

Peel2051

Regional Official Plan Review

Peel 2051 Consultation & Engagement **Summary**

February 2022



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Introduction

Peel 2051: Region of Peel Official Plan Review & Municipal Comprehensive Review

The Region of Peel’s Regional Official Plan (ROP) is the long-term policy framework for land use planning decision-making. It sets the Regional context for detailed planning by protecting the environment, managing resources, directing growth and setting the basis for providing Regional services in an efficient and effective manner. The *Planning Act* requires municipalities to update their Official Plan every five years to ensure that the policies remain current and are consistent with Provincial plans and policy statements in order to achieve the stated goals and objectives. The review of the current ROP, referred to as *Peel 2051: Regional Official Plan Review*, is being undertaken with the intent to plan for growth to the year 2051 and covers the focus areas below. For more information on this review, please visit: peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/



This document provides a high-level summary of the consultation and engagement that took place in 2021. Summaries of previous consultations and other documentation responding to public engagement, such as comment and response tables, are available on the website under [public consultations](#) and under the respective [focus area](#) page.

More detailed responses and analysis for site-specific requests are included in staff reports and other corresponding memos or reports. These can be found on the respective [focus area's](#) web page.

Public Consultation

Throughout Peel 2051, broad-based consultation was undertaken to ensure that the voices of interested Peel landowners, residents of all ages, business owners, service providers/ community organizations and stakeholders are heard with ample opportunity and various means for providing comments. To achieve meaningful consultation an ongoing commitment to inform, involve and collaborate with key audiences in the decision-making process was undertaken. Based on review of best practices, various engagement techniques were used including workshops, focus groups, public meetings, open houses, social media and traditional media.

A wide range of structured consultation opportunities have been provided, including both open houses and attendance at community events and virtual and in-person, to ensure multiple opportunities for engagement. There are specific required consultations under the *Planning Act* that are referred to as statutory and other additional consultations held are referred to as informal or non-statutory.

Summer 2021 Public Consultations

Peel staff organized three online “drop-in” informal consultation sessions for members of the public and stakeholders to provide an update on the overall Regional Official Plan Review and Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) process and to answer questions related to the draft Regional Official Plan policies. A virtual consultation approach was taken due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency and public gathering restrictions. To maintain privacy of the attendees and any identifiable information that may be discussed during the sessions, these consultations were not recorded.

The sessions were structured as drop-in question and answer format, with a brief overview presentation from staff at the beginning of each session to provide context. Whereas the virtual consultation sessions in the Fall of 2020 were more formal and structured, the Summer 2021 consultations aimed to replace the informal community outreach that staff would typically conduct during the course of an Official Plan Review. While it is unfortunate that staff could not be out in the community at farmers’ markets and festivals, the online consultations were a safe alternative that would keep members of the public and stakeholders engaged and up to date on the Peel 2051 Official Plan Review process.

The first two consultations were general sessions where all focus area topics were discussed, and the third session was specifically for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion and Rural Settlement Area Boundary Refinement topics.

Each session began with a welcome message from a facilitator who explained the format and how to ask questions using the chat function. Staff then provided a brief overview presentation of the Peel 2051 Official Plan Review process, focus areas, and next steps, before turning it back over to the facilitator to address questions from the public. Staff provided links to the Region’s webpage where members of the public could share additional thoughts and provide comments separately via a short survey if they wished to do so.

Online Drop-In #1: General Session

Thursday July 29, 2021

The first live virtual consultation session took place on July 29, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The session had approximately 35 attendees with a total of 27 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

Questions raised during this session were primarily related to climate change and the preservation of rural landscapes, agricultural lands, and natural heritage systems. Staff also received questions on affordable housing, healthy and complete communities, and the changing economy and how land use can support job growth, and fiscally sustainable growth in Peel Region.

Online Drop-In #2: General Session

Wednesday August 4, 2021

The second live virtual consultation session took place on August 4, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The session had approximately 31 attendees with a total of 15 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

The second general session questions focused heavily on transportation, transit, and the impacts of the GTA West Highway. This was tied into inquiries about population densities in Major Transit Station Areas, and the types of lands that may surround the GTA West Highway.

Online Drop-In #3: Settlement Area Boundary Expansion & Rural Settlement Area Boundary Refinement

Wednesday August 18, 2021

The third and final live virtual consultation session took place on August 18, 2021 on Microsoft Teams from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The session was scheduled for 90 minutes instead of the regular 60 minutes to account for the level of interest in boundary expansion policies. There were approximately 54 attendees with a total of 28 written questions submitted via the chat, which were answered by staff. Staff also provided contact information so attendees could follow up directly if they had additional questions or comments.

As this session focused on two specific topics, the key policy themes included road and water/wastewater infrastructure servicing plans, studies, and phasing of implementation. The timing and location of proposed boundary expansions, as well as the ability to accommodate forecasted growth were also discussed. There were also questions regarding the appropriateness of the density and intensification targets that have been set out for Peel Region by the Province.

Statutory Open Houses, Public Meeting and In-Person Consultations

On September 23, 2021, Planning and Growth Management Committee authorized staff to schedule statutory open houses and a public meeting in accordance with Section 17(16) and Section 26(3) of the Planning Act to invite the public to comment on draft Peel 2051 policies and mapping.

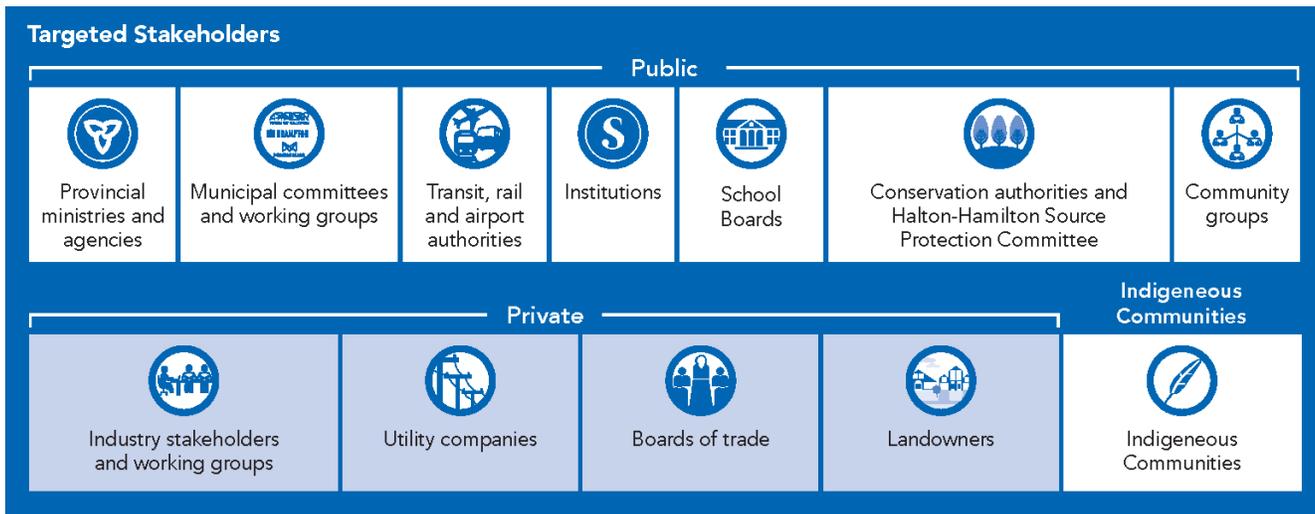
Statutory open houses took place virtually on October 26, 2021 and October 27, 2021 from 7:00PM-8:30PM.

Display boards were available for public review on the Peel 2051 website as of early October. The statutory public meeting took place virtually on November 4, 2021 at 1:00PM where five oral submissions and thirty-two written submissions were received. Regional staff gave a presentation at the public meeting outlining the purpose and effect of the amendment, background work and the proposed changes. The minutes of the public meeting can be found on the website.

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Planning Act, staff were able to organize four in-person open houses: 1 in Brampton, 2 in Caledon, 1 in Mississauga in November 2021 to allow for additional opportunities for feedback and discussion.

Public Consultation Metrics

As part of the Peel 2051 consultation and engagement program, metrics were tracked to understand engagement reach and input from stakeholders. A summary of this data is provided below.



Consultation Methods



Regional Official Plan YouTube Views

1,330
Total views based on promotional videos released on March 2021, September 2020, February 2018

Subscribe
173,000

Number of residents reached through Peel Connects Newsletter

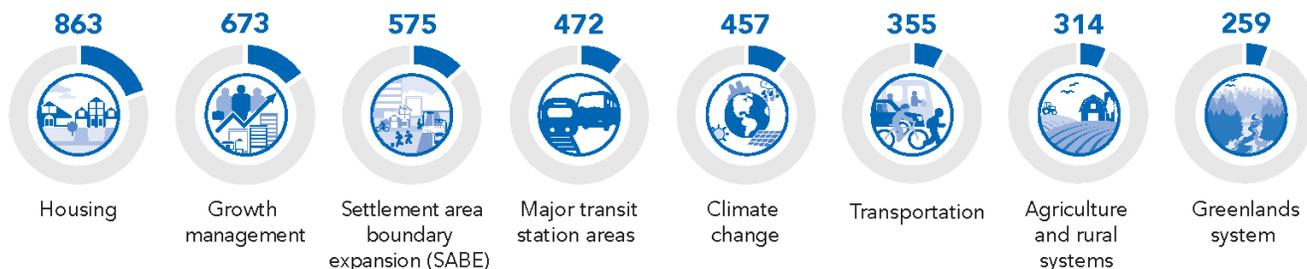
Connect

Almost **60** Informal Engagement Events (in-person/virtual)



Approximately **61** Tweets related to Peel 2051

Views on Virtual Display Boards



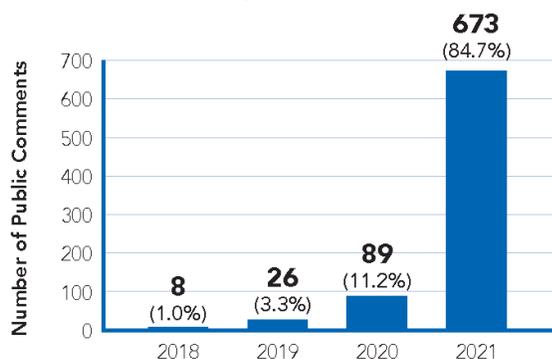
For more information visit: www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/

Public Consultation Metrics

Key Emerging Themes in Consultation

- Take action against climate change
- Manage growth in a fiscally sustainable manner
- Ensure the healthy, complete development of our communities
- Increase affordable housing
- Respond to a changing economy and encourage job growth
- Encourage active transportation

Public Comments by Year

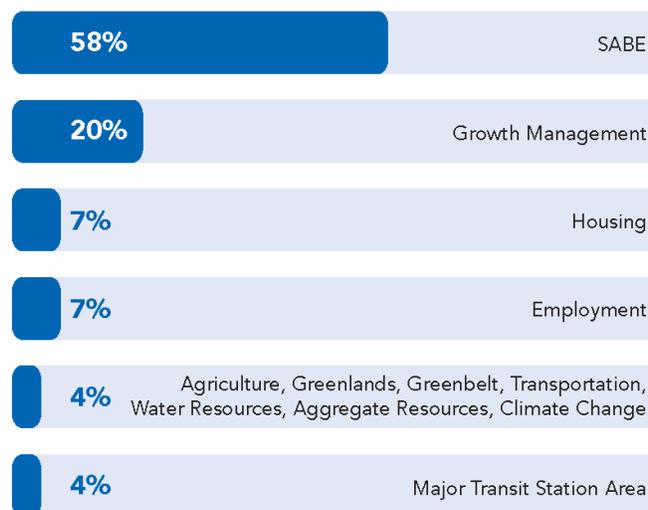


TOTAL 796

(non-statutory and statutory comments)

In 2021, there was a significant increase in the number of public comments submitted due to the statutory consultations taking place. Comments received before 2018 are not included due to the updated Peel 2051 work plan.

Public Comments by Focus Area



Public Consultation Events

19

Number of in-person sessions
(approx. 727 participants)

12

Number of virtual open houses
(approx. 548 participants)

25

Number of in-person pop up events
(approx. 1,534 participants)

8

Number of in-person workshops
(approx. 687 participants)

TOTAL 64

Approx. 3,496 participants at events (both informal and statutory)



Notification List

1,179

Number of people on the notification list as of December 15, 2021

Representative groups on notification list

- Members of neighbourhood associations
- Residents
- Developers
- Consultants and law firms
- Real estate agents
- Members of community organizations (i.e., cycling advocacy committees, MADD)
- Boards of trade members



For more information visit: www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/

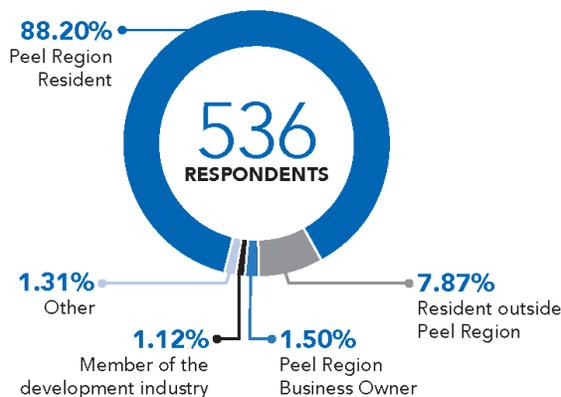
Peel 2051: Community Survey

Another consultation tool utilized under Peel 2051 was a community survey. The survey was an important tool to increase consultation reach and further opportunity to hear what is important to stakeholders. The survey was open from July 16, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

The Region of Peel is updating its Official Plan, which will guide growth and development in Peel until 2051. Although the Regional Official Plan must follow Provincial plans and policies, it also includes policies that consider the unique characteristics of the Region and what is important to residents and businesses. The Peel 2051 Community Survey was undertaken to provide an additional opportunity for stakeholders to share what is important to them, and should be considered through Peel's future growth.



Who responded?

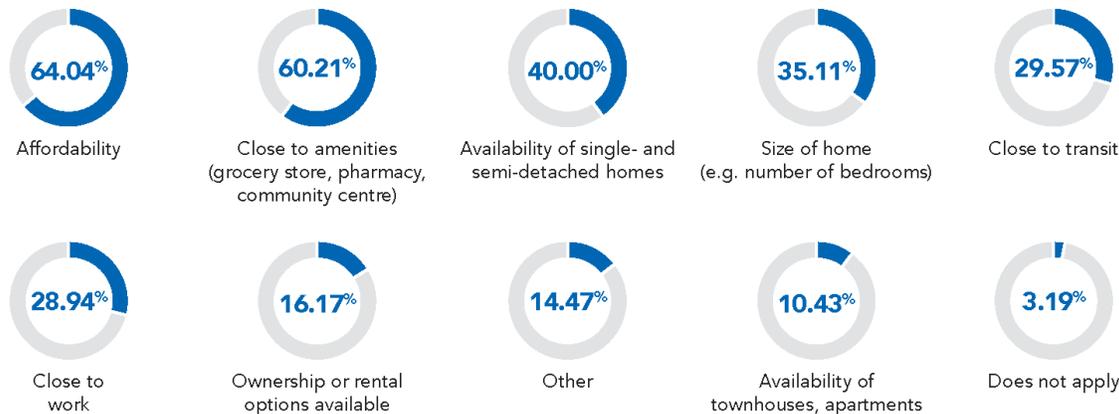


When planning a new community what are the most important considerations?*



*Respondents identified the importance of each consideration to them from a scale of 'not at all important' to 'very important'

What are the most important neighbourhood characteristics when looking for a home?*

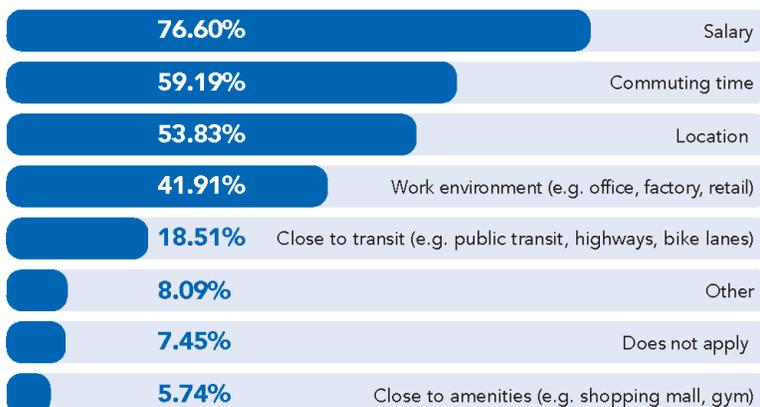


*Respondents picked top three

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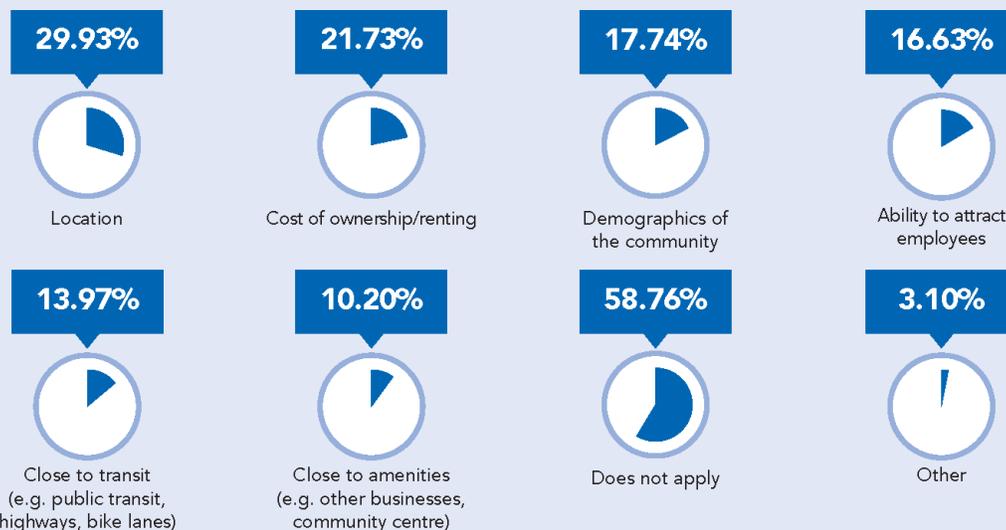
Peel 2051: Community Survey

What is important to you when looking for a job?*



*Respondents picked top three

If you are a business owner, what are the most important considerations when locating your business?*

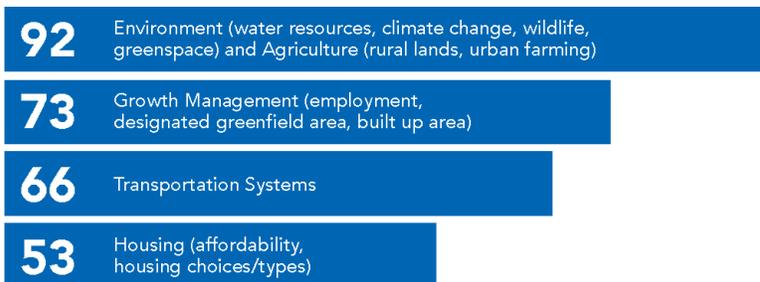


Areas of importance to be considered when planning for the future

**In addition to these areas, other comments were received that are outside of the scope of the Regional Official Plan Review. These comments have been forwarded to local municipalities where appropriate.

*Respondents picked top three

Number of mentions



For more information visit: www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/

Conclusion

The Peel 2051 consultation and engagement plan has made extensive efforts to afford the opportunities to hear diverse perspectives, allow for meaningful consultation, and foster involvement through the planning process, as planners have a responsibility to inform residents, respond to their concerns and provide for ongoing feedback from community members.

Numerous techniques have been employed through the course of the Peel 2051 review. Staff have shifted several times utilizing both virtual and in-person techniques to ensure engagement efforts can continue through challenging times in the safest and best way possible.

As outlined, many opportunities have been provided for public input and discussion. In addition to formal events, staff have made themselves available at a one-on-one meeting, and other stakeholder-specific meetings to provide the best information and answers to public questions.

All comments received through these engagements have been reviewed and considered. Comment and response tables are available on the website under [public consultations](#) and under the respective [focus area](#) page.

More detailed responses and analysis for site-specific requests are included in staff reports and other corresponding memos or reports. These can be found on the respective [focus area's](#) web page.

Staff have also continued to work with Indigenous communities throughout the Peel 2051 process to ensure ongoing engagement and build meaningful relationships. Most recent engagement includes discussions with the Huron-Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River. Details of the required consultation will be submitted to the Province when requesting approval as required under the Planning Act.

Staff believe that all reasonable efforts have been made to be as inclusive and responsive as possible throughout the Peel 2051 process and that the Planning Act requirements have been met.