



PIED City Builders Newsletter – June 2020

COVID-19 Update

Current Context: The Province and the City of Ottawa

COVID-19 has been a massive challenge for residents across Ottawa. The situation remains fluid and the City of Ottawa continues to plan for recovery. On Wednesday, May 13th, City Manager Steve Kanellakos provided an [update to Council](#) on our roadmap for the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some highlights on where things stand:

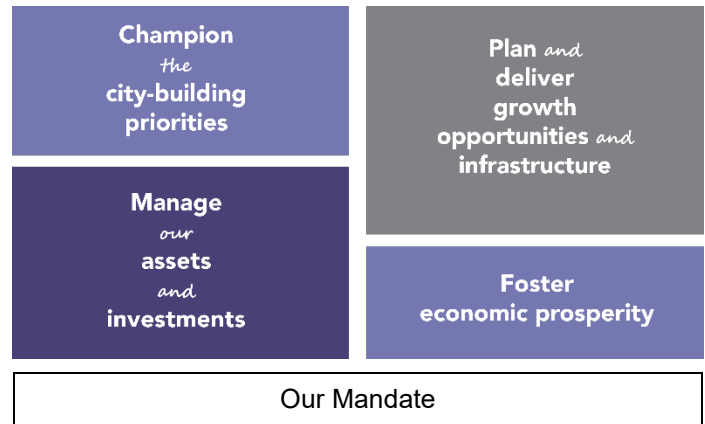
- On April 27, the Ontario government released their [reopening framework](#) that outlines a careful, stage-by-stage approach to ensure the appropriate measures are in place so workplaces can reopen safely
- On May 12, the Province announced the [extension of their state of emergency](#) to June 2, 2020 which means that all enhanced public health measures including recommendations to stay home, practice physical distancing and hand washing remain in place
- On May 14, Premier Ford announced [additional workplaces that could reopen](#) including some retailers, seasonal businesses and health and community service providers over the long weekend and on Tuesday, May 19
- The City of Ottawa remains in a state of emergency and is lockstep with the Province in terms of plans to reopen as we continue to address immediate and evolving community needs
- The City of Ottawa is taking cues from the Province and public health officials to adapt our recovery plan to respond to new and emerging directives
- The City of Ottawa does not have dates yet and we need to remain flexible to respond to potential flare-ups or increases in infection rates

Innovation within the Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED) Department

As a service organization, we are depended upon to deliver the services that residents need. Service delivery continues across the organization and the Planning Infrastructure and Economic Development department (PIED) is no exception!

The Province has revised its list of essential businesses pursuant to its powers under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (the “*Emergency Act*”). The City of Ottawa will continue to accept, and process applications related to building permits, development and heritage applications, and right-of-way permits.

PIED staff have made best efforts to continue business as usual where possible, making the necessary modifications and innovations to accommodate physical distancing requirements. Here are just a few highlights of our innovations and the work we’ve completed during the pandemic:



Building Code Services has adapted its processes to be able to continue to provide essential services during the pandemic.

- Clients can submit their complete permit application submission packages with payment (cheque) via mail.
- Smaller construction applications (scaled to a maximum of 11”x17”) can be submitted by email.
- Inspections are continuing for those projects under the authority of a Building Permit provided they are deemed an essential business.
- Inspectors are currently practicing enhanced health and safety protocols, including physical distancing, while on site.
- The Province has amended the Municipal Act, 2001 to extend construction hours for projects associated with the healthcare sector to 24 hours a day. The amendment also extends permissible construction hours for other workplaces to between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Right of Way and Urban Design has had many innovations in technology by their various branches.

- The Geospatial Analytics, Technology and Solutions Branch has created a tool that focuses on vulnerable populations during emergencies.
- The Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) held its first virtual meeting through Zoom on May 1st.
- Inspections staff have become accustomed to using technology in their day to day activities to complete tasks, inspections, and essential pre-construction meetings, and schedule updates.

Infrastructure Services have reviewed the essential services information provided by the Province, and the interpretation is construction on critical infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, sewer, water, transit and transportation falls within the exemption.

- Ongoing, enhanced communication and engagement is taking place with industry partners to comply with restrictions and recommendations provided by health officials at a municipal, provincial and federal levels.
- Annual meetings with Ward Councillors are taking place, this year virtually, staff are adapting to a new way of doing business remotely, online and providing ongoing support.
- The team is adapting to a new way of doing business remotely and online, including the creation of a new webpage on Ottawa.ca to post more information about projects. Visit Ottawa.ca and check out the [Construction Notices](#) that have already been posted!

Planning Services continues to receive and process development applications

- More than 50 applications were received in March and April.

Economic Development and Long Range Planning created a Economic Recovery Task Force with the primary goal to identify emerging issues and opportunities to support the business community through the COVID-19 pandemic collaborating with our partner agencies to align objectives to coordinate responses, amplify messages and speak with a unified business voice.

- Working with our partner agencies to align objectives, coordinate responses, amplify messages and speak with a unified business voice. This will position us to capitalize on momentum during the recovery phase.
- On March 26th, the City launched the “Buy Local” promotional campaign which encourages residents to support small businesses by ordering products and gift certificates on-line or ordering take-out or delivery from area restaurants.
- Staff prepared and were present for the Joint Planning and Agriculture Affairs Committee meeting on May 11th and 12th where recommendations on the City’s Growth Management Strategy (to be considered at Council on May 27th) will allow the Official Plan Team to move forward with completing the draft Official Plan later in the year.
- Several external consultations have been scheduled virtually in support of the Official Plan, Energy Evolution and other planning projects.

Business and Technical Support Services remains incredibly busy supporting public engagement:

- Adapted to new technology for three online open houses and information sessions as well as supported the first ever online Planning Committee meeting through *Zoom*.
- Processed and reviewed 50 reports and 13 motions to committee and council.

The Corporate Real Estate Office has been supporting various projects for Infrastructure Services and other departments.

- The acquisition team has completed 97 different agreements, including easements, temporary occupancies, fee simple, and licenses of occupations.
 - The Valuation team has completed 55 appraisals supporting ongoing development applications, acquisitions and disposals.
 - The leasing team has processed 11 rent deferrals as part of the COVID-19 response and initiated 13 Lease renewals and 7 Licenses in addition to crossing agreements and consents to enter.
 - The disposal unit has finalized negotiations for 11 land sales that will close later this year, including OCLDC, lanes and road closing sales. This group has also processed 13 requests related to easements and licenses.
 - The Environmental Remediation Unit has been busy with 60 HLUI requests; 5 new soil sampling programs for park improvements; 450 tax bill changes; 10 property inquiries; 10 property inventory updates; reviewing 25 planning files and 2 other IS projects; 20 ESA Phase 1 and 2 reports; and actively managing approximately 50 projects for remedial work or monitoring.
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In the News!

Economic Support and Recovery

Led by Mayor Watson, an Economic Partners Task Force was established in mid-March and includes representatives from the Ottawa Coalition of BIAs, the Ottawa Board of Trade, le Regroupement des gens d'affaires, Ottawa Tourism, Ottawa Festival Network, Invest Ottawa, Ottawa Film Office and Ottawa Music Industry Coalition. The primary goal of the Economic Partners Task Force is to provide advice on how the City can best support the business community through COVID-19 response and recovery. For more information, please click [here](#).



The #NewOP – Stakeholder Engagement:

We would like to thank all residents who engaged in the Joint Agricultural and Rural Affairs and Planning Committee meeting that took place over three days from May 11th to May 19th, 2020. We had over 100 delegations register and at times over 400 residents following the meeting over YouTube. It is great to see this new technology providing an opportunity for so many residents to participate in the meeting!

You may have seen an update on our engagement so far. Through a range of innovative tools, we have managed to reach over 45,000 residents in the development of the New Official Plan.

Stakeholder engagement will continue as we move towards a draft in late 2020. Our main objectives leading up to the release of the Draft Official Plan include collaborating with

stakeholders on how to best engage in our current emergency, utilizing new tools to stay connected despite physical distancing, and deepening relationships with targeted stakeholders to get more detailed feedback.

We are working hard to find new ways to keep residents engaged in this project. Please share any ideas or preferences you may have through [this quick poll](#).

We look forward to connecting with you again!

Construction Update:

Visit the City of Ottawa's website to check out the [capital construction forecast map](#)! The interactive map provides details of ongoing and planned construction projects. Here are just a few that are either in progress or soon to be!

- Carling Avenue Interim Cycling Facility
- 2020 Resurfacing Central Rural
- Duncairn Avenue Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements Project
- Fourth Line Road (South of Brophy Drive) Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements Project
- Fairhurst Drive and Firethorn Court Culvert Replacement
- Road Resurfacing Projects in Ottawa East 2020 East Urban 1 Asphaltic Overlay
- Bronson Avenue / Holmwood Avenue Bus Queue Jump Sidewalk and Curb Rehabilitation Curran Street West

Rideau Renewal

Rideau Renewal is progressing well! Crews are busy with asphalt removals, excavation, granular work and hydrant relocations. Don't forget to subscribe to the [newsletter](#) to stay in the know!



Submitting Building Permit Applications and the Issuance of Building Permits During COVID-19

Building Code Services has been working diligently to address emerging issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak and most recently the provincially enacted declaration of emergency to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public. Currently all Client Service Center counter services are closed. As a result, Building Code Services(BCS) is providing the following alternate service delivery for building permits.

City of Ottawa Film By-Law approved!

The new Film By-law will provide a consistent process for the industry when seeking City approvals. It will support Ottawa in becoming a 'film friendly' destination by

- Creating a Film Permit;
- Providing film and production companies with a streamlined application and approvals process; and
- Establishing film industry advisors within the City to coordinate film approvals as well as other City work that may impact productions.

The Film By-law will also provide greater coordination of City services as they relate to filming and help minimize any potential disruption to residents, businesses and institutions during filming events. For more information, please [click here](#).

Rural Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan

Approved by Council on April 8th, the overall goal of this strategy and action plan is to stimulate economic growth in the City's four rural wards: West Carleton-March, Cumberland, Osgoode and Rideau-Goulbourn. The strategy focuses on five priority areas:

1. Supportive business environment, which will help rural businesses learn about and access available supports and identify gaps in rural programs and services.
2. Vibrant rural lifestyle, which aims to improve quality of life for rural residents and their ability to respond to economic and social challenges.
3. Strengthened rural tourism, which will promote rural Ottawa as a visitor destination that offers a unique experience, separate from what visitors and residents can find in the urban core.
4. Innovation in agriculture and agri-food production, which will help local food producers take advantage of innovations in food production to keep them competitive and economically viable.
5. Advocating for rural priorities, which will ensure the City continues to seek solutions to emerging rural needs.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Heritage Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

In February this year, the City's newest Community Improvement Plan (CIP) came into effect. The goal of the new program is to encourage the restoration and adaptive re-use of some of Ottawa's important heritage buildings. This new CIP provides financial incentives for eligible properties where the owners are undertaking a heritage restoration project in conjunction with a significant redevelopment.

The City will provide a financial incentive to eligible property owners in the form of an annual Tax Increment Equivalent Grant (TIEG) equal to 75% of the increase in the municipal portion of property taxes that is directly attributable to the redevelopment. Grants will extend for up to 10 years after the project is completed until the earlier to occur of: (i) the accumulated grants total

one hundred percent (100%) of the actual expenditures on the heritage restoration component of the redevelopment; or (ii) the accumulated grants total five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

For more information on this program, please contact:

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[Business Reopening Toolkit](#)

The gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions will bring new challenges for local businesses to navigate, as well as opportunities to innovate. The City of Ottawa has developed a business reopening toolkit, in consultation with Ottawa Public Health, to help businesses answer critical questions as they prepare to reopen safely.

The toolkit provides guidance on preparing your workplace, employees and operations to resume while ensuring physical distancing, and also provides links to official resources such as public health signage, sector-specific guidelines and government financial assistance programs. Information and resources will be updated regularly on ottawa.ca as guidance from the Government of Ontario and Ottawa Public Health continues to evolve.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Did You Know?

About the Economic Recovery Task Force

The **Economic Recovery Task Team** is focusing on:

- Ramping up economic development including high economic impact activities
 - Supporting infrastructure and construction activities (private e.g. residential and public projects)
 - Identifying City services critical to re-establishing employment and supporting businesses to restart
 - Conducting an economic sector analysis and identify required supports by sector (including public health considerations, child care etc.)
 - Reviewing legislative priorities, City Strategic Plan, Official Plan and other master plans
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Get Involved!

Pollinator Appreciation Day – June 7, 2020



Happy Pollinator Appreciation Day! Ottawa is home to hundreds of species of [pollinators](#), including many kinds of bees, flies, butterflies and moths, other insects, and even some birds. The City proclaimed its first Pollinator Appreciation Day in 2019 in recognition of the essential ecological services provided by pollinators.

Learn more about pollinators and other wildlife, and the native plants they depend on, by using [iNaturalist](#) and other apps. It's fun!

Westboro Infill Zoning Study – [Discussion Paper](#) (Open until June 8th)

For more information contact: [Robert Sandercott](#)

Westboro Infill Zoning Study

[Discussion Paper](#) (Open until June 15th)

For more information contact [Robert Sandercott](#)

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities:

Help make a difference! Engage with City projects that matter to you and offer your feedback. Check out our Engage Ottawa page and discover upcoming engagement opportunities by clicking [here](#)!

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