

Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator – Proposed Guideline

Proposal Overview:

Bill 109, the More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022 was introduced in the Legislature on March 30, 2022. If passed, section 5 of Schedule 5 to the Bill would amend the Planning Act to establish a new “community infrastructure and housing accelerator” tool. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would have the power to make orders to respond to municipal council resolutions requesting expedited zoning outside of the Greenbelt Area.

Subsection 34.1 (25) of the Planning Act would require the Minister to establish guidelines governing how community infrastructure and housing accelerator orders may be made. The guidelines may, among other matters, restrict orders to certain geographic areas or types of development. The guidelines would have to be in place before a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order could be issued and would need to be published on a website of the Government of Ontario.

The draft guidelines outlined below have been prepared for consultation purposes. This consultation draft of proposed guidelines is intended to facilitate dialogue and stimulate feedback. The comments received during consultation will be considered during the final preparation of the guidelines.

Caution: The content, structure, form and wording of the consultation draft are subject to change.

Draft Guidelines: Minister’s Orders at Request of Municipalities (Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Tool)

Where the tool may be used

Subsection 34.1 (11) of the Planning Act provides that a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order cannot be made in the Greenbelt Area (as defined in [Ontario Regulation 59/05 “Designation of Greenbelt Area”](#)) which includes specified lands within:

- the Oak Ridges Moraine Area
- the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- the Protected Countryside plan areas

- the Glenorchy Addition plan area
- the 2017 Urban River Valley Area Additions plan area
- Any additional Urban River Valley Areas that may be added through the current [Growing the Greenbelt phase II consultation](#)

Local municipalities (lower and single tier only) may request a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order relating to lands within their geographic boundaries.

Community infrastructure and housing accelerator orders

The Minister will consider making a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order on the request of the council of a local municipality (lower or single tier) where the Minister believes it is in the public interest to do so.

A community infrastructure and housing accelerator order can be used to regulate the use of land and the location, use, height, size and spacing of buildings and structures to permit certain types of development.

The requesting municipality is responsible for providing public notice, undertaking consultation and ensuring the order, once made, is made available to the public.

In issuing an order, the Minister is able to:

- provide an exemption for other necessary planning-related approvals from provincial plans, the Provincial Policy Statement and municipal official plans, but only if this is specifically requested by the municipality, and
- impose conditions on the municipality and/or the proponent.

Types of development

The Minister may make a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order to expedite the following types of priority developments:

- community infrastructure that is subject to Planning Act approval including: lands, buildings, and structures that support the quality of life for people and communities by providing public services for matters such as health, long-term care, education, recreation, socio-cultural activities, and security and safety
- any type of housing, including community housing, affordable housing and market-based housing
- buildings that would facilitate employment and economic development, and
- mixed-use developments.

For greater clarity, a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order will address zoning matters and will not address environmental assessment matters related to infrastructure.

Subsequent approvals

When making a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order, subsection 34.1 (15) of the Planning Act would allow the Minister, upon request of a local municipality, to provide that specific subsequent approvals are not subject to provincial plans, the Provincial Policy Statement and municipal official plans. Subsequent approvals are licences, permits, approvals, permissions or other matters that are required before a use permitted by a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order could be established, such as plans of subdivision and site plan control.

The Minister will only consider an exemption from provincial policy requirements if the subsequent approval is needed to facilitate the proposed project, and the municipality provides a plan that would, in the opinion of the Minister, adequately mitigate any potential impacts that could arise from the exemption. This includes, but is not limited to, matters dealing with:

- Community engagement
- Indigenous engagement
- Environmental protection/mitigation

Conditions

The Minister may impose conditions on the approval of a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order. Conditions could be imposed to ensure that certain studies, assessments, consultations and other necessary due diligence associated with any proposed development that would be subject to the community infrastructure and housing accelerator order would be adequately addressed before construction or site alteration can begin. The lifting of a Minister's condition is at the sole discretion of the Minister.

Existing Aboriginal or treaty rights

This guideline shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.