



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Barbara Koopmans, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: February 8, 2021

Report No: DS-005-21

Subject: We Make Milton Visioning Report

**Recommendation: THAT Council receive Report No. DS-005-21 for information;
AND THAT the proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles be endorsed by Council and that they be used to guide subsequent phases of We Make Milton.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We Make Milton is the Town's new Official Plan project, which was launched through report PD-030-19. Work to-date has focused on determining whether the existing Official Plan Vision Statement and goals still reflect the ideas of the community. To this end, significant engagement has been undertaken over the past year and a half.

The purpose of this report is to present the We Make Milton Visioning Report, which is a major project milestone culminating Stage Two of the Official Plan work program. A new planning Vision and Guiding Principles are proposed in the Visioning Report, and a summary of community feedback is summarized, as a result of extensive consultation efforts.

Engagement is an important part of We Make Milton. Next steps in the work program are outlined in this report, and additional opportunities for community input are identified.

REPORT

Background

Work Program

We Make Milton is a multi-year initiative that was launched in July 2019 and includes five project stages, as outlined below. This report marks the end of Stage Two (Visioning) of the work program, and following Council's endorsement of the new Official Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, Town staff will initiate Stage Three (Big Questions).



Background

Table 1: We Make Milton Work Program and Status

Stage	Name	Purpose	Status
1	Listening and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to ideas about planning issues, opportunities and challenges in Milton.• Spread the word about the project and generate awareness.	Completed Fall 2019
2	Visioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a new land use planning vision and Guiding Principles for future planning and development.• Document background information and issues relative to key planning themes.	Near Completion
3	Big Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and answer big questions about how to manage change to the year 2051.• Develop recommended policy directions based on community input.	To be Initiated Q1 2021
4	Drafting and Discussing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare first draft of the new Milton Official Plan.• Undertake preliminary consultation on the first draft.	Will Follow Stage 3
5	New Official Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise and refine first draft based on input and collect input on second draft.• Council adoption and Regional approval of new Milton Official Plan.	Will Follow Stage 4

Key Tasks Completed To-date

One of the initial steps of the new Official Plan project has been to determine if the existing planning vision, as established in Milton's current Official Plan, still reflects the ideas of the community. As such, early stages of our new Official Plan project have focused on:

- Listening and learning about the community's ideas on planning issues, opportunities, and challenges (Stage One); and



Background

- Undertaking a community visioning exercise and creating a new Vision Statement for land use planning (Stage Two).

A number of key tasks that were completed as part of Stages One and Two are summarized in the following table:

Table 2: Key Tasks Completed To-date

Key Tasks – Listening and Learning	Key Tasks – Visioning
1-A. Project Launch	2-A. We Make Milton Visioning Night
1-B. Meet the Miltons Communication Launch	2-B. Analysis of Listening and Learning Input
1-C. Online Engagement	2-C. Analysis of Visioning Night Input
1-D. Crowdsourcing	2-D. Preparation of Draft Visioning Report
1-E. Staff Engagement	2-E. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2
1-F. We Make Milton Presentations	2-F. Revisions to Visioning Report
1-G. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1	2-G. Online Engagement
1-H. Community Pop-up Events	2-H. Public Open House
1-I. Special Meeting of Council	2-I. Stakeholder and Community Interviews
	2-J. Final We Make Milton Visioning Report

A description of tasks 1-A. to 2-C. is provided in the We Make Milton Visioning Report, and a description of tasks 2-D. to 2-J. is provided below.

Overview of the Visioning Report

The We Make Milton Visioning Report (task 2-D.) was prepared to document our engagement and visioning process so far. It provides information about:

- What an Official Plan is and why We Make Milton was initiated;
- Our approach to engagement and the key tasks completed;
- A summary of what we heard from the community;
- The current planning vision in the existing Official Plan;
- Why we need a new planning vision;
- Our visioning methodology and analysis of input;
- A summary of key findings;
- The proposed Vision and Guiding Principles to the year 2051;
- How the Vision and Guiding Principles will be used; and
- Next steps in the process.

Background

The final We Make Milton Visioning Report is provided as **Attachment A** to this report.

Engagement on the Visioning Report

Prior to finalizing the We Make Milton Visioning Report, a number of engagement activities were completed (tasks 2-E. to 2-I.) during the fall of 2020 to obtain feedback from Town staff, members of the public, stakeholders, community leaders, and local organizations, agencies, and advisory committees/task forces. The following is a description of who we consulted and how we obtained feedback:

A) Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2 (July 7, 2020)

- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been assembled to obtain technical advice and knowledge throughout We Make Milton, and to assist with identifying and resolving planning issues.
- The TAC consists of Milton staff, Region of Halton staff, conservation authorities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, school boards and other relevant agencies.
- Our second We Make Milton TAC Meeting was held in early July to present the proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles and to discuss the contents of the Visioning Report.
- A more detailed summary of notes from the TAC meeting is available by request.
- Some revisions to the Visioning Report, Vision Statement, and Guiding Principles were made as a result of the input from the TAC, prior to further consultation.

B) Online Engagement (September 9, 2020)

- Let's Talk Milton has served as the main platform for public engagement and input into the Official Plan project since its launch.
- The Visioning Report was shared on Let's Talk Milton in September of 2020 and members of the public were invited to have their say about the proposed planning Vision and Guiding Principles, by explaining "what the proposed vision means to you" with an open-ended 'stories tool'.
- A record of 'stories' that were posted to Let's Talk Milton by the community is available by visiting Let's Talk Milton ([click here for the link](#)).
- The Town of Milton's social media platforms were also used to share the proposed Vision Statement. A campaign showcasing the Milton characters provided real life examples of what the proposed Vision could mean in terms of living, moving, working and growing in Milton, specifically from a land use perspective.

C) Virtual Public Open House (September 30, 2020):

- A virtual public open house was held on September 30 at 6:30 p.m. The open house was advertised widely and livestreamed on the Town's YouTube channel.



Background

- The purpose of the open house was to provide an update on We Make Milton and present the proposed Vision and Guiding Principles.
- Approximately 45 people attended the virtual open house and participants were able to ask questions at any time using the live chat tool.
- A transcript of questions and comments from the participants of the Open House is available by request.
- A recording of the Open House is available and the link can be found on Let's Talk Milton. Since the event, the recording has been viewed 230 times.

D) Stakeholder and Community Leader Interviews (October to December 2020):

- A Stakeholder Committee (SC) has been assembled to assist with We Make Milton. Members of the SC were identified based on: recommendations from the TAC and other Town/Regional staff; contacts from existing projects/relationships; participation at previous consultation events; and letters/emails received during Stages One and Two.
- In addition to the SC, a Community Leadership Committee (CLC) has been created through an open call for community leaders and organizations with an interest in contributing to the new Official Plan project. More than 20 people/groups responded to the call in mid-2020 and have formed the CLC.
- More than thirty-five one-on-one interviews were held with the SC and CLC between September and December 2020.
- The purpose of each interview was to provide introductions and to allow participants to share some of the concerns and ideas they have about Milton today, and in 2051.
- Participants were also asked to consider the following questions about the We Make Milton Visioning Paper:
 1. What do you think about the 3 key findings identified in the Visioning Report (1. importance of themes, 2. top priorities, 3. choice matters)?
 2. Did anything else stand out to you in terms of what we heard from the community?
 3. What does the proposed planning Vision 'Choice Shapes Us' mean to you?
 4. Do you have any feedback on the 12 proposed Guiding Principles?
 5. Do you have any suggestions as to how the Vision and Guiding Principles could be translated into land use policies in the new Official Plan?
 6. Do you have any additional comments?
- A detailed summary of feedback from the SC and CLC interviews is available by request.

E) Submissions (October to December 2020):

- In some cases, those who participated in the SC and CLC interviews also followed-up with a submission.



Background

- A package of submissions received is available by request.

This package also includes notes recorded during the Milton Youth Task Force meeting held on October 4, 2020

Discussion

What We Heard

All of the feedback received to-date has been reviewed extensively. The following summary has been prepared to share what we heard.

A) Common Feedback on the Visioning Report

Several key messages/questions were expressed more than once by different participants in response to the Visioning Report. The following points summarize the most common feedback we heard (in no particular order):

- The Visioning Report is good.
- The proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles are appropriate and forward-thinking.
- The proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles reflect the diversity and reality of Milton today, as well as what was heard through the process so far.
- There is a need to be clear and careful with the word 'choice'. Are we using the word as a noun or as a verb? Who is making the choices?
- Some Milton residents are resistant to change and may not want more choice.
- Some segments of the community inherently have less choice because of special needs or socio-economic gaps.
- How can we balance the trade-offs that will need to be made when making choices?
- A recognition of climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation is missing from the Visioning Report.
- How do the themes, Vision and Guiding Principles apply specifically to rural Milton?
- I don't necessarily relate to a Milton character.

B) Planning Issues For Further Exploration and Discussion in Stage Three

A number of more general questions, concerns, and comments were also raised frequently by the participants about certain planning issues that could potentially be addressed in the new Official Plan. These planning issues are listed below (in alphabetical order) and will be explored in Stage Three (Big Questions) as part of another community discussion.

Discussion

1. Acknowledging the uniqueness of rural Milton and aligning urban and rural planning approaches.
2. Considering short and long-term impacts of Covid-19.
3. Continuing to collaborate and establish partnerships.
4. Creating local jobs (all types and sectors) and education/training opportunities.
5. Creating more compact urban form and complete communities.
6. Providing sustainability/green development standards/checklists.
7. Expanding uses in rural and agricultural areas while protecting livability.
8. Identifying appropriate locations for high-density residential uses.
9. Improving connections within and to the rural area (by way of Milton Transit, GO, safe roads, broadband and municipal communications).
10. Enhancing the vibrancy, design, aesthetics, and “cool factor” of Milton.
11. Improving transit and mobility within Milton and to/from surrounding places.
12. Establishing policies that encourage flexibility and creativity, yet provide certainty for new development.
13. Supporting the flexible use of indoor and outdoor community spaces for a range of uses (particularly in winter).
14. Increasing public gathering spaces and public art.
15. Increasing sports, recreational facilities, and different types of parks (with a particular focus on youth).
16. Planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
17. Protecting our resources (aggregate, agriculture, escarpment, natural heritage).
18. Protecting and promoting what’s special, unique and magical about Milton and our history.
19. Providing grants and incentives and using other innovative planning tools.
20. Providing more affordable rental housing and a broader range of housing types/forms (in both the urban and rural areas).
21. Recognizing diversity and being more inclusive and accessible to all.
22. Supporting the revitalization and prosperity of downtown, our villages, and other commercial areas.

How the Feedback Was Addressed

Following our consultation efforts, some changes were made to the Visioning Report. The points below provide a summary of edits made to address feedback from the community:

1. In regard to the description of the four organizing themes of We Make Milton on page 7 (living, moving, working, growing), language was added to recognize that there is crossover. In other words, there are some topics that need to be explored across all four themes. For example: climate change, urban design, and

Discussion

accessibility. The crossover topics will be explored in the next set of discussion papers.

2. The description of our four We Make Milton organizing themes was updated on page 28 to further recognize some of the planning topics/issues that were identified by the community during consultation, such as: opportunities for social interaction; macro-level living topics such as quality of life and connection; climate change mitigation and adaptation; complete communities; and educational opportunities.
3. Changes were made to the descriptions of some of the proposed Guiding Principles to incorporate specific edits suggested by the community and to address or recognize the following ideas/concerns:
 - a) The need to integrate certain uses into the existing/future fabric of Milton (i.e., public spaces, trails, transportation options).
 - b) That arts, culture, and economic development go hand and hand in Milton because many local artists are also entrepreneurs.
 - c) The need for and importance of planning for climate change and sustainable development.
 - d) That there are planning issues that are specific to rural Milton, such as protecting and enhancing livability, managing the urban/rural interface, expanding permitted uses, and revitalizing our villages.

Proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

A) Proposed Vision Statement

A new Vision Statement for Milton's Official Plan has been prepared and is presented in the We Make Milton Visioning Report. It has been crafted to reflect the things that we heard are important to our community. It builds on Milton's attributes and the community's priorities and is intended to be realistic, yet aspirational.

The proposed Vision Statement is:

Milton 2051: Choice Shapes Us

In 2051, Milton offers a diversity of options for how and where we live, work, move and grow. As we evolve, choice is what shapes us.



Discussion

The proposed Vision Statement articulates that the need for choice will inform how Milton physically changes in terms of land uses and built form and will guide how the Town makes decisions about future development. Milton is a diverse community and so the choices it offers will be diverse, too. Sometimes choices will coincide and sometimes they will differ. Making choices will involve compromise and trade-offs as Milton evolves and grows.

The proposed Vision Statement is explained in more detail in terms of 'what it does mean' versus 'what it does not mean', on pages 34-36 of the final We Make Milton Visioning Report in Attachment A.

B) Proposed Guiding Principles

Milton's new Official Plan Vision Statement will be supported by a set of Guiding Principles that identify more specific directions for protecting/enhancing the community's core values and priorities.

The proposed Guiding Principles for the new Official Plan are:

- 1. Be Creative and Provide Choice.**
- 2. Mix Uses.**
- 3. Move Efficiently and Safely.**
- 4. Diversify and Prosper.**
- 5. Prioritize the Public Realm.**
- 6. Support Arts, Culture, and Recreation.**
- 7. Make Connections**
- 8. Protect our Environment.**
- 9. Support the Rural Area.**
- 10. Encourage Good, Green Design.**
- 11. Collaborate.**
- 12. Think Local.**

A more fulsome description of what we mean by each of the proposed Guiding Principles is provided on pages 37-39 of the final We Make Milton Visioning Report in Attachment A.

How They'll Be Used

The proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles will serve two key purposes over the remainder of We Make Milton. They will:

1. Provide the basis for policy development: In Stage Three, the additional discussion papers will be prepared, and will identify key planning issues and various policy

Discussion

options to address them. The Vision and Guiding Principles will be used to evaluate various policy options and identify recommended policy directions. The recommended policy directions will guide the creation of new planning policies.

2. Be included in the new Official Plan: In Stage Four, a new Official Plan will be drafted and, as the underpinning to all policy direction, the Vision and Guiding Principles will be presented upfront in the document. More specific goals and objectives will be prepared that further support the overall Vision Statement. While these components (vision, principles, goals and objectives) won't be interpreted as planning policy, they will help ensure that all of the Official Plan policies work together with consistency and purpose.

Next Steps for We Make Milton

Once the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles are finalized and endorsed by Council, Stage Three of We Make Milton will be initiated, which will involve the preparation of more detailed policy discussion papers and the identification of:

1. Key planning issues.
2. Policy options to address the issues.
3. Recommended policy directions for a new Official Plan.

As noted earlier, the key planning issues identified during consultation on the Visioning Report (see pages 6-7 of this report to Council) will be explored in Stage Three (Big Questions) as part of the focus of another community discussion.

Finally, indigenous engagement is an important and necessary part of We Make Milton. At the present time, a strategy for indigenous engagement is being developed for Milton by Town staff based on advice from the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. Following the completion of this strategy, the We Make Milton project team will advance our indigenous engagement efforts.

Financial Impact

None arising from this Report

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Koopmans, MPA, MCIP, RPP, CMO
Commissioner, Development Services



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report #:
DS-005-21
Page 11 of 11

For questions, please contact: Nancy Reid, Senior Policy Planner Phone: Ext. 2332

Attachments
Attachment A – Final We Make Milton Visioning Report

CAO Approval
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer



WE MAKE MILTON

Visioning Report



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
What is an Official Plan?.....	5
Purpose of this Report	7
Engagement Approach	8
What We Did	9
Participation Summary.....	13
What We Heard	14
Current Planning Vision	19
Why Do We Need a New Vision?.....	21
Summary of Visioning Input.....	24
How We Analyzed Input.....	26
Key Findings.....	27
Proposed Vision and Guiding Principles.....	34
How Will the Vision and Guiding Principles be Used?	40
Next Steps for We Make Milton	41

Introduction

What is We Make Milton?

Over the past 20 years, Milton's Official Plan has served the community well by:

- Providing direction for significant urban expansion.
- Managing rapid growth as a result of the 'Big Pipe'.
- Welcoming a young, educated and diverse population.
- Facilitating active and healthy lifestyles.
- Protecting what is valued and fostering civic pride.

In recent years, our current Official Plan has become less effective in managing change, and is now out-of-date in relation to provincial and regional planning policies and requirements.

Milton created the We Make Milton initiative - a New Official Plan project involving the creation of contemporary, strategic, and forward-looking land use planning policies for Milton. By naming the project We Make Milton, we acknowledge that Milton's new land use planning framework must be crafted locally - with profound input from Milton's residents, stakeholders and supporters. The new Official Plan project is intended to be an innovative, engaging and inclusive undertaking through which all residents can find meaningful, equitable and relevant opportunities to contribute.

We are diverse. We are young.
We are educated. We are innovative.
Together, **We Make Milton.**



We Make Milton is a multi-year initiative that began in June 2019 and it includes five stages, as described in the image and table below. Each stage will involve opportunities for the public to provide input to ensure that our new Official Plan reflects the needs of the community. The new Official Plan will also be informed by and created in alignment with the ongoing Region of Halton Official Plan Review (ROPR).

We Make Milton Project Stages



Stage	Purpose
1. Listening and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to ideas about planning issues, opportunities and challenges in Milton. Spread the word about the project and generate awareness.
2. Visioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new land use planning vision and guiding principles for future planning and development. Document background information and issues relative to key planning themes.
3. Big Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and answer big questions about how to manage change to the year 2051. Develop recommended policy directions based on community input.
4. Drafting and Discussing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare first draft of the new Milton Official Plan. Undertake preliminary consultation on the first draft.
5. New Official Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine first draft based on input and collect input on second draft. Council adoption and Regional approval of new Milton Official Plan.



Community members listening and learning during the engagement workshop at Visioning Night on November 20, 2019.

What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan is a legislated and overarching planning document that establishes how land is to be used in a municipality. It's a visionary document that sets out how Milton will change over a thirty-year planning horizon.

An Official Plan contains goals, objectives, policies and maps that address:

- Growth management.
- Land use designations and permitted uses.
- Built form, height and density requirements.
- Infrastructure and roads.
- Parks and community facilities/services.
- Mobility and transit delivery methods.
- Urban design and public spaces.
- Protecting Milton's resources.

An Official plan is a policy document, prepared under the *Planning Act*, that is adopted by Milton Council. It must conform to applicable provincial policy and the Region of Halton Official Plan. Once adopted, an Official Plan becomes legally binding. This means that Town staff must implement it, all public works must conform to it and it cannot be changed without a formal public process.

Milton's new Official Plan will be used by Council and staff to evaluate development proposals and guide decisions about infrastructure, such as transit and roads.



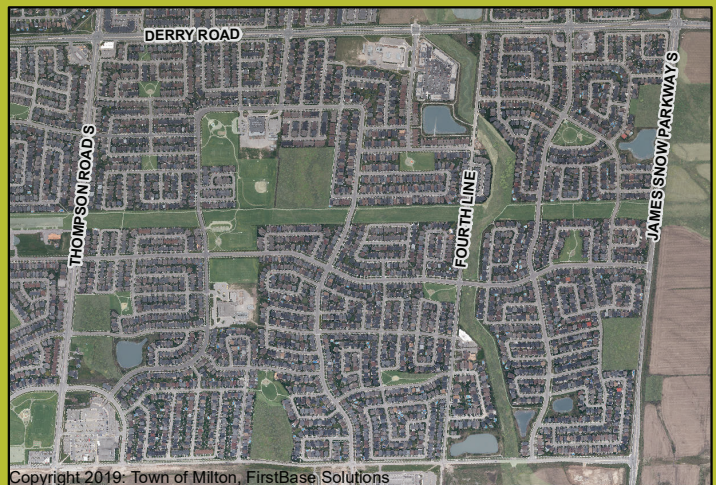
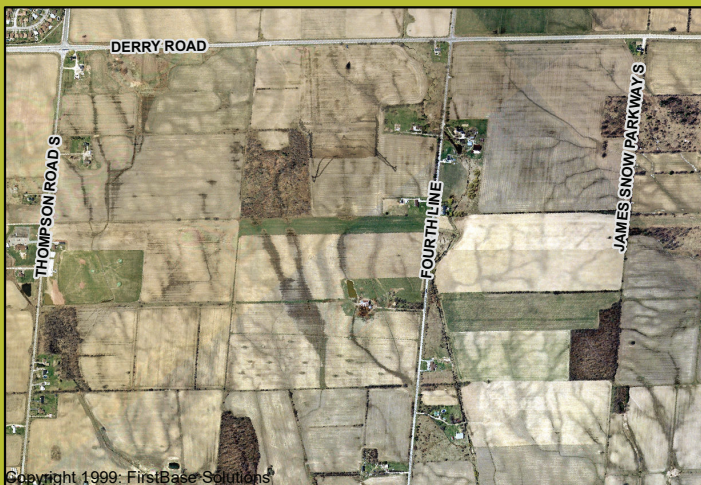
Why a New Official Plan?

The *Planning Act* requires all municipalities to prepare a new Official Plan every ten years, or to revise an existing Official Plan every five years after it comes into effect. We Make Milton has been initiated to meet this *Planning Act* requirement.



A lot has changed since our existing Official Plan was prepared in 1997. For example:

- New 2020 Provincial Policy Statement has been introduced.
- New/updated Provincial Plans are in place (A Place to Grow: 2019 Growth Plan and the 2017 Niagara Escarpment and Greenbelt Plans).
- Halton Region's Official Plan was updated in 2008, and is now being updated again.
- Other municipal plans, strategies and reports have been developed for Milton.
- Major Secondary Plans have been adopted to accommodate new growth.
- Other amendments have been approved to address current planning issues/trends.



Milton is changing. The photo on the left is the Derry and Thompson Road area in the year 1999, and the photo on the right is the same area in 2019.

Our existing Official Plan is out-of-date and has undergone numerous changes over several decades. This has resulted in policies that are fragmented and not always easy for Milton staff, local residents or stakeholders/potential investors to understand or implement.

Milton now requires a strategic and forward-looking policy document that is:

- Based on a modern community vision for the future.
- In conformity with policies of other levels of government.
- Current, contemporary and easy to read and understand.
- Focused on 21st century opportunities and challenges.

Purpose of this Report

This is the first in a series of We Make Milton reports that are intended to:

1. Investigate key planning issues and themes.
2. Share local research findings and best practices from around the world.
3. Summarize what we've heard from the community so far.
4. Generate and inform a community discussion about the future.

Each report is centered around one of the following five themes that have been identified to help organize ideas about We Make Milton.

We Make Milton Organizing Themes and Topics

Visioning Milton



Moving in Milton



Growing in Milton



Living in Milton



Working in Milton

Within the themes of living, moving, working and growing, it is recognized that there is crossover. In other words, there are some topics that need to be explored across these four themes. For example, climate change, urban design and accessibility. This will be explored in the next set of discussion papers.

One of the initial steps in the Official Plan review is to determine if the existing planning vision (and subsequent goals and objectives), as established in Milton's current Official Plan, still reflect the ideas of the community. As such, early stages of our new Official Plan project have focused on:

- **Listening and learning** about the community's ideas on planning issues, opportunities, and challenges (Stage 1).
- Undertaking a community **visioning** exercise and creating a new vision statement for land use planning (Stage 2).

All of the input gathered has been considered and analyzed in order to inform the development of a new planning vision for Milton, as well as a set of guiding principles; both of which will be used in future project stages to guide the creation of detailed planning policies. This Visioning Report documents the We Make Milton engagement and visioning process, provides a summary of information collected, shares our analysis of input and presents a new draft vision statement and guiding principles to the year 2051 for consideration and feedback from the community.

Engagement Approach

We Make Milton is an important opportunity to:

- Initiate visionary thinking about Milton to the year 2051.
- Create a new community planning vision.
- Establish new guiding principles for growth and development.
- Support the vision and principles through updated planning goals and policies.

In order to make the most out of this opportunity, a broad discussion about the future of Milton is required. At the beginning of the project, it was decided that consultation and engagement for We Make Milton would be unique, innovative and extensive.

We Make Milton is like no other engagement program that has been undertaken in Milton to date. It will result in a renewed vision for the future, which has support and buy-in from the public, stakeholders and departments across the Town of Milton.

Through We Make Milton, the Town has approached the community in a conversation to explore what is desired to the year 2051. The following is an overview of what we did and what we heard as part of this community conversation.

**Engagement, Engagement, Engagement:
Consultation for We Make Milton will be
Unique, Innovative and Extensive.**



What We Did

Project Launch: June 24, 2019

On June 24, 2019, Milton Council endorsed the work plan for We Make Milton, as outlined in [Report PD-030-19 \(Click to view\)](#).

Meet the Miltons Communication Launch: June 25, 2019

An innovative and unique engagement strategy that focuses on fictional characters (the Milton family and their friends) was introduced to the community, online and in physical locations, to generate awareness, excitement and interest in the project.

Have you met the Miltons? These characters are intended to communicate to the public that everyone has something important to contribute to We Make Milton. [Watch the video!](#)

Have you met the Miltons?

They are proud and active members of our community that live around Milton and have different local interests. They are getting involved in the new Official Plan project.



Online Engagement: July 2, 2019

Let's Talk Milton has served as the main platform for public engagement and input into the Official Plan project since its launch. A number of surveys, quick polls and open-ended questions were posted over the summer and fall of 2019 to gather input on a series of broad and forward-thinking topics. Visit LetsTalkMilton.ca/WeMakeMilton for more information.



The Town of Milton's social media platforms were also used to announce the launch and progression of the project and to provide engagement opportunities, allowing users to post their thoughts and ideas.

Crowdsourcing: July 2, 2019

A crowdsourcing application was developed by the We Make Milton project team that allowed members of the public to leave input on an interactive map of Milton. Comments were shared and targeted geographically on the mapping tool based on the following questions:

- Where and how can we do better by making improvements?
- What do you love about Milton today?
- What is your wish for Milton in the future?



Love this here:

I really value the MEV Innovation Centre. I like to work there at least once a week and I have met clients there on multiple occasions. I think this kind of collaboration and partnership will support start-ups and entrepreneurs! Thumbs up!



I wish this was here:

My husband and I love the extra income from our new bed and breakfast! We are interested in adding more things on our farm that will attract tourists and visitors. We want to share this beautiful property we have.



We could do better here:

Here is a big discussion that needs to happen with respect to what kind of high-rise buildings we want to see in Milton! I'd love to be part of this conversation. Also, anything we can do to conserve our heritage resources is a big WIN!! Flooding is a concern for me and my neighbours..... especially in recent years.

Staff Engagement: July 25 and July 30, 2019

Town staff were invited to participate in two different engagement events, to learn about the importance of the project and discuss issues and concerns with the existing Milton Official Plan.

We Make Milton Presentations: September 4 and October 3, 2019

Introductory project presentations were delivered to the Milton Chamber of Commerce and Mayor's Roundtable Breakfast. The purpose was to provide an overview of the new Official Plan process, to introduce the Milton characters and to gather preliminary input from stakeholders on key issues to be addressed.



Town staff at the We Make Milton engagement event at the Milton Operations Centre.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1: October 17, 2019

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been assembled to obtain technical advice and knowledge throughout the process, and to assist with identifying and resolving planning issues. The TAC consists of Milton staff, Region of Halton staff, conservation authorities, school boards and other relevant agencies.

The first We Make Milton TAC meeting was held to discuss what's working and what's not working with the current Official Plan, and to undertake a visioning process, as discussed later in this report.



We Make Milton TAC members participating in live polling on October 17, 2019.

Community Pop-up Events: October 31 to November 5, 2019

The We Make Milton project team visited the following locations to share information about the new Official Plan project, promote upcoming engagement events and collect input on local concerns and planning issues:

- Springridge Farm (October 31, 2019)
- Sherwood Community Centre (November 2, 2019)
- Milton Innovation Centre (November 5, 2019)

Special Meeting of Council (November 18, 2019)

As required by the *Planning Act*, Milton held a Special Meeting of Council, open to the public, to discuss We Make Milton and to provide an opportunity for all community members to offer comments regarding any issue or matter that should be considered during the preparation of a new Official Plan. ***Council Report PD-043-19*** was delivered to share a summary of issues identified during public engagement.

We Make Milton Visioning Night (November 20, 2019)

Residents, businesses and stakeholders were invited to We Make Milton Visioning Night - a dynamic event designed to open conversation and inspire visionary thinking about Milton's future. A detailed discussion of our methodology and the input received at Visioning Night is provided later in this report. We encourage watching the Visioning Night keynote presentation by Charles Montgomery at LetsTalkMilton.ca/WeMakeMilton.



Milton friends and family at We Make Milton Visioning Night.



Award-winning author and urbanist Charles Montgomery presenting an inspiring keynote to community members at We Make Milton Visioning Night.

Participation Summary

Public participation and stakeholder engagement in the new Official Plan project have been successful. The following is a summary of activity generated by what we've done so far:

- Our Meet the Miltons video has received more than 20,000 views across several different platforms.
- The Let's Talk Milton project web page has had over 3,200 visitors and over 400 engaged participants have shared their thoughts and concerns.
- 100+ comments have been collected through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- Almost 300 crowdsourcing comments have been received.
- 28 participants from Milton and other agencies attended the first TAC Meeting.
- More than 200 Town staff participated in project-launch activities.
- We heard directly from over 50 stakeholders, including local businesses, landowners, the development community and other local agencies/community members.
- The project team conversed with 200+ community members at pop-up events.
- About 150 community members attended Visioning Night.
- More than 250 people have viewed the presentation by our Visioning Night Guest Speaker (Charles Montgomery, award-winning urbanist and author of Happy City).

Official Plan Project Engagement



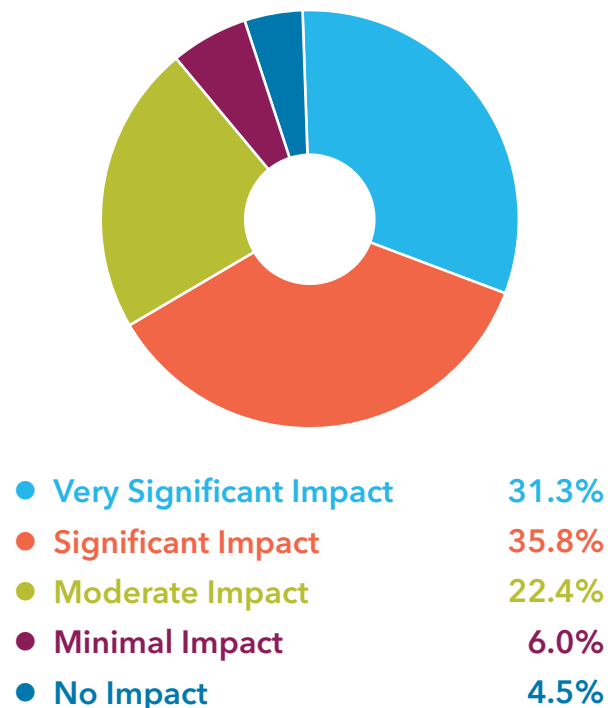
What We Heard

Since the launch of We Make Milton, we've been Listening and Learning – listening to the thoughts and concerns of the public, community stakeholders and local/regional/provincial staff and agencies, and learning about our collective values for the future. Well over 1,000 contributions from the community have been received in the form of written/verbal comments, emails, surveys, quick polls, social media comments and crowdsourcing map input. Some highlights of What We've Heard are summarized below, and a full summary is provided in [Report PD-043-19](#).

Let's Talk About Official Plans

We are encouraged to learn that Miltonians understand the important role an Official Plan plays in the community. In fact, more than 67 percent of respondents indicated that they thought an Official Plan document has either a "very significant" or a "significant" impact on day-to-day life in Milton.

How Much Does the Milton Official Plan Impact Miltonians' Day-to-Day Life?



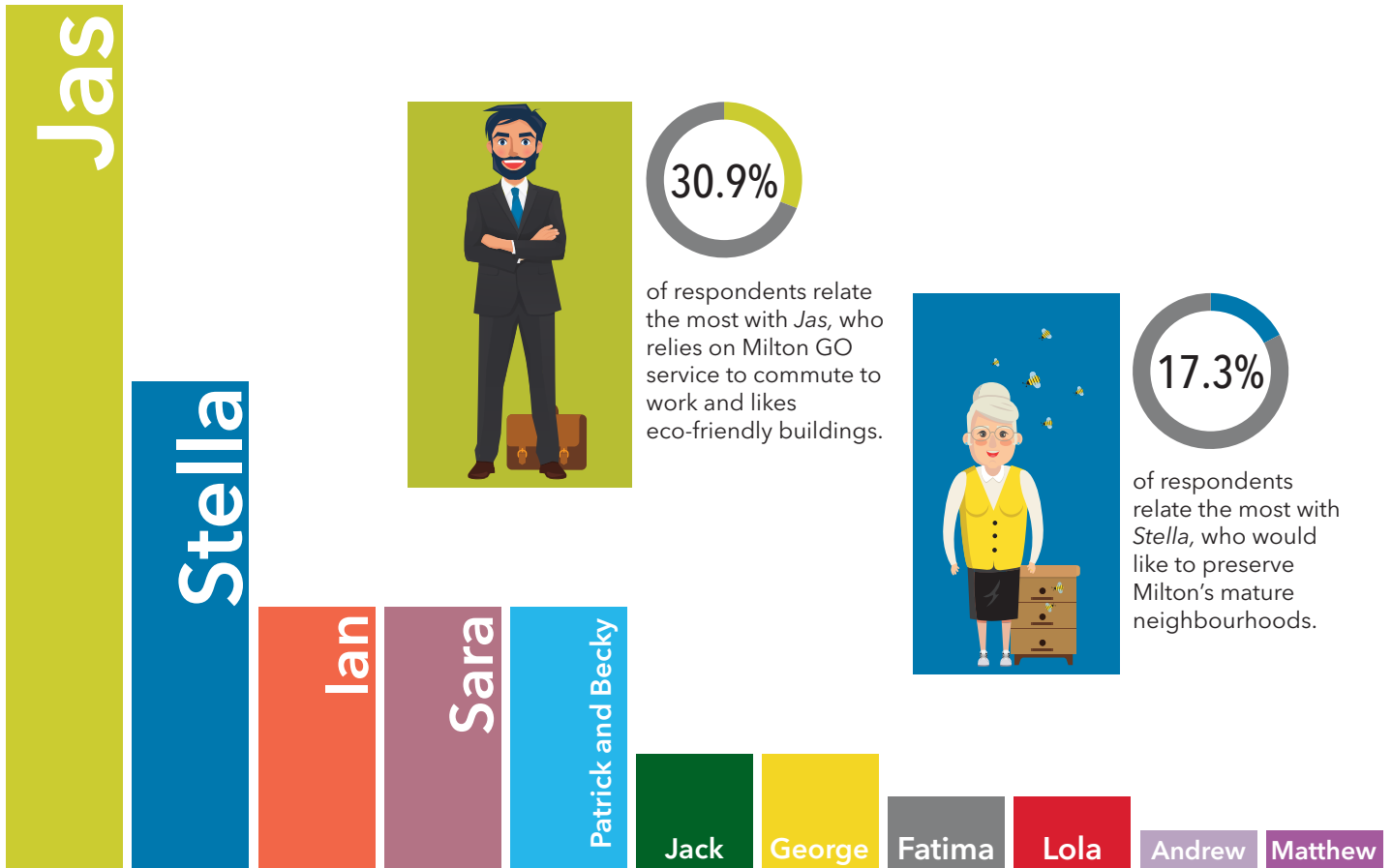
In terms of key topics/issues to be explored and addressed through We Make Milton, several key findings emerged through online engagement:

- The community believes that there are planning opportunities related to:
 1. The Niagara Escarpment
 2. Broader environment/natural heritage system
 3. Parks and trails
- The community also sees the following as our biggest planning challenges:
 1. Traffic and cars
 2. Infrastructure gaps

Relating to the Miltons

We believe that our community has a lot to learn from the Miltons. Therefore, we asked members of the public:

Which Milton character do you relate the most with?



Interestingly, *Jas* - who commutes to work in Toronto, rides a bike and wants to buy a condo near the Milton GO Station - was identified as the most relatable Milton character.

On the other hand, *Stella* - who lives in Old Milton, enjoys walking downtown and worries about the impact of high-rise/condo development - was identified as the second most relatable Milton character.



Learning from Other Places

We are also looking for inspiration. So, we asked the community:

Is there something you have seen and liked from other places in Ontario/Canada/the world that you feel would work in Milton?

The following are just a few of the responses we received:

"I like the setup in European countries that allows you to live work and play within walking or biking distance of home. Let's do more of that instead of endless acres of cardboard boxes."

"Lethbridge, Alberta: Henderson Park Rotary-sponsored/funded pool and gardens is amazing."

"I would love to see Milton have the same kind of draw that Stratford, St Jacobs and Niagara on the Lake have, as well as Nelson, BC. These communities have a strong commitment to the arts and local history."

"Sarnia has dedicated Pickleball courts."

"Georgetown and Guelph have beautiful and vibrant downtowns. Our downtown is quaint and needs to be protected and responsible development needs to involve community input."

"Barcelona superblocks, secure bike parking, complete streets, walkable communities..."



From the Source - Mapping Input

One of the most popular We Make Milton engagement activities has been the crowdsourcing application, created by our project team, which allowed the public to provide geographically-specific comments on interactive map.

In total, we received almost 300 comments from the community, including the following:

"I would love to see some 'offroad' bike paths that run to neighbouring cities - Oakville and Mississauga. It would be great to be able to bike down without being on the roads themselves."

"Love the community garden. We need more of these, and places for people to learn about gardening in a public space like this."

"Love working here - an awesome community hospital."

"We need more affordable rental (leased) apartment spaces. Many seniors are thinking of downsizing from their homes."

"I love this plaza. It has a great variety of shops and services and I can walk to it. We should require similar commercial plazas in all new neighborhoods."

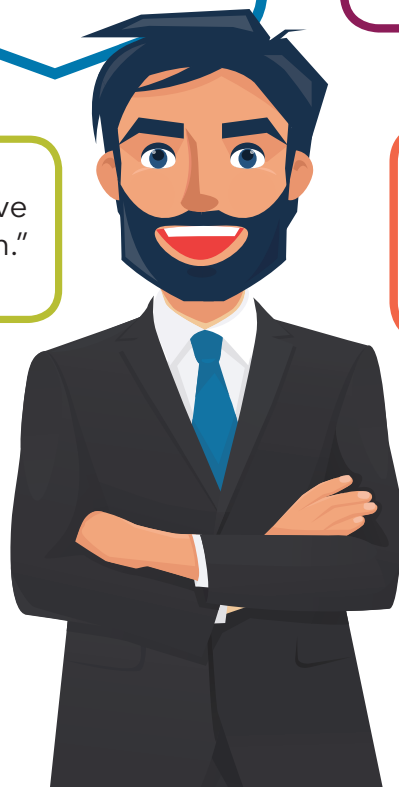
"More store fronts/shops/cafes/game board cafe/micro brewery - we don't get a lot of pedestrian traffic on this side of downtown."

"Let's find good, progressive industries to build in Milton."

"We should expand opportunities for home-based businesses in the hamlets and countryside."

"Wish there was a GO Train Stop here."

"We can do better by limiting the height of buildings adjacent to single family houses."



Getting Technical - Input from Staff/Agencies

At our first We Make Milton TAC meeting, Milton staff, Halton Region staff, conservation authorities, school boards and other relevant agencies provided information and advice on creating a new Official Plan that responds to current needs. We heard the following comments:

"There is a need for a clear vision, goals, and objectives."

"The new Official Plan could be built with a little more flexibility to address changing service demands."

"Our new Official Plan should provide for public art and placemaking and public gathering spaces."

"We must reach out to other comparable municipalities for lessons learned on key issues."

"It should set out a strategy for green infrastructure."

"Walkability for students should be promoted."

"We need clear language on sustainability and the environment."

"The new Official Plan and the Transportation Master Plan should work together."



We Make Milton Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on October 17, 2019.

Current Planning Vision

What is a Planning Vision Statement?

A vision statement is an important foundational element of any municipality's Official Plan. It's meant to tell a story about a community's long-term views and aspirations for future growth. A planning vision statement is intended to reflect the core values, qualities and characteristics that define a community.

Often, a planning vision statement is supported by a set of guiding principles, which identify more specific directions for protecting and/or enhancing the community's core values, qualities and characteristics over the planning horizon.

Together, a planning vision statement and guiding principles represent an overall expression of intent for future change. However, they are not meant to be interpreted as planning policy. Instead, they provide the basis for policy development and ensure that all elements of the Official Plan work together with consistency and purpose.

A planning vision is based on a 30-year planning horizon. For the purpose of We Make Milton, the planning horizon is the year 2051.

**A NEW PLANNING
VISION WILL REFLECT
OUR COMMUNITY'S
VIEWS AND
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE
FUTURE OF MILTON,
TO THE YEAR 2051.**



View of Main Street in downtown Milton.

What is Milton's Current Vision?

The planning vision statement in Milton's new Official Plan will provide the underpinning for the development of new Official Plan policies.

Therefore, one of the initial tasks identified in the We Make Milton work plan was to determine if the existing planning vision, as established in the current Official Plan, still reflects the ideas of the community.

What is Milton's current planning vision? Readers will find a statement in Section 2.1.1 of the existing 1997 Official Plan, as amended:

Milton's Current
Official Plan Vision Statement:

**ENGAGING
BALANCED
CONNECTED**

2.1.1 Community Vision and Goals

2.1.1.1 Milton's vision as established through the Destiny Milton 2 process, is to be an engaging, balanced and connected community. The following goals have been established as a basis to implement this vision:

- a) A responsible, cost effective and accountable local government;*
- b) Well managed growth, well planned spaces;*
- c) A safe, livable, healthy and complete community;*
- d) A diverse and sustainable economy;*
- e) A thriving natural environment.*

Our existing vision statement comes from Milton's former Corporate Strategic Plan, called Destiny Milton 2: Shaping Our Future. This plan was prepared in 2007 (following Destiny Milton 1 in the 1990s) with the intent to strategically position the Town during a time of unprecedented growth.

There are no overarching guiding principles in the current Official Plan; however, the vision is supported by five goals that serve a similar purpose.



Sixteen Mile Creek: Part of Milton's thriving natural environment.

Why Do We Need a New Vision?

Milton's existing Official Plan vision statement is based on a Corporate Strategic Plan that is 13 years old. The current vision statement was appropriate for 2007, however, a lot has changed since then. In fact, since then additional strategic planning work has been completed to update Milton's shared vision:

Destiny Milton 3

Milton undertook Destiny Milton 3 in 2015, which sets out the following updated vision statement: *"Together, we will shape the future of Milton by building a vibrant, thriving and innovative community, where everyone feels welcome, safe, connected and engaged."*

A Place of Possibility

In 2018, Milton completed a municipal rebranding exercise, which included significant community engagement. Based on community input, a new tagline was introduced, which identifies Milton as A Place of Possibility. This tagline speaks in a visionary way about the core values, qualities and characteristics of Milton over time.

Given the above, as well as ever-changing global, national, regional, and local trends/realities, there is a need to update Milton's Official Plan vision to ensure that it reflects the current ideas of the community. Therefore, upon the launch of We Make Milton, it was determined that community engagement would be a major goal of the new Official Plan project, and that a broad community conversation would result in a renewed planning vision for the future.

Methodology

So far, most of the work completed has centred around collecting information and ideas from the community that will help articulate a renewed planning vision for Milton. Specifically:

- **Stage 1** Listening and Learning focused on cultivating a broad conversation about priorities, ideas, knowledge, preferences, concerns and aspirations for how and where Milton should grow.
- **Stage 2** Visioning provided an open forum for residents, businesses and other stakeholders to share specific ideas about a renewed planning vision.

The following is an overview of our methodology (i.e., 'what we did') to gather specific ideas about a renewed planning vision in Stage 2 of 'We Make Milton'.



University student standing in the Milton Education Village Secondary Plan Area - a future community that blends post-secondary education with a mix of other complementary uses.

Vision Boarding

A vision board is a collage of words and pictures that represent an individual's or group's goals and aspirations for the future. The process of creating a vision board (i.e., vision boarding) was used as a creative and dynamic approach to understanding our community's vision for Milton's future.

Participants were asked to find pictures/words that represent or symbolize their vision for the future of Milton, focusing on experiences, places, buildings, environments and more, and to place them on a vision board. Everyone was encouraged to have fun with the process and to use photographs, magazines, pictures from the Internet and drawings - whatever inspired or spoke to them.

Two vision boarding sessions were held as part of We Make Milton, including:

- One with the Town's TAC on October 17, 2019.
- One with the larger community at Visioning Night on November 20, 2019.



TAC members creating inspirational vision boards.

In One Word

At a series of community pop-up events in October and November 2019, members of the community were asked to provide feedback on a future planning vision for Milton, by completing a one-word comment card. Our project team had the opportunity to discuss ideas with Miltonians of all ages and backgrounds at three different community pop-up events.





VISIONING NIGHT:

An evening designed to open conversation and inspire visionary thinking about the future of Milton

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School

1145 Bronte St. South, Milton

30 Years from Now

We Make Milton Visioning Night was held on November 20, 2019, and provided residents, business owners and other stakeholders with a more formal and structured opportunity to provide input on a renewed planning vision for Milton.

Visioning Night Agenda

6:00 p.m.	Registration and interactive displays
6:30 p.m.	Keynote by award-winning author and urbanist Charles Montgomery
7:30 p.m.	Local discussion and Visioning Workshop

For the workshop component of the event, a brief presentation about the We Make Milton process was presented and participants answered the following questions in small breakout groups:

Q1. What do you think Milton should look like in 30 years?

The purpose of this question was to gather detailed information about the participant's individual vision for Milton's future. Participants shared their responses with their breakout groups.

Q2. What does your character think Milton should look like in 30 years?

Each participant was given a Milton character card (i.e., Ian, Lola, Andrew, Sara... etc.). The purpose of this second question was to ask participants to put themselves in another's shoes to consider different perspectives and create new insights. Again, participants shared their responses with their breakout groups.



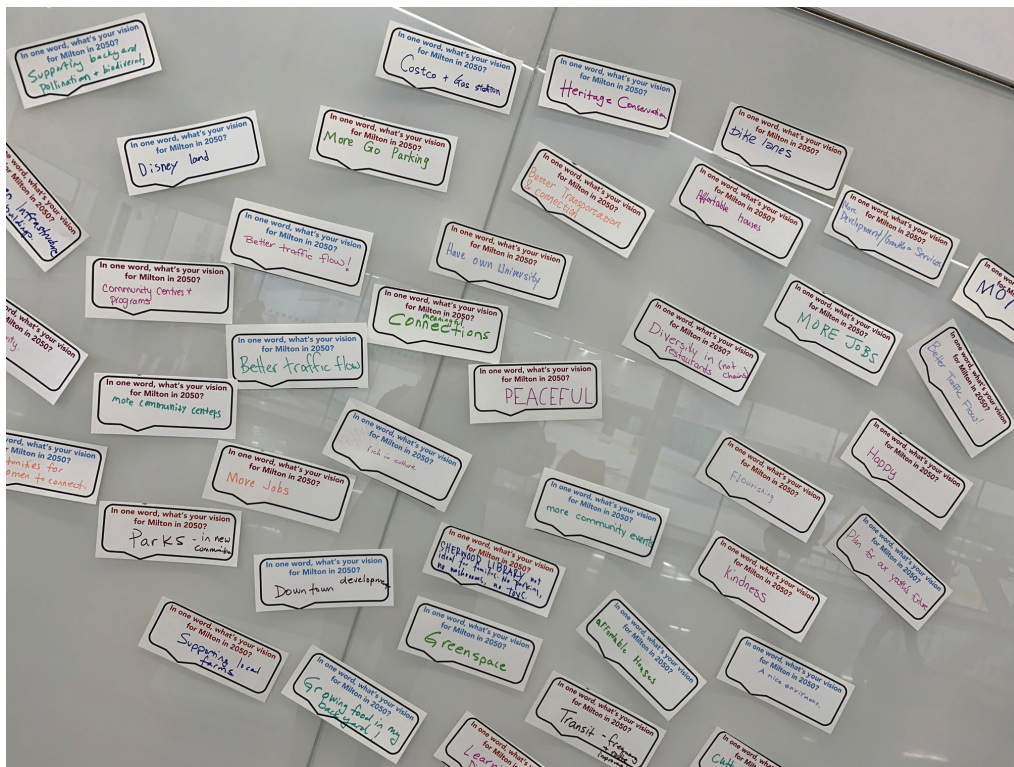
Visioning Night Workshop

Summary of Visioning Input

The following is summary of what we heard through our visioning efforts with staff, stakeholders and members of the public in the fall of 2019.



In total, five vision boards were created, including the above by Visioning Night participants.



Examples of the 200+ In One Word comments cards that were filled out by community members at three separate pop-up events around Milton.

How We Analyzed Input

The We Make Milton project team used the following steps to analyze input received through our Listening and Learning and Visioning events and activities.

Step 1: Organize Input Based on Source

All of the input received was organized based on how and where it was collected.

Engagement Events/Activities		Visioning Events/Activities	
E1	Online Engagement (Let's Talk Milton, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)	V1	Vision Boards
E2	Crowdsourcing Tool	V2	Comment Cards
E3	Staff and Technical Advisory Committee	V3	Visioning Night Workshop (Q1 and Q2 Responses)

Step 2: Categorize Input into Themes

For each group of input (i.e., E1, V1), comments were reviewed for commonalities. The following themes were used as categories to group together similar comments and topics:

Living in Milton



Moving in Milton



Working in Milton



Growing in Milton



Step 3: Identify Emerging Sub-Themes

For each theme/category, comments were reviewed in greater detail to identify emerging sub-themes. Emerging sub-themes are specific concerns, ideas and opinions that came up frequently in the comments and therefore suggest a high priority ranking. Sub-themes represent certain priority topics among participants.

Key Findings

Three key findings have been developed based on the analysis, and will serve as building blocks for the creation of a vision statement and guiding principles for the We Make Milton project and Milton’s new Official Plan document, as explained later in this report.

1. Importance of Themes

By categorizing the input (i.e., Step 1), we can see which themes received the most attention. At a very high level, this show us where participants are expressing the greatest degree of interest or concern as it relates to planning issues in Milton.

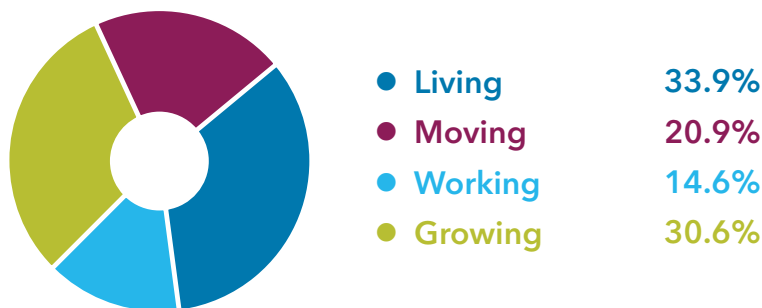
Based on online engagement (source: E1), the majority of comments from participants were focused on the themes of Living in Milton (44%) and Moving in Milton (33.4%).



Looking at the findings from the We Make Milton Crowdsourcing Tool (Source: E2), comments were again focused on these two themes: Living in Milton (50%) and Moving in Milton (35.5%).



And based on the input from Q1 and Q2 from the We Make Milton Visioning Night workshop questions (Source: V3), Living in Milton (33.9%) was again the most important theme, followed by Growing in Milton (30.6%).



Overall, based on all of the input collected and analyzed, the following is a summary of how each planning theme can be ranked in order of importance to the community.

Theme	Importance Ranking
Living in Milton	1 (43%)
Moving in Milton	2 (30%)
Growing in Milton	3 (19%)
Working in Milton	4 (8%)

Description of Themes

 <p>Living in Milton</p>	<p>Anything related to your day-to-day life in Milton - like where you live, socialize, shop, play, worship - and how your daily needs are met. Living in Milton also goes beyond the day-to-day and looks at quality of life, sense of community, social interaction and ecological footprint.</p>
 <p>Moving in Milton</p>	<p>How do you travel within Milton, to/from Milton and other places? What is it like to walk, bike, drive, take a bus or train, etc. How sustainable are the moving habits of Miltonians and how can we reduce our carbon emissions?</p>
 <p>Growing in Milton</p>	<p>Milton has grown very quickly in the past few decades. Where will future growth happen and what will it look like? As we continue to grow, how can we ensure the protection of resources? How can we create more complete communities?</p>
 <p>Working in Milton</p>	<p>Anything related to economic development and job growth. Do you work here or do you commute? Where would you ideally like to work? How can we support new education and training opportunities? How can we diversify and prosper in 2051?</p>

2. Top Priorities

Step three of our analysis involved a more detailed review of engagement and visioning input and the individual comments from participants. A large number of sub-themes emerged out of this analysis. Sub-themes represent specific concerns, ideas and opinions that came up frequently in the individual comments, thereby suggesting that they are a priority.

The following is a list of the top 45 sub-themes/priorities (from highest to lowest) that emerged (focusing primarily on Source V3), including a count for the number of times the sub-theme/priority was identified by participants:

Sub-Theme / Priority	Count
1. Provision of amenities and facilities.	204
2. Environmental protection/conservation.	171
3. Local job opportunities/job growth.	135
4. Connections/connectivity (within Milton and to other places).	123
5. Education opportunities.	101
6. Housing choice and type.	96
7. Community/downtown revitalization.	84
8. Improved transit.	84
9. Pedestrian safety and accessibility and improved walkability.	64
10. Parks and recreation.	63
11. Diversity and inclusivity.	63
12. Heritage resources - conservation and promotion.	54
13. Balancing and managing new growth and development.	53
14. Preserving small town feel/character.	48
15. Manage traffic and lessen congestion on existing roads.	45
16. Improved transportation planning - need more/wider roads.	44
17. Sense of community and social connection.	42
18. More commercial/retail spaces.	39
19. Affordable housing.	39

Sub-Theme / Priority	Count
20. More bike lanes/cyclist safety.	39
21. Managing height and density.	38
22. Improving the public realm/providing more gathering spaces.	36
23. Prioritize intensification/efficient use of land.	33
24. Create smart, complete, mixed-use communities.	33
25. Promote and provide more active transportation opportunities.	33
26. Permit and promote more agricultural and farm businesses.	33
27. Agricultural and rural preservation.	32
28. Encourage sustainable/green development.	30
29. More community events.	30
30. Celebrate community pride in Milton.	30
31. More places of worship/spirituality.	30
32. Address infrastructure gaps.	27
33. Need more employment lands and investment.	27
34. More community gardens/address food security.	21
35. Limit future growth and development.	18
36. General economic development and local prosperity.	18
37. Support local businesses/shop local.	18
38. Improved building/site design standards and aesthetics.	18
39. Provide for the needs of senior citizens.	18
40. Updated zoning standards/building code.	15
41. Community programs/facility programming.	15
42. Need for more flexible workspaces.	15
43. Improved health programs and healthcare.	12
44. Promote local arts and culture.	9
45. Retain/support Milton's youth.	9

3. Choice Matters

DI·CHOT·O·MY
/DĪ'KĀDəMĒ/
NOUN

**A division or contrast
between two things that
are entirely different.**

The more detailed analysis of input in step 3 reveals another key finding: there is a dichotomy of priorities and preferences amongst the community when it comes to living, moving, working and growing in the future.

What does this mean? We heard that the community has a wide range of individual priorities and preferences - and want to be able to make decisions based on their own priorities/preferences.

In other words, **Milton wants choice.**

How do we know this? The vision boards prepared during the engagement and visioning events/activities (source V1) do a great job of showing this visually.

For example, the following are a few phrases that were included on the We Make Milton vision boards (see the boards below), which indicate that there is a desire for choice (options, variation, possibility, etc.) among participants:

Best of
all worlds.

Endless
possibilities.

Welcoming
possibilities.

So many ways
to say 'welcome.'

Say 'hello' to
everyone.

Images or phrases used on the vision boards were reviewed. On each individual vision board there are many contrasting ideas when it comes to certain priorities/preferences - as shown in our analysis below. This further suggests that choice matters to Milton when it comes to living, moving, growing and working.

Proposed Vision and Guiding Principles

Proposed Vision Statement

The planning vision statement in Milton's current Official Plan no longer reflects the ideas of the community and a new statement is required.

Taking into account the results, analysis and findings presented in this report, a new vision statement has been prepared for the new official plan.

The proposed vision statement was crafted to reflect what we heard is important from participants. It builds on Milton's attributes and the community's priorities. It is intended to be realistic, yet aspirational.

The Proposed Vision Statement is:

Milton 2051: Choice Shapes Us

In 2051, Milton offers a diversity of options for how and where we live, work, move and grow. As we evolve, choice is what shapes us.



What does it mean?

Milton is growing. Between 2001 and 2011 Milton was the fastest growing municipality in Canada, with a 71.4 per cent increase in population from 2001 to 2006 and another 56.5 per cent increase from 2006 to 2011. In 2016, Milton's census population was 110,128 and this number is projected to continue growing significantly by 2051.

As we grow, demographics are changing. By 2051, Milton will be home to an increasingly diverse group of people - including an aging population and more people from other countries. People will be looking for a variety of choices in where and how they live their daily lives. Milton will need to provide its residents with choice.

The need for choice will inform how Milton physically changes in terms of land uses and built form, and will guide how we make decisions about future development. Choice will shape our community to the year 2051.

- When it comes to Living in Milton, many people want to live here and grow old here. In 2051, residents will have a lot of choice about where to live - a new townhouse with a view, a condo beside a GO station, a historic home or a rural lot, for example. Community members also want access to a wide range of services and amenities, and will have a great deal of choice about where they play, exercise, gather, socialize, shop, worship, find entertainment and more.
- When it comes to Moving in Milton, people expect travel between home, work and other services to be fast and convenient. In 2051, residents will have a lot of choice and can prioritize their mode of travel based on individual preference. Some people will drive, some will walk, some will bike and some will take transit. All residents will find Milton accessible and will also feel connected to the rest of Halton and the GTA/Ontario.
- When it comes to Working in Milton, some people will still commute outside of Milton for work, but more people will also expect to work here. In 2051, residents will have a lot of choice about where and how they work. If residents want to run a business or farm, work for a local company, commute to another municipality, work from home, upgrade skills or advance their education - they can. They will be supported by a wide range of choices to help get the job done.
- When it comes to Growing in Milton, population growth and changes in demographics will bring a need for more infrastructure, housing and services in different locations and forms. In 2051, landowners, businesses, developers and investors will have a lot of choices about where and how Milton grows. We will grow up (intensify), grow out (expand), and sometimes we won't grow at all. In some parts of Milton, there will be certainty about land use and development. Other areas will adapt in a flexible and innovative way as the need arises.

What it DOES Mean	What it DOES NOT Mean
<p>Milton offers so much choice in terms of where and how our community can live, work, move and grow. Choice is important to Miltonians and the need to make individual choices will shape our future.</p>	<p>Choices have already been made for Miltonians by municipal staff and elected officials, and these predetermined choices will shape our future.</p>
<p>We are a diverse community and our choices will be diverse too. Sometimes our choices will coincide. Sometimes our choices will differ. Making choices will involve compromise and trade-offs. Still, the Official Plan will value the importance of choice.</p>	<p>Everyone in Milton will be happy because everyone will get all of the choices that they want for living, moving, working and growing by 2051.</p>
<p>The new Official Plan will allow for choice through a flexible policy framework that is performance/results-based. Development applications will be evaluated in a flexible but consistent manner, in accordance with provincial policy, to enable good development.</p>	<p>Anything goes in Milton in terms of development applications, regardless of provincial policy and market realities. The Official Plan will permit anything and everything, no matter what.</p>

Proposed Guiding Principles

Milton’s new Official Plan vision statement will be supported by a set of guiding principles, which identify more specific directions for protecting/enhancing the community’s core values and priorities. The proposed guiding principles are presented below, and have been created based on the proposed Vision and the top 45 sub-themes identified through engagement and visioning.

The proposed Guiding Principles for We Make Milton and the new Official Plan are:

1. Be Creative and Provide Choice	7. Make Connections
2. Mix Uses	8. Protect Our Environment
3. Move Efficiently and Safely	9. Promote the Countryside
4. Diversify and Prosper	10. Encourage Good, Green Design
5. Prioritize the Public Realm	11. Collaborate
6. Support Arts, Culture and Recreation	12. Think Local

Description of the Guiding Principles

1. Be Creative and Provide Choice

- Allow for creativity in the development process while meeting provincial and regional planning requirements.
- Ensure safe and affordable housing options for all generations of Miltonians.
- Provide reliable and equitable mobility choices, including lower-impact options, such as transit, walking and cycling.
- Ensure a range of options for growth and development at different heights, scales and densities.
- Balance infill and intensification in appropriate and strategic locations, new greenfield development and urban expansion.
- Plan for a vibrant business environment that offers a range of economic and job opportunities so that more Miltonians can choose to live and work here.

2. Mix Uses

- Create complete communities that will support a high quality of life and provide for healthy, sustainable and active lifestyles.
- Provide a diverse mix of housing types (like rental, live-work and supportive housing) and forms (like single/semi-detached, townhouses and apartments).
- Mix housing with stores, restaurants, live-work buildings, certain types of employment, community services and places of worship.
- Enhance and revitalize main streets, corridors, nodes and other existing mixed-use areas.
- Create and sustain new mixed-use areas to accommodate forecasted population and job growth.

3. Move Efficiently and Safely

- Link land use plans with local, regional and provincial transportation plans.
- Integrate transport modes, whether for passengers or goods, for greater efficiency.
- Advocate for enhanced GO Transit service, new transit stations and a regional transit governance structure.
- Where possible and appropriate, encourage transit-oriented development forms.
- Maintain, improve, integrate and grow existing mobility infrastructure, including roads, trails, paths and parking.
- Increase the availability of lower carbon impact transportation options such as public transit and multi-use path systems.
- Ensure that all mobility options are designed and operated in a way that protects the health and safety of all Miltonians and enhances quality of life.



4. Diversify and Prosper

- Protect employment lands to balance job growth with residential growth, and provide opportunities for investment and growth.
- Provide local opportunities for post-secondary education and training.
- Support Milton's traditional sectors and attract new industrial development, including manufacturing, warehousing and logistics.
- Balance job growth in traditional sectors with the growth of knowledge-based employment uses, including research and development, and other emerging sectors.
- Attract innovative entrepreneurs, employers and highly-skilled niche talent to Milton. Create infrastructure and partnerships to attract new employment assessment.
- Take advantage of Milton's proximity to significant transportation corridors and growing technology clusters.

5. Prioritize the Public Realm

- Create and sustain quality public spaces and gathering places throughout Milton to support social connectedness and safety, and to create a sense of place and character.
- Design public spaces that are safe, integrated and create a sense of place and character.
- Achieve design excellence through site/building design and streetscaping techniques.
- Protect and promote Milton's outstanding public views, vistas and destinations.

6. Support Arts, Culture and Recreation

- Promote local art resources and businesses/creative industries and invest in public art.
- Protect, enhance, develop and promote Milton's unique identity, cultural assets and heritage resources.
- Provide recreational and social programming that is inclusive, appeals to a diverse population and supports community building.
- Distribute and integrate facilities and services throughout Milton so that all neighbourhoods and residents are well-served.
- Celebrate and share Milton's history, accomplishments, assets and community pride.

7. Make Connections

- Connect Milton to municipalities across the GTHA, Ontario and beyond.
- Make best use of access to 400-series highways and proximity to ports, air and rail, as well as the Canada-U.S. border.
- Enhance linkages between urban and rural Milton.
- Improve internal connections by enhancing paths and trails and encouraging a modified grid system of streets in new neighbourhoods and redevelopment areas to maximize ease of mobility.
- Plan and implement infrastructure and technology for a 'smart city'.



8. Protect Our Environment

- Protect and enhance Milton's natural heritage.
- Ensure that new development is integrated with the surrounding environment.
- Promote the enjoyment and responsible use of Milton's many natural areas and assets.
- Recognize linkages between our environment, economy and quality of life.
- Reduce greenhouse gases and respond to the impacts of climate change.

9. Support the Rural Area

- Protect and enhance the livability and character of rural Milton.
- Provide for a competitive, diverse and flexible agricultural economy.
- Promote local food production and enhance the agri-food network.
- Ensure the wise use and management of resources, including mineral aggregates.
- Provide for healthy, integrated and viable hamlets and rural areas.
- Manage the agricultural and urban interface.

10. Encourage Good, Green Design

- Inspire, plan and design attractive built form in a variety of typologies and scales that reflect the unique identity, geography and context of Milton.
- Implement green infrastructure and low impact development strategies.
- Encourage design initiatives that improve air and water quality, support energy efficiency and conserve water and other resources.
- Improve the sustainable performance of new development in Milton.

11. Collaborate

- Include and engage all Miltonians in planning processes and use input to inform planning decisions.
- Work collaboratively with other administrations, agencies and sectors.
- Support timely and coordinated infrastructure investments from all levels of government.
- Partner to deliver long-term, predictable and well-timed infrastructure funding.
- Use funding tools and incentives to support local businesses and new development.

12. Think Local

- Support existing businesses, including local stores, services, restaurants and farms.
- Attract new retail development to support a growing population.
- Revitalize downtown Milton, our villages and other commercial areas.
- Celebrate and promote Milton through local programming and events.
- Work with the appropriate agencies to ensure Miltonians have local access to high-quality community services.



How Will the Vision and Guiding Principles be Used?

The proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles will serve two key purposes over the remainder of the We Make Milton project. They will:

1. Provide the basis for policy development.

In Stage 3 of the We Make Milton project, the remaining reports will be prepared, and will identify key planning issues and various policy options to address them. The Vision and Guiding Principles will be used to evaluate various policy options and identify recommended policy directions. The recommended policy directions will guide the creation of new planning policies.

2. Be included in the new Official Plan.

In Stage 4, a new Official Plan will be drafted and, as the underpinning to all policy direction, the Vision and Guiding Principles will be presented upfront in the document. More specific goals and objectives will be prepared that further support the overall vision statement. While these components (vision, principles, goals and objectives) won't be interpreted as planning policy, they will help ensure that all of the Official Plan policies work together with consistency and purpose.



Next Steps for We Make Milton

This important Visioning Report marks the end of Phases 1 and 2 of the We Make Milton project. It presents a proposed Vision Statement and Guiding Principles that will be shared with a number of groups for feedback in the coming months. It is anticipated that a series of activities and meetings will be held as an opportunity to formally share this document and gather input, including:

- Online engagement (September/October)
- Stakeholder coffee chats (September/October)
- Virtual public open house (September 30, 2020)
- Presentation to Council (November 16, 2020)

Once the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles are finalized and endorsed by Council, Phase 3 of the new Official Plan project will be initiated, which, as described above, will involve the preparation/introduction of the remaining We Make Milton reports and the identification of:

1. Key planning issues.
2. Policy options to address the issues.
3. Recommended policy directions for a new Official Plan.





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Prepared by the Town of Milton's
Development Services Department,
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