THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Patricia Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer	**FILE:**	6480-06 / 8300-07
PC:	Terry Barton, Director, Planning and Community Services Roy Nuriel, Acting General Manager, Planning	**DATE:**	December 22, 2023
FROM:	Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner Danielle DeVries, Transportation Planner		
SUBJECT:	**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN JOINT REVIEW**		

Updating the Official Community Plan (OCP) is a key goal of Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. With this report, Administration is initiating the review of the Official Community Plan (OCP) in tandem with the City's Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

Reviewing these plans together will ensure a consistent long-term vision for development and growth in Vernon over the next 20 years and that infrastructure investments are directed to areas with the highest population and employment density.

The City's OCP and TMP policies were last updated in 2013-2014. While together they created a strong foundation for the development of the community, much has changed in the past decade. There have been demographic changes, technological and market shifts, and more extreme weather events. The OCP and TMP are holistic, integrated tools that can empower the City to respond proactively to these emerging issues, and grow and thrive as a healthy, climate resilient community to 2045.

The OCP provides **land use policies** to guide residential and commercial development, industrial land use, agricultural protection, infrastructure and community facilities, parks and public spaces, environmental protection, and social well-being. The OCP also encompasses **transportation policies**, which integrate it with the TMP. The TMP is a detailed strategy for future transportation infrastructure. It aims to improve mobility, safety, and efficiency across all modes of transportation, including walking and biking.

Provincial Framework

The *Local Government Act (LGA)* sets out the framework for what an OCP must include as well as requirements for public consultation. On November 30, 2023, the *LGA* was updated by the Province to include new requirements for Official Community Plans. In summary, local governments are now required to have an OCP and update it every five years. Further, the OCP must address community housing needs over a 20-year timeframe.

The new changes to the *LGA* put emphasis on the OCP as the primary opportunity for the public to inform land use planning decisions. All municipalities are required to create or update their OCPs by December 2025, which aligns with the timeline already set in Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

The Zoning Bylaw will be concurrently updated to align with the *LGA* changes relating to small-scale multi-unit housing and residential densification around frequent transit routes and transit exchanges by June 30, 2024. The review of the OCP and TMP will ensure that land use designations, policies, and future transportation options are aligned with zoning changes.

Council involvement in the project

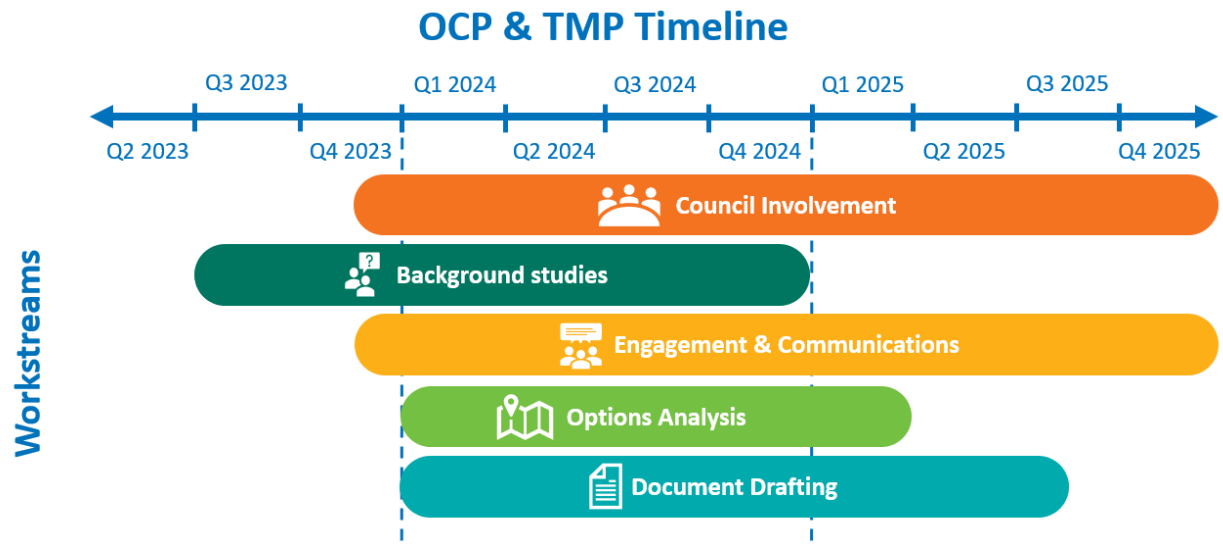
Council will be involved throughout this two-year project. The next report, expected in the end of Q1 2024, will include the Communications Plan and Engagement Strategy for Council's endorsement. The plan will detail the processes for public participation, internal and external communications, internal and external education, and project branding.

This plan will also include details on the frequency that Council will be updated throughout the process and key milestones for decision-making, including workshops.

Project overview and timeline

Although led by Planning and Community Services, the success of the Joint Review will rely on the active involvement and technical expertise of all divisions of the City. This project represents a significant amount of resources within Planning and Community Services, which will take priority and mean limited availability for other projects and initiatives. Given the scope and timelines, external consultants will be brought in for their specialized technical expertise and to provide additional capacity as needed.

The project is divided into **five workstreams**:



Each workstream is made up of a series of packages to be completed. The goal of each is as follows:

- **Council involvement** – to keep Council informed on the project process and request direction at key milestones;
- **Background studies** – to gather data and policy recommendations that inform the final plans;
- **Engagement and communications** – to provide engagement opportunities for everyone to help to shape the future of the city and share information about the project throughout the process;
- **Options analysis** – to create scenarios for land uses and transportation networks that address the vision and goals; and
- **Document drafting** – to write the plans and develop the accompanying maps.

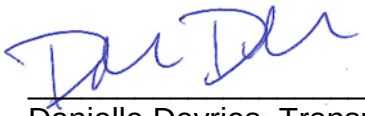
RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the memorandum titled "Official Community Plan and Transportation Master Plan Joint Review", dated December 22, 2023, and respectfully submitted by the Long Range Planner and the Transportation Planner.

Respectfully submitted:



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Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner



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Danielle Devries, Transportation Planner

Approved for the Agenda by the CAO ☐

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