

**Integrated Columbus Part II Planning Act and
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Act
Study**

**Public Information Centre #1 Visioning Session
Summary**

December 5th, 2018

BrookMcIlroy/



Study Context and Background

- The City of Columbia has included an extensive Planning and Municipal Development Department Business and Study the Study of the Columbia Community Housing and the Columbia Part 3 Plan Area.
- The Study will guide future growth and development in the Columbia Part 3 Plan Area.
- The Study will take into account the history and the background of the area, the needs and the economic development and social infrastructure and the relationship and enhancement of environmental and cultural features.

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Introduction

On December 5th, 2018, the first Public Information Centre (P.I.C.) was conducted as part of the Integrated Columbus Part II Planning Act and Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Act Study (the Study). The session ran between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm at the Columbus Community Centre.

The agenda for the session included:

- Open House;
- Presentation;
- Questions;
- Workshop – Developing the Vision; and
- Report Back.

The session was attended by City of Oshawa Staff; members of the consultant team including Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd. (M.S.H.), H.D.R, and Brook McIlroy Inc; and approximately 50 members of the community.

Purpose of Public Consultation

The purpose of P.I.C. Number 1 was to inform participants about the Study and its process. It also provided an opportunity for participants to identify top priorities and guiding principles, and to share their vision for the future of the community and the Study Area. The session enabled participants to provide their feedback and communicate their local knowledge and expertise for the project team to incorporate into the Study.



Visioning Session Workshop

Open House

The Open House portion of the session was conducted between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The Open House allowed participants to review eight boards. The boards provided information on:

- the agenda for the session;
- contact and website information;
- the study purpose and timeline;
- existing policy framework;
- the study area boundary;
- existing land use;
- built heritage; and
- natural heritage.

Board eight was interactive and provided participants the opportunity to write their vision for the Study Area. No feedback was provided on this board.

Presentation

A presentation was conducted between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The presentation was primarily presented by Elizabeth Howson of M.S.H. The presentation included additional information on the Study context and background; the consultant team; work program, and physical context of the Study.

Questions

After the presentation, between 7:30 pm and 7:45 pm, participants were able to ask questions and provide comments to the Project Team. Some of the comments and concerns discussed include the following:

- Some participants felt inadequately notified by the newspaper and public bulletin boards. Participants felt that they should have been additionally notified by mail.
- Some of the participants stated that they don't receive the local newspapers in Columbus.
- A question regarding timeline and when development would approximately occur.
- Concern and comment suggesting that the Study must consider transportation impacts outside of the Study Area.
- Concern for traffic impacts on Simcoe Street North.
- Need for additional public spaces, especially along roadways.
- Concern regarding traffic impacts from Highway 407 East.

Visioning Session Workshop

The fourth part of the session was the Visioning Session Workshop. The workshop was conducted between 7:45 pm and 8:15 pm.

Approximately 20 participants remained after the presentation to participate in the workshop. The Workshop divided the remaining participants into groups of between four to eight people and placed them at individual tables. Each table included a worksheet and the group was facilitated by a member of the Project Team. The worksheet included three tasks.

Task 1

Task 1 asked participants to rate a series of guiding principles for the Columbus Part II Planning Area from 1 to 10, where 1 is “very important” and 10 is “not as important.” Participants were able to provide additional guiding principles, not included on the worksheet. A full list of ranked priorities are provided in Table 1.

Group 1 listed the following three priorities as most important:

- Columbus’s cultural heritage will be conserved and enhanced.
- Transitions between residential and future industrial land uses will be carefully considered.
- The creeks, valleys and other related natural features that run through Columbus will be protected and maintained.

Group 1 also provided two unranked additional priorities. These include:

- The amount and type of retail should be controlled.
- Community Store-General Store.

Group 2 considered the following three priorities as most important:

- Transitions between residential and surrounding agricultural land uses will be carefully considered.
- Columbus’s cultural heritage will be conserved and enhanced.
- Transitions between residential and future industrial land uses will be carefully considered.

Group 2 also provided one additional priority rated high indicating that Columbus Road should be kept as such to protect the community and prevent it from becoming a “pass-through” for drivers.

Group 2 provided three unranked additional priorities. These included:

- The size of new residential lots should be similar to those of existing residential lots, to maintain balance.
- The need to maintain Columbus’ identity and sense of community (e.g. keep it unique and a village, not a subdivision).
- Put a parkland buffer around the village.

Group 3 considered the following three priorities as most important:

- The neighbourhood will be well connected to other parts of the City through public transit and active transportation networks.
- The creeks, valleys and other related natural features that run through Columbus will be protected and maintained.
- The unique landforms and topography will be carefully incorporated into new plans and development.

Group 3 also provided one additional highly rated priority that stated the need to control and manage speed of traffic on Simcoe Street North.

Group 3 provided three unranked additional priorities. These include

- Need for local schools.
- Appropriate transitions should be provided between the existing built form and new development.
- Preserve housing along Simcoe Street North.

Task 1: Ranked Priorities By Group			
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Columbus's cultural heritage will be conserved and enhanced.	1	1B	2-3
The neighbourhood will be well connected to other parts of the City through public transit and active transportation networks.	8	n/a	1
New development and infrastructure will use innovative sustainability measures to conserve energy and water.	6	n/a	5
The community will be compact and enhance opportunities for walking and cycling.	9	n/a	n/a
The creeks, valleys and other related natural features that run through Columbus will be protected and maintained.	2	n/a	1
Land uses will allow for a variety of housing types.	10	n/a	4
The unique landforms and topography will be carefully incorporated into new plans and development.	7	n/a	1-2
A network of parks, open spaces and trails will provide opportunities to be active and connect to existing natural heritage features.	5	n/a	n/a
Transitions between residential and surrounding agricultural land uses will be carefully considered.	3	1	3
Transitions between residential and future industrial land uses will be carefully considered.	1	2	n/a
Additional Ranked Priorities			
Columbus Road kept as residential road to protect village from becoming a thru-pass		1A	
Traffic on Simcoe – Control speed and volume			1

Table 1: Task 1 cumulative priorities, ranked.

Task 2

Task 2 allowed participants to draw or mark a map displaying the Study Area, to identify important places and possible new land uses. Due to constraints in time, only Group 3 provided input for Task 2. Group 3 highlighted the need for schools and open space. They also noted the importance of heritage at Columbus Road and Simcoe Street North. The group emphasized concerns with traffic and a loss of housing if road infrastructure changes were to occur.

Task 3

Task 3 asked participants to collectively determine their vision for Columbus.

Group 1 provided the following vision statements:

- Normalcy
- Buffer
- Park/Green Space
- Traffic solutions
- Sense of community

Group 2 did not provide a vision statement.

Group 3 provided the following vision statements:

- Columbus remains a community
- Maintain community identity
- Better services/cell reception
- Better policing

Report Back

After the group exercise between 8:15 pm and approximately 8:30 pm, participants from each group were asked summarize their findings and present them to the Project Team and other participants.

Group 1 stated that a sense of normalcy, preservation of parks and open space, and a continued sense of community was important for the future of the area. Group 1 also stated that increased enforcement of traffic speed along Simcoe Street North and improvements to services were desired.

Group 2 stated a preference to preserve heritage buildings and for the community to remain quiet. Group 2 also were concerned about solutions for improved traffic flow, stating concerns about vehicular traffic 'short-cutting' east west through the community instead of on Highway 407 East.

Group 3 expressed a desire for additional amenities such as schools north of the Highway 407 East. They also stated increased enforcement of traffic speed along Simcoe Street North, improvements to services such as cellular connectivity, preservation of existing community identity would be beneficial if future development is to occur. Group 3 also expressed a desire for new built form to maintain minimal densities and were concerned about the potential for high-rise development to occur in the area.

Next Steps

The comments received at the P.I.C. will be used to inform Stage 2 of the Study.

The next stage of the Integrated Columbus Part II Planning Act and Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Act Study includes:

- Finalization of the Background Review; and
- Development of Land Use and Transportation Alternatives .