula.	The Centre Plan process has recently involved a comprehensive review of planning policy and regulations for the Regional Centre, including the Halifax Peninsula. The Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law will guide development in this area.
	Suburban Areas	- Support for establishing a defined framework to guide decisions regarding planning applications in the suburban area. - Support for intensifying growth in existing suburban areas with defined targets for density, to limit greenfield development and save costs associated with expanding infrastructure. - Opposition to intensifying growth in existing suburban areas, to protect the desire for stable low-density neighborhoods. - Support for designing communities for pedestrians, not vehicles.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Establish a vision, objectives and key principles to guide the Suburban Plan, which includes: - Directing most growth to mixed-use, transit-oriented communities that can be served by transit, walking, wheeling and cycling; - Directing growth in a way that protects and preserves valuable wilderness areas and open spaces; - Ensuring planning regulations focus on affordability and accessibility, and support people-oriented urban design; and

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
		Themes & Directions Survey participants identified that the most important features for future suburban communities are access to public parks and community facilities by walking, cycling or using a mobility device, access to shops and services by walking, cycling or using a mobility device, proximity to natural parks and open spaces, easy access to public transit, ability to live in the housing type of their choice and safe and comfortable active transportation.	- Protecting and prioritizing industrial lands and harbour access for marine-dependent uses, with other employment directed to mixed-use centres. - Adopt interim policy guidance for applications for secondary municipal planning strategy amendments to guide site planning and built form characteristics. - Consider if the interim policy guidance may also be used to improve the processing of discretionary applications such as development agreements to further the goals and objectives of the Regional Plan.
	Rural Areas	- Requests to review the locations and goals for rural growth centres - Requests to better identify and define rural communities, including their boundaries, goals and needs. - Themes & Directions Survey participants identified that the most important features for future rural communities are living in a village or town-like community where housing, shops and services are clustered and easy to access, and having access to high-speed internet at home.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Establish a vision, objectives and key principles to guide the Rural Plan which include: - Directing intensification to existing rural communities that act as important service centres and have the potential to be complete communities; - Protecting rural landscapes as critical to the region's natural and open space network; - Supportive adaptive reuse of existing buildings and land uses; - Supporting working landscapes for resource industries, agriculture and food security, and tourism opportunities;

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
			• Ensuring planning regulations focus on affordability and accessibility, and support building communities that reflect local character and history; and • Support a range of housing forms within each rural service centre. • Review past studies and initiate further analysis to understand the barriers and opportunities for developing innovative services in rural areas, with a focus on water, wastewater and rural public mobility. • Revise conservation design development policies to streamline the development process within rural service centres.

THEME 3: RECONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL LANDS

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Councillor Meetings	Industrial Lands	- Request to consider permitting larger scale commercial uses in rural centres to reflect population growth. - Support for including small scale commercial uses in established neighbourhoods to reduce car-dependence.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Adopt Regional Plan policy to direct ongoing study of employment trends and commercial space demand to inform planning for mixed use, transit-oriented communities and rural service centres. - Establish policy to remove barriers to establishing small scale commercial uses in residential areas, including homebased business policies and regulations.

THEME 4: TRANSFORMING HOW WE MOVE IN OUR REGION

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Integrated Mobility Plan	Support for the continued implementation of the Integrated Mobility Plan and the creation of “complete streets”.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will update the Transportation and Mobility chapter of the Regional Plan to reflect the policies and actions of the Integrated Mobility Plan and its regional approach to transportation planning, including adopting policy to support the use of the Complete Streets approach to prioritize the movement of people using sustainable modes of transportation over vehicles.
	Transit	- Requests to extend transit routes to specific areas (including Lawrencetown/ Five Fathom Harbour, Beaver Bank, Herring Cove Lookoff, North End Halifax). - Support for maintaining the existing Transit Service Boundary. - Support for increased levels of public transit, including establishing a new Bedford ferry service. - Concerns about lack of access to public transportation in new suburban developments and areas of growth. - Support for aligning higher density development with rapid transit and active transportation infrastructure. - Support for establishing a long-term plan for transit.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Review the Urban Transit Service Boundary and assess its alignment with existing and potential housing and population growth. - Address the importance of coordinating land use and transportation planning around Rapid Transit, the Regional Plan will plan for higher-density mixed use development around Rapid Transit, and create policy direction for the provision of affordable housing, connectivity of local streets and active transportation infrastructure near stations and terminals. - Build on the approved Integrated Mobility Plan and Rapid Transit Strategy to establish a program of study to develop a long-term vision for transportation in HRM aligned with regional strategic growth.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
			Halifax Transit is coordinating study and planning for a future Mill Cove ferry, connecting Bedford with Downtown Halifax. Planning & Development will be involved in this work, which will include considering opportunities for transit-oriented development near the ferry terminal.
	Active Transportation	- Support for continued investment in pedestrian and active transportation infrastructure to make these options more viable and safer. - Requests to reduce speed limits in urban areas to improve conditions for those using active transportation.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will support continued implementation of the Active Transportation Priorities Plan and adopting policy to support its review.
	Inclusion	Requests to develop and implement policies for safer, more inclusive, accessible transportation options.	The Complete Streets approach aims to create streets that are safe, convenient and comfortable for travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of transportation mode (e.g. on foot, rolling, on a bicycle, using transit, in a private vehicle).
	Rural Mobility	- Request to consider permitting ATVs on public roads. - The two highest ranking responses for preferred modes of transportation in the rural area included driving alone in private vehicles and active transportation (walking, cycling or using a mobility device) at 12%	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will review past studies and initiate further analysis to understand the barriers and opportunities for developing innovative services in rural areas including rural public mobility.

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	Traffic	Concerns regarding congestion and traffic in particular areas and the impact of additional development on traffic levels.	- The Integrated Mobility Plan provides guidance for the Municipality's approach to transportation. A principle of the IMP is managing congestion: In the past, transportation planning focused on expanding road capacity in response to congestion. This typically relieves congestion for a short period, but this new capacity attracts more vehicle traffic, which then leads to calls for further road expansions. Managing congestion, instead of eliminating it, is a better alternative. - Led by the Strategic Transportation Planning program, the Municipality will adopt new guidelines for Transportation Impact Assessments, which includes Multi-Modal Level of Service guidelines to evaluate road network performance for all mobility modes (walking, cycling, transit and vehicles). - Traffic issues for specific areas of the region are dealt with operationally by Infrastructure Planning and Transportation & Public Works.

THEME 5: SOCIAL PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Diversity	- Requests to consider adopting an “equity lens” and consider the impacts of systemic racism in the development of policy. - Requests to provide support for underrepresented communities. - Participants in the Themes & Directions Survey identified the need to engage with underrepresented groups and act on the feedback that they provide.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Study the possible use of tools that could support capacity building, such as community benefit action planning, community trusts or community-led planning or projects. - Identify neighbourhoods facing inequities or communities that have been historically underserved and underrepresented and coordinate across departments to address vulnerabilities and build upon neighbourhood capacity. - Ensure the Regional Plan is aligned with the 94 Calls to Action, recommendations from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History, and the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity. This will be achieved through Sharing Our Stories and reviews of relevant policies and by-laws.
	Affordable Housing & Homelessness	- Concern about the availability of affordable housing options. - Support for flexible land use policy that is able to adapt to changing population and market conditions. This includes unexpected events and trends that impact immigration, household headship	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Support the development of the Housing Governance report to identify a municipal role in housing, furthering partnerships with non-profit housing organizations, private developers and the Province,

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		rates, and the cost of labour, materials and land. - Concern about housing insecurity and homelessness, including funding availability for organizations that provide housing. - Request for guaranteed housing. - Respondents to the Themes & Directions survey identified Market Ownership as their preferred housing type, with a strong focus on affordable housing. The majority of respondents (74%) indicated that encouraging smaller housing units to provide more affordable options was important. - Concern about the availability of seniors housing in rural areas and the ability for residents to age in place.	to encourage the development and retention of affordable housing, including: - Identifying planning tools to ensure no net loss of housing during redevelopment; - Updating the Housing Needs Assessment on an annual basis; - Removing barriers and reviewing and expanding opportunities to support the development and retention of affordable housing; and - Study possible tools and programs to further leverage surplus or available land including community land trusts. - Explore additional approaches to encourage a diversity of housing forms through a review of existing policies. - Establish a vision, objectives and key principles to guide the Rural Plan which include... ensuring planning regulations focus on affordability and accessibility, and support building communities that reflect local character and history; and supporting a range of housing form within each rural service centre.
	Food Security	- Concern regarding food security and the need for resilient food systems, particularly healthy options. - Support for JUSTFood and community gardens.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Support the creation of JustFOOD and ensure alignment with its goals and recommendations by:

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		Support for encouraging a diversity of agricultural and food retail enterprises in communities	- Directing the use of JustFOOD tools and resources to better understand community vulnerability to food insecurity and the local food landscape when updating or creating planning policies. - Removing barriers and creating incentives for food uses such as urban agriculture, agricultural operations, food outlets, etc. and reducing the impact of non-agricultural uses on viable agricultural land.
	Communication	- Requests for municipal communications to use clear and concise language. - Requests for clearer communication with local residents regarding proposed developments in their communities. - Requests to consider local demographics and accessibility when planning for public engagement. - Participants in the Themes & Directions Survey indicated their preferred approach for participation in community decision-making was online surveys. There was also support for virtual and in-person open houses led by HRM Staff.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will review existing engagement policies and adopt the upcoming Public Engagement Guidebook.

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		Participants in the Themes & Directions Survey identified the top three barriers for participating in community engagement are lack of information about ongoing projects, time, and lack of information on how to participate.	
	Indigenous Rights	- Support for increased recognition of the Peace and Friendship Treaty and the rights of the Mi'kmaq people. - Support for continuing to advance reconciliation. - Support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will ensure the Regional Plan is aligned with the 94 Calls to Action and the recommendations from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History. - The ongoing Sharing Our Stories (Culture & Heritage Priorities Plan) project will inform this work and provide guidance for specific policy changes.
	Gender	- Request to consider adopting a “gender lens”, gender-based analysis and engagement with the Women’s Advisory Committee in the development of policy. This is particularly important for policy around affordable housing, as women are disproportionately impacted. - Request to consider the impact of policies on the 2SLGBTQ+ community.	- Regional Planning staff will work with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion on conducting a gender-based analysis of proposed Regional Plan amendments. - Staff will engage with the Women’s Advisory Committee for comment on the draft amendment package when it is brought forward.

THEME 6: CELEBRATING CULTURE & HERITAGE

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Heritage Preservation	• Support for preserving heritage character and sense of place. • Request to place more emphasis on the recognition of Mi'kmaq culture and heritage in HRM. • Concern regarding the protection of archaeological resources. • Requests to preserve specific heritage buildings (Dartmouth Post Office, Carleton Street Streetscape) • Support for creating enhanced connections to Africville.	• As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will incorporate the recommendations of the Sharing Our Stories (Culture & Heritage Priorities) Plan into the Regional Plan, with a particular focus on initiatives that share and celebrate a more diverse range of stories.
	Cultural Heritage	• Requests to further support cultural heritage, including developing more cultural events and education programs, including more Mi'kmaq street and place names, and establishing a civic museum.	

THEME 7: INTEGRATING COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PARKS

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Protecting Wilderness Areas	- Strong support for the protection and expansion of wilderness parks. - Opposition to development and requests to complete in areas including Sandy Lake Regional Park, Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area and Purcell's Cove Backlands. - Requests to protect Owl's Head as a Provincial Park. - Support for strengthening existing tools and expand tools for protecting and conserving parkland. - Request to direct development away from important natural and cultural places. - Support for establishing community stewardship programs and partnerships to protect wilderness parks.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Apply the Open Space and Natural Resources Designation and Regional Park Zone to the publicly-owned lands for the Sandy Lake Regional Park, Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area, Shaw Wilderness Park and McIntosh Run Regional Park, maintain the Western Common Zone for the Western Common Wilderness, and adopt policy to guide future park development and management of these areas as "wilderness parks". - Ensure that parks and open spaces owned and/or managed by community organizations and other levels of government are recognized within this framework. - Continue to work with other levels of government and conservation groups to increase access to open spaces. - The publicly owned land at Owl's Head is currently zoned Regional Park, and no request to amend this zoning has been received to date. - Staff will continue to work with Parks & Recreation to explore tools and opportunities for protecting and conserving lands for park and wilderness purposes.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
	Sandy Lake Regional Park	- Requests to delay any secondary planning at Sandy Lake until the next Regional Plan Review to allow for independent ecological studies and floodplain studies to be conducted, and for the recommendations of the Wildlife Corridors Charrette Report and Halifax Green Network Plan to be incorporated into the Regional Plan. - Requests to establish a park plan for Sandy Lake Regional Park. - Requests to acquire 1800 additional acres of land west of Sandy Lake for park purposes and remove it from consideration as a Future Serviced Community. - Requests to protect Marsh Lake as part of the Sandy Lake Regional Park.	- The Preliminary Population and Housing Analysis has shown that there is a need for additional land to accommodate HRM's growing population. Population growth since 2016 and expected continued growth has put pressure on the HRM's housing market availability. - Staff recommend initiating study on potential secondary planning for the lands west of Sandy Lake and the Highway 102 West Corridor. This work will require considering the policies and actions of HRM's priorities plans (including the Halifax Green Network Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, HalifACT and Sharing Our Stories) and planning for existing and future parkland and wilderness areas. Background studies will include watershed studies, land suitability analyses (environmental and cultural features), and baseline infrastructure studies (transportation and water/wastewater services). - Parks & Recreation continues to plan for the publicly owned lands that are part of the Sandy Lake Regional Park, including lands around Marsh Lake.
	Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area	- Request to delay any secondary planning at Highway 102 West Corridor Lands until the next Regional Plan Review. - Requests to use regulatory tools to better protect the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area and wildlife corridors (including requesting Charter amendments, Land Use Bylaw Amendments, Subdivision bylaw	- Regional Council has given direction to staff to undertake a comprehensive park planning exercise for the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes wilderness area. Parks & Recreation will lead that process. - The Preliminary Population and Housing Analysis has shown that there is a need for additional land to accommodate HRM's growing population. Population growth since 2016 and expected continued growth has put pressure on the HRM's housing market availability.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
		requirements) - Requests for HRM to commit to acquiring buffer lands, as shown on the conceptual park plan, and develop a transparent and collaborative approach for targeted acquisition. - Requests to establish a park plan for Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area that utilizes park management best practices and stormwater management practices recommended by AECOM. - Requests for the Municipality to oppose the construction of Highway 113.	Staff recommend initiating study on potential secondary planning for the lands west of Sandy Lake and the Highway 102 West Corridor. This work will require considering the policies and actions of HRM's priorities plans (including the Halifax Green Network Plan, Integrated Mobility Plan, HalifACT and Sharing Our Stories) and planning for existing and future parkland and wilderness areas. Background studies will include watershed studies, land suitability analyses (environmental and cultural features), and baseline infrastructure studies (transportation and water/wastewater services).
	Parks Strategy	- Requests to establish a regional parks strategy to provide a more comprehensive, holistic approach to parks planning. This could include a vision for how regional parks will function, their purpose, and timeliness to achieve goals. - Support for including and developing the Parks Spectrum and Level of Service Standards in policy. - Support for Charter amendments to facilitate parkland acquisition.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Incorporate the park spectrum into the Regional Plan. - Review and develop Level of Service Standards based on the recommendations of the Halifax Green Network Plan, public engagement and spatial analysis mapping of parkland and outdoor recreation amenities and future growth. - Amend the Regional Subdivision By-law to reflect the identified Level of Service Standards

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			- In 2018, as part of the Halifax Green Network Plan adoption, Regional Council requested that the Province amend the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, as set out in Actions 18 and 61 of the Halifax Green Network Plan, to: - enable the Municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands (e.g. riparian areas, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) as an environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions; and - enable a greater range of legislative abilities, such as the ability to enact parkland dedication requirements based on density to address development that does not include the subdivision of land.
	Environmental Considerations	Requests to recognize the importance of the role of parks for environmental reasons – conservation, wildlife corridors, climate change mitigation, supporting biodiversity.	The Halifax Green Network Plan has highlighted the important role of parks and wilderness areas in maintaining the region's green network.
	Social Considerations	Support for using an equity lens and mapping analysis to review park access for underrepresented communities.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will identify neighbourhoods facing inequities or communities that have been historically underserved and underrepresented and coordinate across departments to address vulnerabilities and build upon neighbourhood capacity.

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	Park Programming	• Requests regarding park programming for specific age groups/activities. • Support for additional signage and wayfinding in parks. • Request for additional waste receptacles in parks. • Request to allow recreational wharves on waterbodies.	• Parks operations are managed by Parks & Recreation, and this feedback has been passed along for consideration.
	Halifax Commons	• Concern regarding buildings on and around the Halifax Commons. • Concern regarding expanding the use of the Halifax Commons for organized sports and programmed uses.	• Parks & Recreation staff are completing a draft of the Halifax Common Open Space Master Plan, which will be presented to Regional Council along with a staff report in the coming months. (https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/regional-plan/common-master-plan)

THEME 8: ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
	General	• Support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Halifax Green Network Plan. • Request to establish standard environmental terminology with clear definitions. • Request to consider using the Sustainable Development Code (sustainablecitycode.org) to favour environmentally responsible housing, business and infrastructure through zoning regulation and bylaws.	• As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: • Use the concepts of the Halifax Green Network Plan to assess and consider ecological connectivity and value when identifying lands for future serviced development. • Adopt Regional Plan policy requiring that the Green Network Ecology Map is used to help guide regional planning decisions. • Continue to apply the Open Space and Natural Resource designation to recognize the value of the Green Network and revise the designation's boundaries to reflect the core areas and corridors shown on the Green Network Ecology Map. • Review Regional Plan policy to ensure that secondary planning strategies and land use by-laws include appropriate development regulations in important ecological areas and corridors and directs development away from hazardous locations. • Provide guidance for environmental considerations during policy-enabled discretionary planning applications

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	Wildlife Corridors & Biodiversity	- Concerns about fragmentation of wildlife habitats and loss of connectivity, leading to loss of biodiversity. - Requests to consider and protect wildlife corridors (as identified by the Halifax Green Network Plan, the Wildlife Corridors Charrette Report and additional study) when planning for development. - Request to consider requiring bird-friendly design.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Develop a regional approach to the protection of natural corridors which: - Directs how natural corridors should be delineated at the regional and individual site level; - Prioritizes wildlife connections to the Chebucto Peninsula; - Includes clear policy direction for developing wildlife crossings through major infrastructure like highways and utility corridors and coordinating this work with the provincial government, utilities and other relevant stakeholders.
	Nature Based Solutions	Support for the use of nature-based solutions for stormwater management, watercourse protection, flood resilience, drought resilience, and coastal protection.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will review policies to support and where appropriate, require the use of naturalization and green infrastructure during development.
	Urban Forest	- Support for the continued implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan. - Concern regarding loss of trees. - Support for enhanced protection of trees on private property through the creation of a tree-retention by-law.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will review policies to continue to support the implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan. - Action 9 of the Halifax Green Network Plan calls for the Municipality to “Consider the adoption of a private trees by-law to manage the removal of trees on private property within serviced (urban) areas. Specific direction to consider includes: Focusing on large properties with

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		- Request for additional resources to support urban forestry. - Concerns regarding increasing invasive species. - Request to incorporate diverse native plantings on public lands. - Support for education programs for private landowners and nursery/landscaping service operators.	development potential while minimizing impacts on small properties; Prioritizing the protection of trees and vegetation within the watercourse buffer; Developing an educational campaign to promote tree stewardship on private property.” Regional Planning staff continue to work with Urban Forestry to address the December 11, 2018, Regional Council motion for a staff report regarding “potentially creating new development charges for and/or regulating trees to be cut down on land that is developed for residential, commercial, and institutional purposes. The report should assess the advantages and disadvantages and the authority Halifax has to bring in such fees and regulation, given the enormous quantitative and qualitative benefits of trees as outlined in the Urban Forest Master Plan.”
	Watercourses and Water Quality	- Requests to establish structured watershed plans with clear targets to guide and control development while maintaining water quality. - Support for establishing enhanced standard setbacks and buffer requirements around watercourses. - Request for enhanced water quality monitoring and management as a result of concerns related to algal blooms, reduced water levels and poor water quality.	- Action 6 of the Halifax Green Network Plan calls for HRM to “Amend Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-laws to consolidate, clarify and refine the Municipality’s variable approach to watercourse buffers.” This work will be undertaken as part of the Regional Plan Review and through the Plan & By-Law Simplification program for Suburban and Rural areas. - As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Review and revise existing regulations protecting wetland and riparian areas in HRM land use by-laws to ensure greater protection for these features and

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		Request for the adoption of standards and monitoring for phosphorus loading.	ensure standards regulations are adopted across the region. Adopt policy to direct future study and implementation of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program, including Lake Water Management Plans for urban lakes that establish phosphorus loading limits and mitigation measures and water quality monitoring protocols.
	Stormwater	- Request to establish a stormwater management plan to mitigate climate change and protect water quality and encourage naturalization efforts on private property. - Request to establish standards for salt run off and siltation to protect groundwater.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will update existing policy to reflect the Municipality's recent work to improve stormwater management practices. This includes the work to develop revised Joint Stormwater Standards and the revised Municipal Design Guidelines (Red Book).
	Wetlands	- Support for the development of a Municipal Wetlands Policy to protect their important ecological functions related to biodiversity and climate change. - Request to establish a standard wetland setback consistent with other types of watercourses. - Concern that when wetland alteration permits are approved by the Province, compensation often happens outside of HRM.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will review and revise existing regulations protecting wetland and riparian areas in HRM land use by-laws to ensure greater protection for these features and ensure standards regulations are adopted across the region. - Regional Planning staff will discuss the wetland alteration process with the Province, to determine if there are opportunities to improve outcomes for wetlands in HRM.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
	Coastal Protection	• Support for enhanced coastal protection and preparation for the impacts of sea level rise. This includes establishing regulations for development in coastal areas (horizontal and vertical setbacks), identifying risks to development and encouraging nature-based solutions (rather than engineering approaches). • Requests to protect traditional marine industries and anticipated new industries. • Requests to prevent infilling on the North West Arm and other areas. • Support for maintaining and enhancing public access to coastal areas and acquisition of coastal lands.	• As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: • Continue to work with the Province to develop and adopt revised policies and regulations consistent with the Coastal Protection Act and tailored to the HRM context. • Complete a spatially-based risk and vulnerability analysis of HRM's coastal waterfront and shoreline area and adopt policy to direct development of a coastal-specific adaptation strategy. • Existing marine industrial zoning and restrictions on development on North West Arm properties will be maintained. • Regional Planning staff will study coastal access issues to determine if HRM has the legislative ability to improve public access.

THEME 9: LEADING THROUGH ACTION ON CLIMATE

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	General	• Support for implementation of HalifACT • Support for acting on climate change and enhanced climate adaptation planning and strengthening language to reflect the urgent nature of the climate emergency. • Support for looking at the health, economic and social issues that contribute to climate change.	• HalifACT is the Municipality's climate action plan. Staff with the Environment & Climate Change group (part of Planning & Development) are leading the implementation of this plan. • As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will update the Environment, Energy and Climate Change chapter of the Regional Plan to require consideration of climate impacts across issue areas.
	Net-Zero Targets / Mitigation	• Request to set net-zero emissions target to be 2030, rather than 2050. • Request to prioritize deep energy retrofits. • Support for encouraging the renovation of buildings rather than demolition, to account for embodied energy/embodied carbon. • Support for the adoption of a whole life-cycle carbon assessment. • Support for encouraging LEED certification and green infrastructure for new buildings.	• As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: • Update the Environment, Energy and Climate Change chapter of the Regional Plan to reflect HalifACT's net-zero emissions targets and require consideration of climate impacts across issue areas. • Consider adopting policy to encourage net-zero and climate resilient new construction when considering discretionary planning applications. • Adopt policy to direct consideration of alternative energy systems, such as district energy and microgrids, as part of secondary planning and master neighbourhood planning projects. • Review and revise policy and land use by-laws to remove barriers to solar installations, energy storage systems, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
	Adaptation / Resiliency	- Request to consider requiring net-zero and climate resilient construction for development subject to discretionary planning approval. - Support for establishing community-based programs to support climate change initiatives. - Noted the importance of assessing key infrastructure to ensure it can withstand extreme weather events related to climate change. Themes & Directions survey participants most commonly identified temporary loss of electricity during storm events and extreme weather events as their main concerns resulting from climate change. - Request for the Urban Forest Master Plan to help deliver climate change mitigation goals such as carbon sequestration (forests and wetlands), protection of urban canopy, flooding and erosion, stabilizing banks and shorelines	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Consider adopting policy to encourage net-zero and climate resilient new construction when considering discretionary planning applications. - Identify current and future climate change hazards and critical infrastructure at risk to extreme climate events. - Review policies to continue to support the implementation of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

THEME 10: IMAGINING HRM INTO 2050 AND BEYOND

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Survey	General	In the Themes & Directions Survey, participants ranked housing affordability and protecting natural places and wildlife as the two biggest priorities for planning for the next 30 years. Preserving air quality and water quality were also identified as important. Other priorities included climate change and natural hazards, green building construction, food security and agricultural productivity, aging population and a green energy transition.	As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will design a framework for how to engage communities on what they think should be studied and considered when planning for the future of HRM. This engagement will inform what to research over the next number of years to position us for the 2026-2030 Regional Plan Review.

THEME 11: THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

SOURCE	SUB-THEME	COMMENTS	STAFF RESPONSE
Correspondence, Survey, Stakeholder Meetings, Councillor Meetings, Committee Meetings	Outdoor Amenities	- Noted that the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of outdoor amenity space and easy access to nature. - Requests for additional stewardship for wilderness parks that are being strained and degraded by increased human activity in wilderness parks as a result of the pandemic.	- As outlined in the Themes & Directions Report, the Regional Plan Review will: - Continue to monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on social, economic, environmental and population growth indicators, and adopt a framework for tracking these trends to guide future regional planning. - Identify communities with inequitable access to the social determinants of health necessary to weather a pandemic, such as housing, food security, access to green/amenity space, and transportation options, and focus on prioritizing the servicing of these communities.
	Housing	Concern about the impact of the pandemic on immigration and how this is being considered in population and housing analysis.	
	Economic	Support for ongoing economic relief/universal income as part of recovery.	

B: EMAIL/TELEPHONE COMMENTING

PHASES ONE, TWO, THREE, **FOUR, FIVE**

C: STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

PHASE ONE, TWO, THREE, **FOUR, FIVE**

8. The title for D. Committee Review is amended by deleting the text in ~~strikeout~~ and adding the text shown in **bold**:

D: COMMITTEE REVIEW

PHASE ~~TWO, THREE~~ **ONE, FOUR**

WHAT	~~Present the Regional Plan Review Themes & Directions to the relevant advisory boards and committees of Regional Council to inform of the scope of the project and gather feedback.~~
WHO	~~Relevant advisory boards and committees of Regional Council~~
WHEN	~~Phase 2 (Themes & Directions Report) and Phase 3 (Draft Amendments)~~ Phase 1 (Themes & Directions Report) Phase 4 (Draft Regional Plan)
WHERE	N/A
WHY	- To increase awareness of the Regional Plan Review and the role of the Regional Plan - To gather feedback from relevant board and committee members (based on their terms of reference)
HOW	Meeting protocols established by the various boards and committees.
MATERIALS NEEDED	- Engagement materials - Project documents - PowerPoint presentations

9. Table 5 Engagement Tactics and Materials Matrix is deleted and replaced with the following table:

Engagement Materials	1-A	1-B	1-C	1-D
	Online Engagement	Email/Telephone Commenting	Stakeholder Meetings	Committee Review
1. PDF Themes & Directions	●		●	●
2. Site-Specific Amendments	●	●		

3. PDF Regional Plan Draft	●	●	●	
4. Online Surveys/Polls	●			
5. Online Q&A Forum	●			
6. Online Idea Boards	●			
7. Online Comment Forum	●			
8. Maps	●		●	●
9. Calendar of Events	●		●	●
10. PowerPoint Presentations			●	●
11. Website Updates	●	●		
12. Social Media Postings	●	●		
13. Online/Newspaper/Radio Advertising	●	●		
14. Contact Email/Telephone Number	●	●	●	●
15. Video/Phone Conferencing		●	●	●