

Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, May 05, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2020 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW INTERIM REPORT

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with an interim report on the 2020 Ward Boundary Review, including the preliminary ward boundary options prepared by the consultant team and the results of the initial round of stakeholder consultation. Council will be able to provide feedback and direction prior to receiving the final recommendations for a decision at the Committee of the Whole meeting in June.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan has retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., ICA Associates and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.
- By 2030, the City of Vaughan is expected to grow by approximately 68,900 people, to a total population of 408,900, an increase of roughly 20%.
- 915 people engaged with the online survey, 3,000 unique individuals visited the Ward Boundary Review webpage, and approximately 4,750 liked, shared or commented on the project across multiple social media platforms.

Recommendations

1. That Council provide direction on the preferred ward boundary configuration as presented by the consultant team.

Background

At its meeting of May 27, 2020, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) that staff be directed to undertake a Ward Boundary Review. Council received the presentation from the City Clerk, on the subject of Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, and determined that a review should take place but that its focus should be on a ward boundary review, and not a council composition review that would consider changes to the size, composition or organization of Council.

The City of Vaughan retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to serve as the consultant team for the purposes of conducting a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Direction for Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, CW\(WS\) May 27, 2020](#)

Analysis and Options

The first phase of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review involved a series of stakeholder consultations with the Mayor and Members of Council, municipal staff and engagements with area school boards. The consultant team also conducted a public consultation, with a discussion paper made available on the project webpage, an online survey and a series of four virtual public open houses to capture feedback on the existing ward boundaries and the guiding principles of the review. The public participation in the first phase of public engagement is outlined in Table 1.

4,764	Social media engagements and interactions
3,434	Unique visits to the Ward Boundary Review webpage
585	People answered some of the key questions in the survey
375	People left thoughtful explanations to some of their survey responses
31	People attended one of the four virtual public open houses

Table 1. Phase One Public Engagement Stats

The consultant team evaluated the existing ward boundaries according to the five core principles:

1. Representation by Population;

2. Consideration of Communities of Interest and Neighbourhoods;
3. Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends;
4. Consideration of Physical Features and Natural Boundaries; and
5. Effective Representation.

Based on this detailed analysis, the consultant team prepared the three preliminary options, identified in their report at Attachment 1. The preliminary options developed by the consultant team have been socialized with the public through a second round of public consultation, undertaken in March 2021, including a new online survey, four virtual public open houses, and interactive mapping tools and presentations available on the project webpage.

The final report and recommendations of the consultant team will be presented to Council for a final decision at Committee of the Whole (2) on June 8, 2021. These final recommendations will reflect the feedback received during the second round of public consultation and a final review of population growth data.

Financial Impact

There is no financial implication associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no regional impacts associated with this report. School boards were engaged by the consultant team as part of the stakeholder consultation process.

Conclusion

The preliminary options prepared by the consultant team and identified in Attachment 1, reflect the results of a detailed analysis of demographic and geographic data on the City of Vaughan, along with stakeholder interviews, public open houses and an online survey. Socialization of the proposed options commenced in March, with a second round of public open houses and a new online survey to capture feedback on the preliminary ward boundary options. Feedback from the second round of stakeholder consultation and engagement will form the basis of the final recommendations by the consultant team, who will present their findings at Committee of the Whole (2) in June, at which time Council will be asked to confirm their decision to adopt one of the recommended options, or to maintain the status quo.

For more information, please contact: Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241

Attachments

1. 2020 Ward Boundary Review - Preliminary Options Report, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with: ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, March 24, 2021

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