

Report To:	Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
From:	Bob Gray, Commissioner, Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel
Date:	February 9, 2022
Report No:	LPS15-22
Re:	Statutory Public Meeting for a Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment (File No. RQ62A) - "Milton Education Village"

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS15-22 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, and Conservation Halton for their information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide information to support a Statutory Public Meeting to be held on February 9, 2022 prior to the regular meeting of Regional Council regarding the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) application filed by the Town of Milton related to the Milton Education Village (MEV).
- The purpose of the Statutory Public Meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to make submissions to Regional Council on the proposed MEV ROPA.
- The proposed MEV ROPA would permit, on a site-specific basis, uses related to and supportive of the MEV and the Wilfred Laurier University campus, including stormwater management infrastructure within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside and the Region's Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems.
- Following the Statutory Public Meeting Regional staff will continue to consult with the public and stakeholders, and review all comments received on the proposed MEV ROPA. A final recommendation report will be prepared for consideration by Regional Council based on Regional staff's consideration of comments received and a review of the MEV ROPA application.

Background

As outlined in Report No. LPS92-21 re: “Milton Education Village Regional Official Plan Amendment Application – Initiation Report (File No. RQ62A), planning initiatives related to the MEV have been underway for some time. Since the lands were added to the Urban Area through ROPA 38, the Town of Milton has advanced a Secondary Plan for the lands and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has issued a Minister’s Zoning Order to facilitate the development of core uses supporting the vision for the MEV as a complete community and mixed-use innovation district anchored by a post-secondary education campus.

This report provides a summary of the proposed MEV ROPA, identifies information that has been submitted in support of the application and where it can be accessed, outlines the public consultation on the proposed ROPA, and details the next steps in the process.

Discussion

Proposed ROPA

The proposed MEV ROPA relates to lands located adjacent to but outside of the MEV Secondary Plan and MZO areas. It applies to the lands directly west of the MEV located outside of the Urban Area that are designated as ‘Regional Natural Heritage System’ and ‘Agricultural Area’ on Map 1 of the Regional Official Plan. The lands are also within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan and are subject to its Natural System and Agricultural System, with portions designated as prime agricultural areas in Provincial mapping. The location of the subject lands is shown in Attachment #1 to this report.

The proposed MEV ROPA is provided as Attachment #2 to this report. This is a revised version provided by the Town in January 2022 in response to initial comments from Regional staff. It consists of a number of items proposing to amend various sections of the Regional Official Plan. Specifically the MEV ROPA proposes to permit a number of site-specific uses on lands adjacent to the MEV and the Wilfred Laurier University campus that are within the Region’s ‘Regional Natural Heritage System’ and ‘Agricultural Area’ land use designations, and within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside. The proposed site-specific uses include:

- infrastructure and activities related to the use of renewable resources;
- utility facilities and green infrastructure, including stormwater management systems;
- greenhouses associated with agricultural operations or scientific study, education and research purposes; and
- buildings and structures that may provide temporary lodging and board to provide program and services for Indigenous placemaking and culture camps.

In addition, the proposed MEV ROPA identifies a number of policy tests and criteria that each use would be required to meet in order to be permitted. These policy tests and criteria generally relate to impacts to agriculture and natural heritage.

A number of supporting studies and materials have been provided by the Town of Milton and Wilfred Laurier University to support the MEV ROPA application. These documents have been posted to **halton.ca** and include the following:

- Planning Justification Report (November 2020)
- Draft Regional Official Plan Amendment (August 2020 and October 2021)
- Agricultural Impact Assessment (October 2021)
- Stormwater Management Report (October 2021)
- Milton Memo & ROPA Response Matrix (October 2021)
- Centre for Urban Watershed Research Explanatory Note (October 2021)

Public Consultation

Public consultation on the proposed ROPA includes:

- ***Notice of Complete Application***

Notice of the complete application was provided to the Town of Milton and other prescribed agencies and public bodies on December 23, 2020 and was published in the Milton Champion on December 31, 2020.

- ***Circulation of Application to Agencies & Public Bodies***

The proposed MEV ROPA application was circulated to prescribed agencies and public bodies on January 8, 2021. Additional circulations of supplemental studies provided to support the application were also undertaken in 2021.

- ***Statutory Public Meeting & Public Information Centre***

This report supports the February 9, 2022 Statutory Public Meeting. Notice of the Statutory Public Meeting was provided by way of an advertisement in the Milton Champion and to persons and public bodies prescribed by the *Planning Act*. An online Public Information Centre (PIC) will also be scheduled to provide the public with additional opportunity to review and provide feedback. Notice of the PIC will be provided on **halton.ca** and through advertisements in a local newspaper.

- ***Regional Webpage***

Information on the proposed ROPA and the materials filed in support of the application are available online at **halton.ca**.

At the time of writing, Halton Region has received no comments from members of the public, verbal or written, regarding the draft MEV ROPA attached to this report. Any comments received in response to the Notice of the February 9, 2022 Statutory Public Meeting will be included and addressed as part of the recommendation report to Regional Council.

Next Steps

Regional staff will report back to Regional Council with a recommendation report on the proposed ROPA. This recommendation report will be informed by the comments received and Regional staff's review of the application in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

The cost of reviewing the Regional Official Plan Amendment is funded from the Planning Services Operational Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

<Curt Benson SIGNATURE>
Curt Benson
Director, Planning Services and Chief
Planning Official



<Bob Gray SIGNATURE>
Bob Gray
Commissioner, Legislative and Planning
Services and Corporate Counsel

Approved by
<Jane MacCaskill SIGNATURE>
Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

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Attachments: Attachment #1 – MEV Context Map
Attachment #2 – Proposed MEV ROPA (RQ62A) – January 2022 Version