



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

PEDC 5-2020

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

All electronic meetings can be viewed on Niagara Region's website at:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/council/>

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters will not be open to the public to attend Committee meetings until further notice. To view live stream meeting proceedings, visit:
[niagararegion.ca/government/council](https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/council)

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
3. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
4. <u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
5. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u>	
6. <u>CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u>	
6.1 <u>ED 8-2020</u> COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development Update	3 - 6
6.2 <u>PDS-C 6-2020</u> COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development	7 - 10

6.3 PDS 24-2020 11 - 24
Resolution of Appeal of RPPA 4-2013 Welland Urban Area Boundary
(LPAT Case No. PL131384)(and **BE CIRCULATED** to The City of
Welland)

6.4 PDS-C 3-2020 25 - 28
2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP) Funding Commitment
Update

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

8.1 Confidential PDS 18-2020
A Matter Related to Litigation or Potential Litigation- Appeal to the Local
Planning Appeal Tribunal, Township of Wainfleet Council Decision on
Wainfleet Official Plan Amendment 02

9. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the
Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or
events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376
(cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

MEMORANDUM

ED 8-2020

Subject: COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development
Date: June 17, 2020
To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Val Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development

Economic Development

Current Status of Operations

This report is an update on ED 7-2020 COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development, which was provided for information at the May 13, 2020, Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting. Niagara Economic Development has re-focused its work, in the wake of COVID-19, to support Niagara businesses. New initiatives have been developed in collaboration with the other economic development offices in Niagara, working together as the Economic Rapid Response Team (ERRT).

While all work in connection with the ERRT takes priority, where resources are available, some regular activities continue, including projects started before COVID-19. They include ongoing advisory support for the Local Area Municipalities that do not have economic development offices, responding to investment inquiries, development of a CRM tool necessary for client follow up, webinar to present the results of a Supply Chain study developed in partnership with Transport Canada and the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics, development of a Transportation and Logistics policy brief in partnership with the Niagara Community Observatory, connection with local exporters as part of the Foreign Trade Zone program and providing support for Enbridge in the preparation of an application for a Natural Gas Extension in the region.

Service/Operational Changes

Two major areas that regional economic development normally focuses on are business investment attraction and the external marketing of Niagara as a competitive location for investment. Although, we are not currently involved in active lead generation to identify potential prospects for investment, Niagara Economic Development has received 10 inquiries since mid-March. These leads are all active and have required ongoing follow up.

All pro-active external marketing activities have stopped and work is focused on crisis communications to local businesses and the promotion of tools including the websites (ERRT and Open in Niagara), the surveys and other information to support businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Significant Initiatives or Actions Taken

The COVID-19 webpage continues to provide up to date information on provincial and federal announcements, new funding programs and local support. The link to the website is errt.niagararegion.ca in the last 30 days the website has had 5,715 visitors, 145 were returning visitors and 2,557 were unique visits. The most visited category was Financial Support.

The dedicated ERRT email is promoted as a channel for businesses to ask questions. The emails are triaged and sent to the appropriate municipal Economic Development office or organization to respond immediately. The email address is ERRT@niagararegion.ca

The first Business Impact Survey report was released in May and the results widely circulated to upper levels of government as well as FCM, AMO, FedDev etc. and the results also informed our own recovery planning. The second Business Impact Survey closed on June 1st and a report will be available this month. In collaboration with the 6 Economic Development Offices, the survey questions were reworked to understand the effect of government funding and where gaps in support exist, as well as current and projected impact to businesses. The report will be widely distributed and a government relations plan has been developed to disseminate the information to the appropriate government contacts.

We continue to promote the 'Open in Niagara' website to businesses that are open to encourage them to self-register and to Niagara residents to encourage them to shop local and support Niagara businesses. As of May 29, the website has received 20,000 page views with an average of 14 minutes spent on each page.

Working with the Economic Development offices a draft Economic Recovery Plan has been created and circulated to Economic Development Officers and other stakeholders, for comment. The next revised version will be available once the results from the second survey are available.

The ERRT is also promoting a Niagara PPE list compiled by the Niagara Industrial Association from their membership. The list includes companies who produce different types of PPE or have pivoted to produce PPE. The directory has been built and is hosted on our website. At the time of writing this report it was being tested before going live.

A partnership between Venture Niagara and Niagara Economic Development has been facilitated to assist with the administration and promotion of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) <https://www.ventureniagara.com/regional-relief-recovery-fund/> which has to be distributed by June 30th 2020.

Niagara Economic Development is a member of the GTA Economic Development Alliance and is jointly promoting the impact being felt by businesses across the GTA to the provincial and federal governments. An Economic Recovery Plan for the broader area is also being developed in tandem with our own Niagara Economic Recovery Plan.

Operational Outlook

1 month

- Second Business Impact survey results will be analysed and a report will be developed, widely distributed and used to inform the Economic Recovery Plan and other levels of government.
- Ongoing support to local businesses through the ERRT initiatives.
- Ongoing engagement with key sectors to inform the Economic Recovery Plan.
- Ongoing collaboration with the local Economic Development Offices, Chambers, Niagara Workforce Planning Board, Niagara Industrial Association etc.

3 months

- The ERRT Economic Recovery Plan will be completed and implementation started.
- Monitoring the economic indicators to better understand where COVID-19 has affected the regional economy, compared to previous years, and determine where resources could best be utilized to maximize ongoing economic development programming.
- Ongoing collaboration with the local Economic Development Offices, Chambers, Niagara Workforce Planning Board, Niagara Industrial Association etc.

6 months

- Review of the pandemic's impact on the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and make revisions as necessary.
- Long term Economic Development Strategy development will begin.
- Development of an economic emergency communications plan to address possible future emergencies that may impact the regional economy.
- Ongoing collaboration with the local Economic Development Offices, Chambers, Niagara Workforce Planning Board, Niagara Industrial Association etc.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Valerie Kuhns
Acting Director, Economic Development

MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 6-2020

Subject: COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development
Date: June 17, 2020
To: Planning and Development Committee
From: Rino Mostacci, Planning and Development

Commissioner Comments, Planning & Development Services

Planning and Development Services Staff are working remotely – all core and essential services continue to be delivered. We are processing development applications and providing inspection services within expected timelines, working on master servicing plans and making progress on key initiative – the Woodland By-law, the Glendale District Plan, the Employment Lands Strategy, the New Official Plan and others. As well we are maintaining working relationships with our private sector partners and continue to find solutions and offer support as needed. Staff are also supporting the Regional EOC and the development of “*Open Niagara*”.

Community and Long Range Planning

Project Update

Over the summer the process for a Regional Official Plan Amendment will be initiated which will update the employment lands policies. This update is being done to achieve conformity with Provincial policy and to protect land that supports businesses and employment within local area municipalities. The first step in the process will be a statutory Public Meeting, followed by a period where comments can be submitted by the public before final recommendation are brought forward to PEDC and Council.

Official Plan Consultation

Prior to COVID 19 a significant amount of consultation had been conducted. Consultation to date has included Technical Advisory groups consisting of representation from Local Area Municipalities, presentations at Council meetings of all

Local Area municipalities and meetings with stakeholder groups. An Official Plan website was also established containing information on background reports, Committee and Council reports and other relevant information.

The consultation program has been adapted and over the remainder of the year there will be online consultation and engagement in the form of online surveys and virtual meetings and PICs with stakeholder groups.

Development Planning & Approvals

Current Status of Operations

Development Planning & Approval Services has adapted effectively to deliver core development review functions including: review and comment on all development applications from a Provincial and Regional perspective, coordinating and analyzing internal review/comments from Urban Design, Environmental Planning and Development Engineering for a “one-window” Regional response.

For the month of April the following development volumes were received by the department:

- Planning Applications (includes zoning, subdivision, site plan etc.) - **22**
- Engineering Applications (includes servicing reviews, site plan, etc.) - **16**
- Private Septic Applications - **14**
- Pre-consultations - **25**

Environmental Planning

Staff will be hosting a virtual open house on the Regional Woodland By-law update. Residents are invited to learn more about the by-law review, interact with the project team, ask questions and give their feedback through the virtual open house on **Wednesday, June 17 at 5:00 pm**. The meeting will begin with a presentation followed by a question and answer period. Notice and information of the virtual open house will be placed on the regional website, sent out via social media and ads will also be placed in the local newspaper.

Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering

Current Status of Operations

Development Engineering

We are continuing to respond to development applications with engineering comments, legal agreements for road works, and processing ECA's under the Transfer of Review program for new sanitary and storm sewers. Additionally, we are continuing with Stormwater Management (SWM) review, Transportation review/meetings, and W&WW review/meetings as it relates to development applications and inquiries. We are working on the SWM Guidelines Project with WOOD Consulting Engineers and assessing schedule/deliverables to adapt to current situation.

Infrastructure Planning

We are continuing with the development of the RFP for the 2021 Water & Wastewater (W&WW) Master Servicing Plan (MSP) Update project in consultation with W&WW team. The target release for the RFP is in September to ensure work can be completed by end of 2021 as it is an important input for the Development Charges Background Study and By-law update.

We are leading the Baker Road Pollution Prevention and Control Plan and additional flow monitoring work. We are coordinating with local municipalities (West Lincoln, Lincoln and Grimsby) for this project. We continue to work with Local Municipal Partners on previously approved CSO Projects and projected cash flow to better inform Finance of demands. We are planning to bring forward the 2020 CSO Project Approval report for the July PEDC Committee. The wet weather management program is continuing and adapting to the current situation.

Development Industry Liaison

We are continuing with the review of the potential build out scenarios for the urban areas of Niagara in collaboration with planning group. This must be completed to be part of the 2021 W&WW MSP update to better understand the potential servicing implications and supporting infrastructure for build out. We are leading the development application process for the Linhaven LTC Redevelopment Project and coordinating with St. Catharines, MTO, and other review parties to ensure that site plan application can be approved and the timelines associated with this project remain on track (Government

funding is tied to this as well). Participating with Development Industry meetings (NHBA) to understand impacts and restrictions from COVID to residential development industry and housing stock.

Private Sewage/Septic Systems Program

The Private Sewage System group (responsible for Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code) is continuing to receive and respond to septic permit applications, inspections, development applications, special requests and complaints.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mostacci".

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner, Planning and Development Services

Subject: Resolution of Appeal of RPPA 4-2013 Welland Urban Area Boundary (LPAT Case No. PL131384)

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Recommendations

1. That Report PDS 24-2020 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That a copy of Report PDS 24-2020 **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Welland for information.

Key Facts

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently withdrew its appeal of Regional Policy Plan Amendment 4-2013 (“RPPA 4-2013”) which relates to an urban expansion area in the City of Welland (the “Canal Lands Appeal”). As a result, those lands are now part of Welland’s urban area in the Region’s Official Plan.
- In 2013, Niagara Region staff recommended approval of a deferred expansion area in Welland located generally on the east and west sides of the Welland Canal between East Main Street and Highway 58, known as RPPA 4-2013 (the “Subject Lands”).
- Council approved RPPA 4-2013; however, that decision was appealed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (“MMAH”) to the Ontario Municipal Board (now known as the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal or LPAT)
- In 2020, after significant and collaborated effort between the City and Region, MMAH withdrew its appeal.
- As a result, RPPA 4-2013 is now in effect. The Subject Lands are now part of Welland’s urban boundary.
- The Region does not have clear Employment Area policies. This needs to be resolved to allow greater predictability for existing and prospective employers on the Subject Lands and elsewhere.

Financial Considerations

Staff time required to support the process has been accommodated within the Planning & Development Services Operating Budget.

Analysis

Below is an outline of the process that took us to the resolution of the Canal Lands Appeal. This was a long-standing matter that was resolved after diligent and cooperative efforts from multiple departments of the City and Region.

The Subject Lands are shown on Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 shows the City's boundaries now in effect as a result of the resolution of the Canal Lands Appeal.

Note that other lands in the City of Welland remain deferred, noted as "Deferred (ROPA 7)" on Appendices 1 and 2. The Deferred Lands are not the subject of this Report.

City of Welland Official Plan (2011)

The Canal Lands Appeal relates back to the work done by the City of Welland on its Official Plan that was started in the 2000s and completed in 2010.

In 2011, after the City's adoption, Welland's Official Plan was before Niagara Region for approval. Council approved the Plan except for three components that were deferred:

1. City of Welland Population and Employment Forecasts;
2. The Urban Area Boundary for the lands shown as "Deferred (ROPA 7)" on the Appendices; and
3. The Urban Area Boundary for the Subject Lands

The third item is the subject of this Report. The other items have separate processes.

The Subject Lands total 227 hectares. Approximately 83 hectares are proposed for employment purposes and the remaining 164 hectares are identified as Open Space, Recreation and Core Natural Heritage System.

Regional Policy Plan Amendment 4-2013

After Regional Council deferred approval in 2011, Staff continued to consider the appropriateness of including the Subject Lands in the urban area.

In 2013, the Region initiated RPPA 4-2013 for the purpose of removing the deferral of the Urban Area Boundary for the Subject Lands. RPPA 4-2013 also proposed to update the Region's Core Natural Heritage System to align with Welland's Official Plan mapping. The effect of this was to allow for the urban boundary expansion for the Subject Lands in the Region's Official Plan.

On October 31, 2013, Regional Council approved RPPA 4-2013.

A copy of RPPA 4-2013 is attached as Appendix 3.

On December 3, 2013, MMAH appealed RPPA 4-2013 to the Ontario Municipal Board (the "Canal Lands Appeal").

Recent Efforts to Resolve RPPA 4-2013

Between late 2013 and late 2019, no substantive activity occurred with the Canal Lands Appeal.

In late 2019 and early 2020, legal and planning staff from the City and Region collaborated on preparing correspondence and other communication to MMAH with the goal of having them withdraw the long-standing appeal.

This action was successful. In mid-April, MMAH advised the LPAT that it sought to withdraw the Canal Lands Appeal.

On April 20, 2020, the LPAT confirmed the withdrawal of the Canal Lands Appeal. Since there were no other appeals, the LPAT closed its file.

As a result, RPPA 4-2013 came in to effect on April 20, 2020. In other words, the Subject Lands are now part of the City's urban boundary as shown in Appendix 2.

Current Official Plan mapping is available by contacting staff. A revised Official Plan Consolidation is in development, for electronic publication this summer. The Consolidation will include the revised mapping.

Additionally, background work and recommendations associated with the *new* Regional Official Plan will be revised to address the inclusion of the Subject Lands as employment within the City of Welland.

However, the Region does not have clear Employment Area mapping and policies. This leaves it at a competitive disadvantage to other jurisdictions that have more modern and predictable policies. This should be resolved to allow lands, like the Subject Lands, to be more attractive to existing and future users.

Alternatives Reviewed

MMAH's withdrawal of its Canal Lands Appeal automatically brings RPPA 4-2013 in to effect. As a result, no alternatives are available.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The resolution of RPPA 4-2013 directly relates to Supporting Businesses and Economic Growth as additional urban employment lands have been added to the City of Welland. These employment lands are adjacent to significant infrastructure upgrades and business development and investment.

Other Pertinent Reports

- ICP 67-2011: Approval of the New Welland Official Plan
- ICP 107-2013: Final Recommendation Report RPPA 4-2013

Prepared by:

Isaiah Banach
Manager of Long Range Planning
Planning and Development Services

Recommended by:

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner
Planning and Development Services

Submitted by:

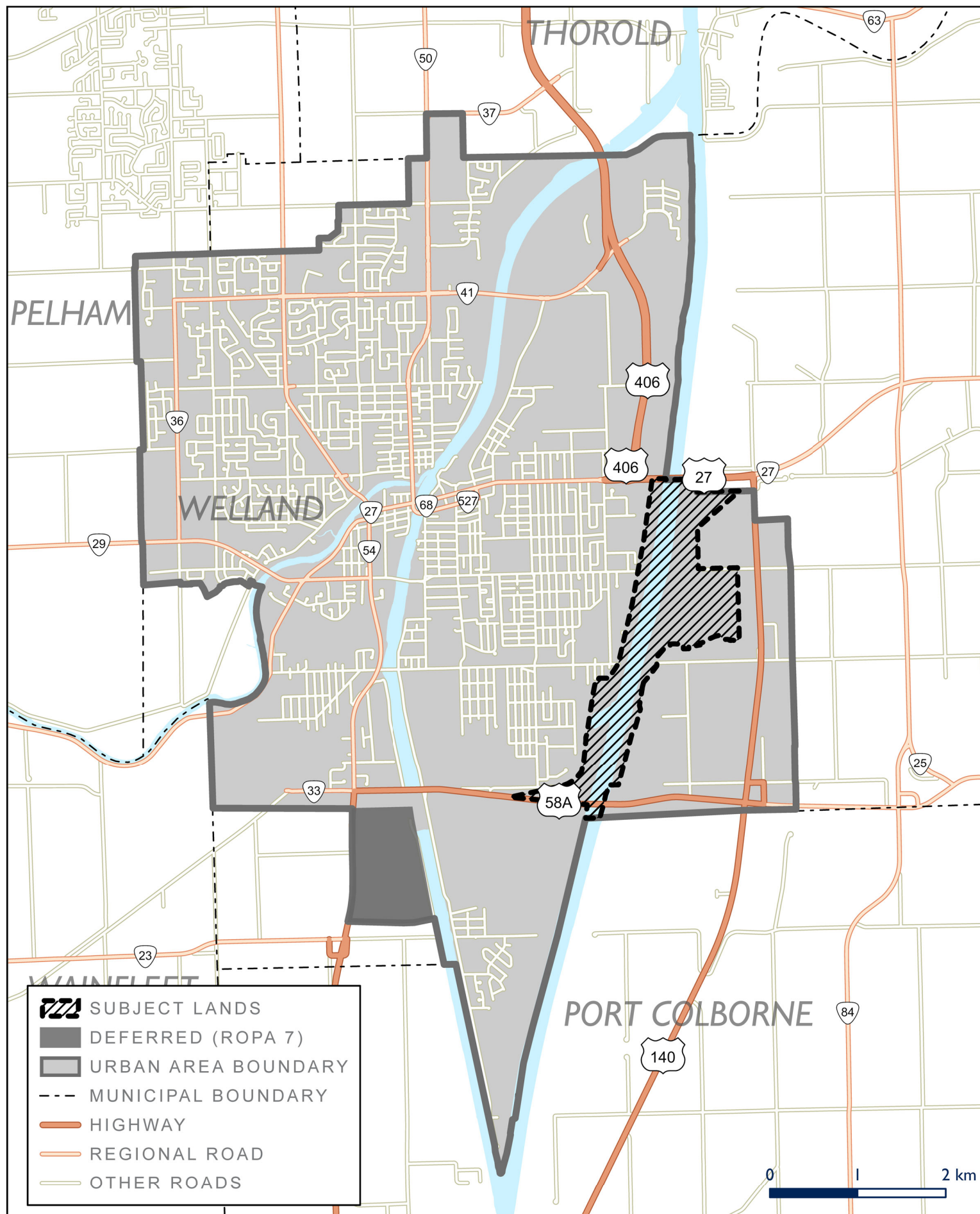
Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was reviewed by Greg Bowie, Planner and Scott Crocco, Legal Counsel.

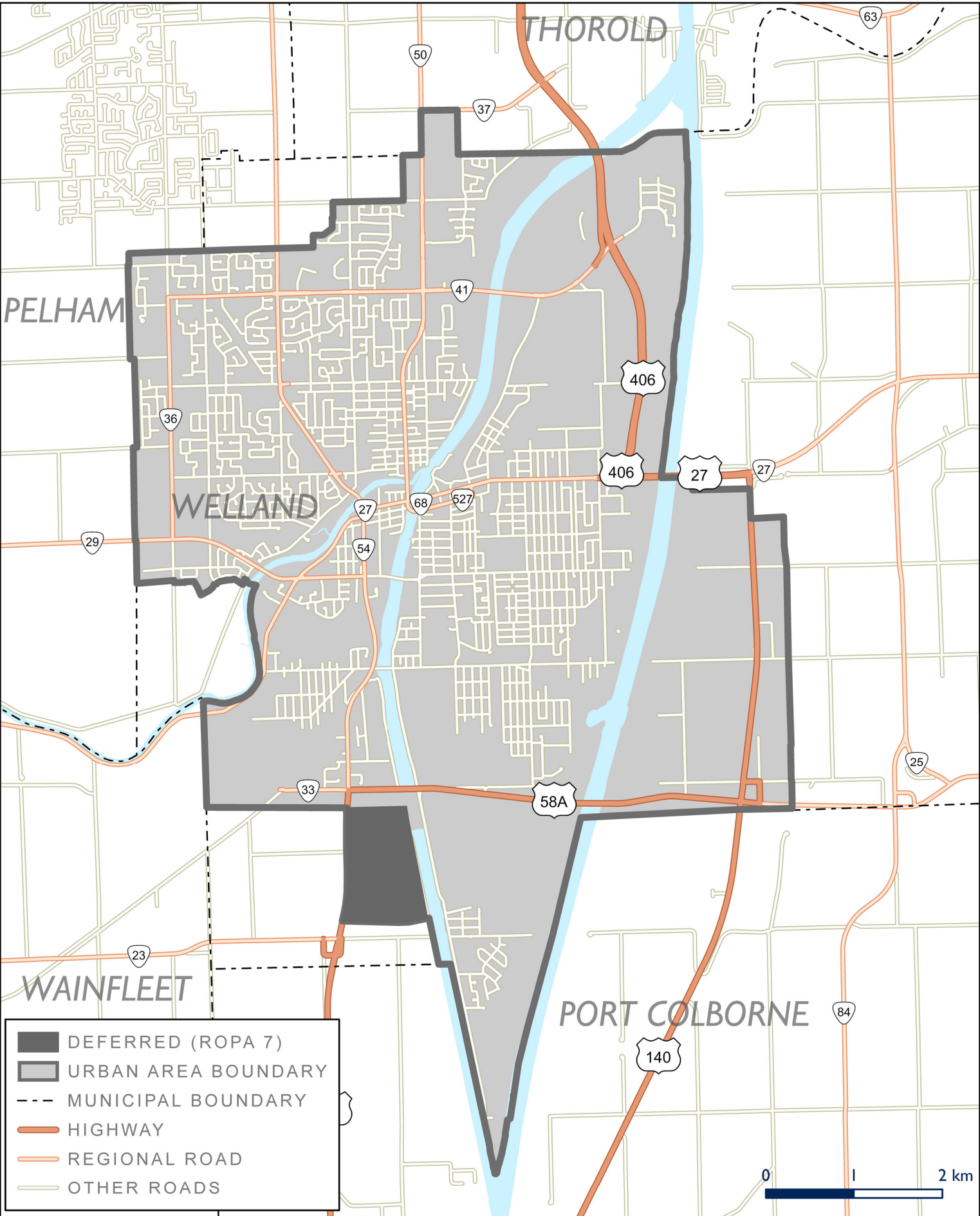
Appendices

Appendix 1	RPPA 4-2013 Subject Lands
Appendix 2	Updated City of Welland Urban Area Boundary
Appendix 3	RPPA 4-2013 Amendment

Appendix 1: RPPA 4-2013 Subject Lands



Appendix 2: City of Welland Urban Area Boundary



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BY-LAW NO. 119-2013

A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION
OF AMENDMENT 4-2013 TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN
FOR THE NIAGARA PLANNING AREA TO PERMIT MODIFICATIONS
TO THE REGION'S URBAN AREA BOUNDARY FOR WELLAND AND
TO LIFT THE DEFERRAL FOR THE NIAGARA REGION CORE
NATURAL HERITAGE MAP FOR WELLAND


WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to further amend the Official Plan heretofore adopted by Regional Council for the Niagara Planning Area,

THEREFORE the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara enacts as follows:

1. That the text attached hereto is hereby approved as Amendment 4-2013 to the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area.
2. That the Regional Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of Council's adoption in accordance with Section 17(23) of the Planning Act.
3. That this By-law shall come into force and take effect on the day upon which it is passed.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA


(Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair)


(Janet Pilon, Regional Clerk)

Passed: October 31, 2013

AMENDMENT NO. 4-2013
TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN
FOR THE NIAGARA PLANNING AREA

PART "A" – THE PREAMBLE

The preamble provides an explanation of the Amendment including the purpose, location, background, and basis of the policies and implementation, but does not form part of this Amendment.

- Title and Components
- Purpose of the Amendment
- Location of the Amendment
- Background
- Basis for the Amendment
- Implementation

PART "B" – THE AMENDMENT

The Amendment describes the additions and/or modifications to the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area, which constitute Official Plan Amendment No. 4-2013.

- Map Change
- Text Change (no changes)

PART "C" – THE APPENDICES

The Appendices provide information regarding public participation and agency comments relevant to the Amendment, but do not form part of this Amendment.

PART "A" – THE PREAMBLE

TITLE AND COMPONENTS:

This document, when approved in accordance with Section 17 of the Planning Act, 1990, shall be known as Amendment 4-2013 to the Official Plan of the Niagara Planning Area. Part "A" – The Preamble, contains background information and does not constitute part of this Amendment. Part "B" – The Amendment, consisting of map changes constitutes Amendment 4-2013 to the Official Plan of the Niagara Planning Area. Part "C" – The Appendices, does not constitute part of the Amendment. These Appendices contain information related to public involvement and agency comments associated with the Amendment.

PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT:

The purpose of this Amendment is to permit a modification to the Region's Urban Area Boundary for the City of Welland, as well as technical modifications to the Region's Core Natural Heritage Map.

LOCATION OF THE AMENDMENT:

This Amendment to the Urban Boundary Area applies to the area on the east and west sides of the Welland Canal between Highway 58A and East Main Street.

The Amendment to the Core Natural Heritage Map is throughout the City of Welland.

BACKGROUND

The City of Welland Official Plan was approved by Regional Council on September 15, 2011 with new policies and mapping. One of the new approved schedules of the Welland Official Plan is Schedule A: City Structure which delineates the Urban Area Boundary for Welland and the Built-Up Area, Greenfield Areas, and the Agricultural Area.

The approval of the adopted Welland Official Plan included a 227 hectare (562 acre) of land within the Urban Area Boundary that is not included as urban area on the Urban Area Boundary Map contained in the Regional Policy Plan. The area on Schedule A was deferred until such a time as the Regional Policy Plan could be amended.

To ensure alignment with the City's Official Plan and to lift the deferrals, Regional staff are initiating the required amendment to the Regional Policy Plan's Urban Areas Boundary Map. The proposed modification to the Urban Area Boundary, to include the land on the west and east side of the Welland Canal will result in an increase to the Urban Area of Welland but is justified by the Provincial and Regional Economic Gateway Strategy that encourages increased employment land and economic growth opportunities along this corridor. Most importantly, these lands were once owned by the Federal Government for which Niagara Region and the City of Welland had no land use jurisdiction. With these lands now being privately owned, land use policies are required to correct these historical anomalies.

Two of the schedules of the Welland Official Plan Schedule C: Core Natural Heritage System and Schedule C1: Components of the Natural Heritage System were deferred until the Region's Environmental Mapping could be updated. These two schedules delineate Environmental Protection Areas, and Environmental Conservation Areas.

To ensure alignment with the City's Official Plan and to lift the deferrals, Regional staff are initiating the required amendment to the Regional Policy Plan's Core Natural Heritage Map.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT:

1. Regional Council in ICP 67-2011, Recommendation 1 approved the Welland Official Plan subject to the modifications and deferrals contained in Appendix I. Staff are undertaking a modification to the Urban Area Boundary for Welland and the Core Natural Heritage mapping in order to ensure alignment with the Welland Official Plan and to lift the earlier imposed deferral.
2. The changes proposed in this Amendment are consistent with the Strategic Directions of the Provincial Policy Statement (2005), Places to Grow Plan (2006), and Niagara's Growth Management Strategy (Niagara 2031).
3. The Amendment to the Regional Policy Plan will include a map change to the Urban Areas Boundary Map and the Core Natural Heritage Map and all other associated schedules.
4. The Amendment was the subject of a Public Meeting held under the Planning Act on October 23, 2013. Public and agency comments were addressed as part of the preparation of this Amendment.
5. Based on the Region's review of the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, the Regional Policy Plan, public consultation, and agency consultation, Regional staff is of the opinion that the Amendment is consistent with and conforms to Provincial and Regional policies and plans and, therefore, represents good planning.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Section 12, Implementation of the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area, shall apply where applicable.

PART "B" – THE AMENDMENT

**Amendment 4-2013
To the Official Plan for the
Niagara Planning Area**

Map Changes:

The Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area is amended by modifications made to the Region's Urban Area Boundary for Welland as shown on the Region's Urban Areas Boundary Map. To accommodate the change to the Urban Area Boundary, the Agricultural Land Base Map will need to be modified accordingly as the area is redesignated from a Rural to an Urban designation. Other maps that show the Region's Urban Area Boundary for Welland will also need to be modified to demonstrate the Amendment.

The Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area is amended by modifications made to the Region's Environmental mapping for Welland as shown on the Region's Core Natural Heritage Map.

Text Changes:

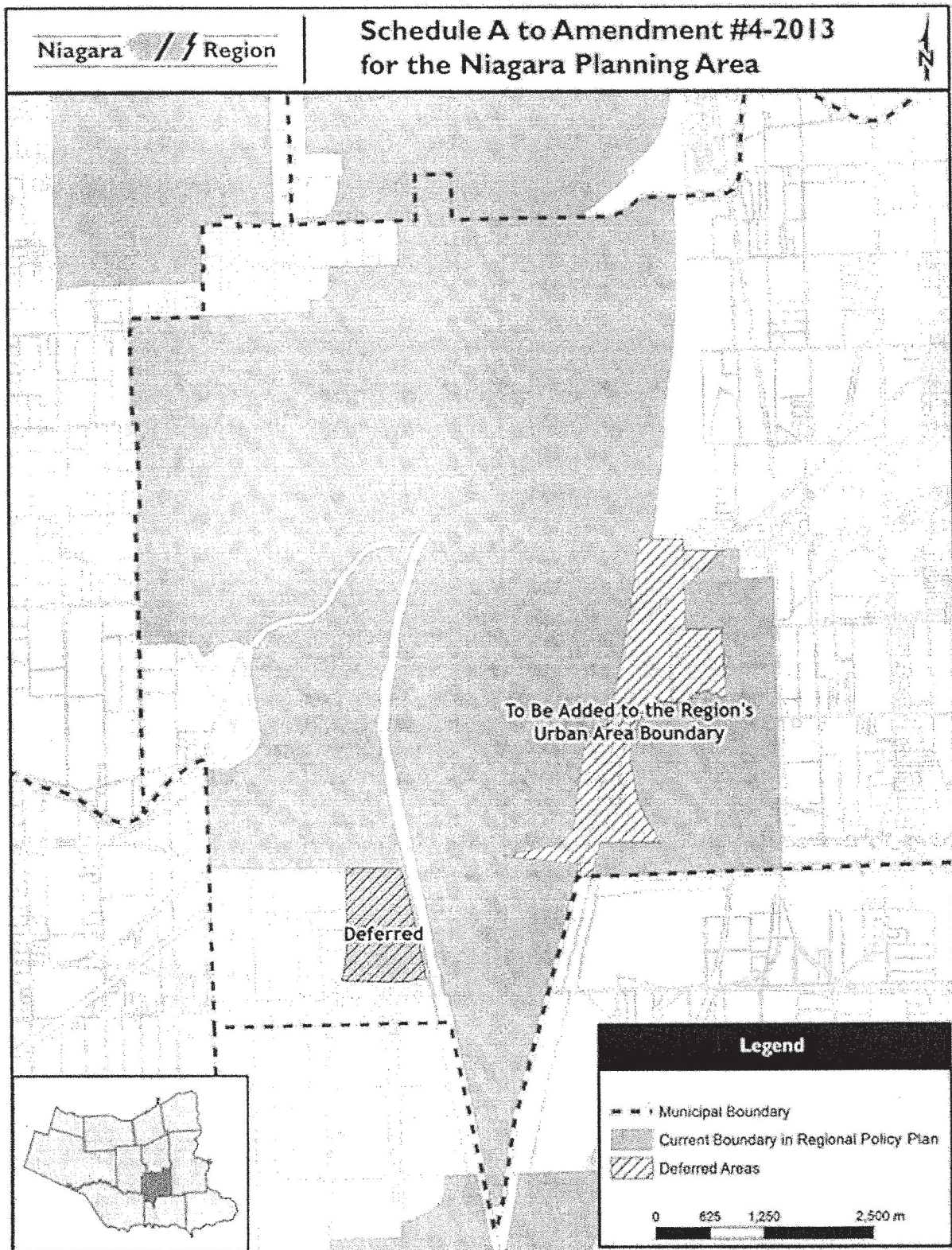
No Change

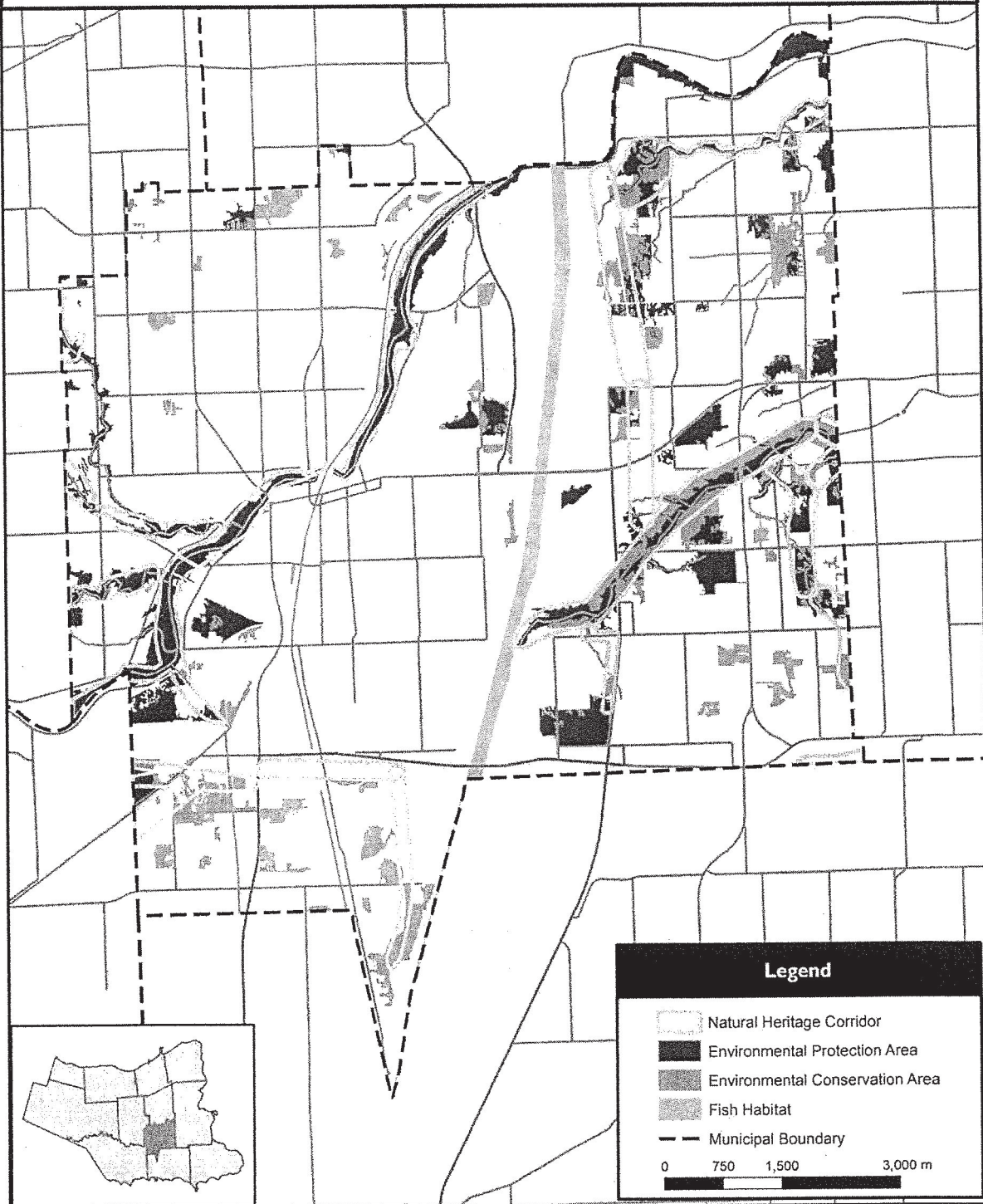
Urban Areas Boundary Map

The Region's Urban Area Boundary for Welland, as displayed on the Urban Areas Boundary Map of the Regional Policy Plan, as outlined on Schedule A.

Core Natural Heritage Map

The Region's Core Natural Heritage information for Welland, as displayed on the Core Natural Heritage Map of the Regional Policy Plan, as outlined on Schedule B.





MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 3-2020

Subject: 2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP) Funding
Commitment Update

Date: June 17, 2020

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with respect to the “**2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP)**.” This memo summarizes the results of the 2020 PRIP applications for funding from Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) for public realm enhancement projects along Regional Roads, and Canada Summer Games venues (for 2020 only). A brief description of each project is included.

Program Background

The Public Realm Investment Program was initiated in 2016, as a means to partner with LAMs to create attractive and vibrant places. These projects contribute to elevating the public realm across Niagara and include streetscaping, street furnishings, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, and myriad of other public realm improvements. With a yearly budget of \$250,000, the PRIP provides matching funding to LAMs for capital costs of public realm enhancement projects up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.

Now in its fifth year, the Program continues to build on the successes of past years. The uptake of the program continues to grow in the number of submissions received, quantity of funding requested, and quality of submissions received.

One of the contributing factors of the Program’s success has been to offer landscape architecture and urban design expertise to the LAMs where these technical and design expertise are not available at the local level. This practice allows local and regional staff to collaborate to amplify resources, at hand, thereby raising the overall quality and value of built projects.

2020 Funding Commitments

On January 23, 2020, the 2020 PRIP Application Package and supporting material was distributed to LAM staff. The call for applications opened on January 27, and the deadline for submissions, initially planned for March 27, was extended to April 3. The deadline was extended to permit additional time for applicants to gather required application items as staff and consultant workplaces were adjusting to remote work locations and other limitations in response to the Provincial Order (O. Reg. 82/20).

Similar to previous years, the 2020 Program was over-subscribed with total funding requests of \$513,550. Twelve projects were submitted from eight LAMs. Combined, the applications contain a total project value of \$1.2 million complementing millions more in investment across the Region in critical infrastructural renewal projects and the Canada Summer Games.

A multi-disciplinary team of Regional staff evaluated the projects to determine technical feasibility and funding priorities. Staff also met directly with staff from several LAMs to discuss the projects in detail.

Of the 12 projects submitted, 2 did not meet funding request amount minimums or project location pre-requisites. Two projects in West Lincoln did not receive funding priority based on the comprehensive application evaluation scoring criteria and were not assigned funding this year. Eight projects in total were assigned PRIP funding commitments in 2020:

Project Name and Description	Total Project Value	Regional Commitment
1. Lincoln: Downtown Beamsville Beautification Projects A number of landscaping enhancement, public art, and tourism related installations along RR18 Ontario Street and RR81 King Street.	\$63,000	\$31,000
2. Lincoln: Jordan Hollow Cultural Park Elements include Indigenous public art installations, rain gardens, rest areas, elements to support active transportation (bike parking and repair station), landscaping and wayfinding, gateway and interpretative signage adjacent RR81 King Street.	\$166,000	\$83,000

Project Name and Description	Total Project Value	Regional Commitment
3. Niagara Falls: Canada Summer Games Project – Oakes Park Improvement of the spectator and public plazas at Oakes Park including a new shade structure, new picnic/ seating areas, benches, accessible picnic tables, signage, and landscaping.	\$50,000	\$25,000
4. Pelham: Rice Road Tree planting and benches Enhanced tree planting along the new multi-use trail and benches adjacent to RR54 Rice Road to enhance previous funding for rest areas at the major intersections.	\$110,000	\$30,000
5. Pelham: Canada Summer Games Project – The Arches Funding requested to support enhancements to the Arches replacement project – including shade structures and lighting. This area is home to the Cycling Road Race venue.	\$165,000	\$10,000
6. St. Catharines: Greening on Fourth Ave and Lakeshore Rd Includes tree planting in the medians along Fourth Avenue (RR77) from Third Street Louth to Vansickle Road as well as the refurbishment of the Gateway feature along Lakeshore Road (RR87) at Bunting Road with native plants species and active transportation elements.	\$88,000	\$35,000
7. St. Catharines: Canada Summer Games Project: Yukon House Assists in the creation of a 13 for 13 cultural event for the Canada Summer Games, including public art, seating, a shade structure, and other elements, at the corner of James Street and Paul Street.	\$50,000	\$10,000
8. Thorold: St David's MUP Site Furniture and Rest Areas Includes the construction and installation of a rest area and street furniture and landscaping at key points along the south side of St. David's Road multi-use pathway.	\$61,000	\$26,000
Total:	\$753,000	\$250,000

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA
Landscape Architect