

Document 4: Questions to and confirmation from the Ministry (received May 16, 2025)

1. Request for prioritized review and approval the Official Plan Amendment to add information and materials list to the City's Official Plan

- The City does not currently have a list of information and materials in the Official Plan.
- The City is intending to introduce them in the upcoming [Provincial Planning Statement Consistency Review](#) report ([D01-01-25-0001](#)) to be presented to Joint Planning and Housing, and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on June 18 and Council June 25, 2025.
- The City would request the Ministry prioritize the review and approval for this Official Plan Amendment.
- Response from the Ministry:
[Schedule 7 of Bill 17 proposes to amend the *Planning Act* to limit complete application requirements to what is currently identified in municipal official plans, except where the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing approves the changes prior to their adoption. If passed, the requirement for MMAH approval would apply to official plan amendments adopted on or after May 12, 2025 \(the date Bill 17 was introduced\). I would encourage you to review the Complete Application ERO posting \(\[ERO 025-0462\]\(#\)\) which provides an overview of proposed regulations that would, if Bill 17 is passed, limit the information and material that may be required by a municipality as part of a complete application. A written request may be made to MMAH to add new complete application requirements to an official plan.](#)

2. Confirmation that studies prepared by certified professionals are deemed complete

- Response from the Ministry:
[Bill 17 proposes to amend the *Planning Act* to create regulation-making authority to require municipalities to accept studies from certified professionals. The government is seeking input on which certified professionals should be included in a list of professionals whose reports/studies would be required to be accepted. Comments can be provided on these regulatory proposals through the Environmental Registry of Ontario \(\[ERO 025-0462\]\(#\)\). The proposed changes provide that if a study is required as part of a complete application \(i.e., by provincial or municipal requirements\), and the study is undertaken by a prescribed professional, the municipality must consider the study to meet the requirements of a complete application. \[The municipality could still review the study submitted.\]\(#\)](#)
- Staff analysis on the impact of this change: there is a heightened pressure on timelines where prescribed professionals are not providing materials of sufficient quality to demonstrate consistency with master plans, policies, by-laws, standards, or guidelines and without the systems lens that staff undertake. A site-specific assessment may lack the network context, and the municipality losing its ability to review for completeness and methodology can reasonably be expected to put pressure on timelines. To meet provincial timelines, Site Plan Control approvals may include at an increased frequency conditions to be resolved before a building permit can be issued to resolve quality issues.

- 3. We are looking forward to the updated Projection Methodology Guideline. Is there any clarity on when these guidelines will be released?**
- Response from the Ministry:
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has heard requests for guidance material to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024). The government intends to consult on updated guidance (the Projection Methodology Guideline) to help municipalities update their population and employment forecasts and implement them to support growth and development in their communities.