



Region of Waterloo

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

**With respect to Amendment No. 6 to Regional Official Plan:
An amendment to establish the planning framework for accommodating Waterloo
Region's forecasted population and employment growth to 2051, in conformity with
the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

Sections 17, 21 and 26 of the Planning Act

Date of Notice: August 25, 2022

On August 18, 2022, Regional Council passed By-law No. 22-038 to adopt Amendment No. 6 to the Regional Official Plan (ROP) in accordance with the Planning Act. This Notice summarizes the purpose of the amendment, the next steps in the approval process, and explains how to obtain additional information.

Purpose and Effect of Amendment No. 6:

This amendment establishes the planning framework in the ROP to accommodate Waterloo Region's forecasted population and employment growth to 2051, in conformity with Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 (Growth Plan). The amendment will help guide strategic decisions regarding land use planning and a range of Regional services, including transportation, public transit, water and wastewater supply and services, public health, economic development, affordable housing and others.

Amendment No. 6 strengthens and modernizes the policies of the ROP in several key areas, including climate action, equity and inclusion, growth management, and "missing middle" housing, and planning for Major Transit Station Areas and local economic development. The amendment also updates several other planning policies, objectives, and mapping in the ROP to ensure they conform to the Growth Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, or do not conflict with them, and are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.

The overall effect of this amendment is to support Waterloo Region's long-term growth and development in a way that achieves an equitable, thriving and sustainable regional community for all residents.

This amendment implements the results of Phase 1 of the ROP Review. The Region will commence Phase 2 of the review in the fall of 2022 to update balance of the policies in the ROP (e.g., agriculture, natural heritage, cultural heritage resources, infrastructure and other policy areas).

Effect of Written and Oral Submissions

Amendment No. 6 reflects the results of an extensive community engagement process beginning in 2019. The majority of community and stakeholder input consistently demonstrated strong support for the overall vision and policy direction of the proposed amendment, particularly with regard to tackling climate change, building “15-minute neighbourhoods,” protecting the environment and agricultural land, and supporting the development of affordable and “missing middle” housing.

The engagement process also benefitted from several meaningful conversations with local Indigenous peoples. This dialogue fostered relationship building and the ongoing work of reconciliation. It also helped shape the final draft of the amendment through new language in the ROP that respects Indigenous values and history, protects the natural environment, and recognizes the cultural significance of the Grand River.

Amendment No. 6 includes several revisions in response to feedback received from the community since the release of the draft amendment on June 24, 2022. This includes feedback from the public information sessions held in early July, the statutory public open house on July 19, and the statutory public meeting on July 27. Most of the revisions are editorial in nature to improve clarity and policy implementation. A summary of the results of the community engagement process and details of the key revisions to the amendment in response to the written and oral submissions is available at <https://pub-regionofwaterloo.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=802>.

Approval Authority and Notice of Decision

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority for Amendment No. 6. Any person or public body will be entitled to receive notice of the Ministry’s decision if a written request to be notified of the decision is made directly to the Ministry at the following address:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Municipal Service Office – Western
659 Exeter Road, 2nd Floor
London, Ontario N6E 1L3
Tel. (519) 873-4020
Toll Free 1-800-265-4736
Fax (519) 873-4018

Additional Information

Copies of Amendment No. 6 are available for public inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the following location:

Regional Municipality of Waterloo
Regional Clerks Office
150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4J3

An electronic copy of Amendment No.6 and further information can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.engagewr.ca/8710/widgets/132716/documents/87657>.

Questions about Amendment No.6 may be directed to bmackinnon@regionofwaterloo.ca or phone at (519) 502-8298