making our mark

NIAGARA
OFFICIAL PLAN

New Niagara Official Plan
Public Consultation Summary

Planning and Economic Development Committee

January 15, 2020

NIAGARA OFFICIAL PLAN

Project Timeline

2019 — BACKGROUND STUDIES — CONSULTATIONS

2020 — DRAFT POLICIES AND MAPPING — CONSULTATIONS

2021 — DRAFT REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN — CONSULTATIONS

YEAR END 2021 — COUNCIL ADOPTION / SUBMISSION TO PROVINCE FOR APPROVAL

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Public Consultation Formats

- Public Surveys (Imagine Niagara)
- Special Council Meeting
- Stakeholder Meetings and Local Council Updates
- Direct Public Input (Public Information Centres)
- Planning Advisory Committee

Imagine Niagara (2013/14) and Shape Niagara (2018) – Top Priority Themes
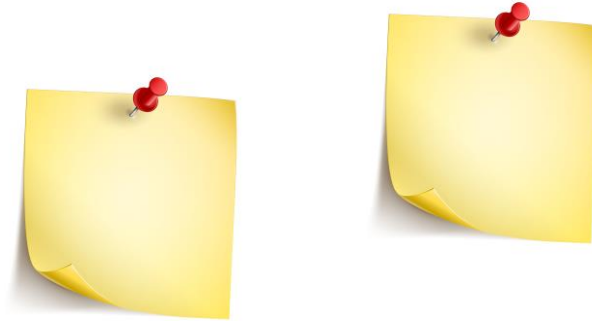
Special Council Meeting – July 2018

Key Themes:

- Agriculture
- Natural environment
- Growth management
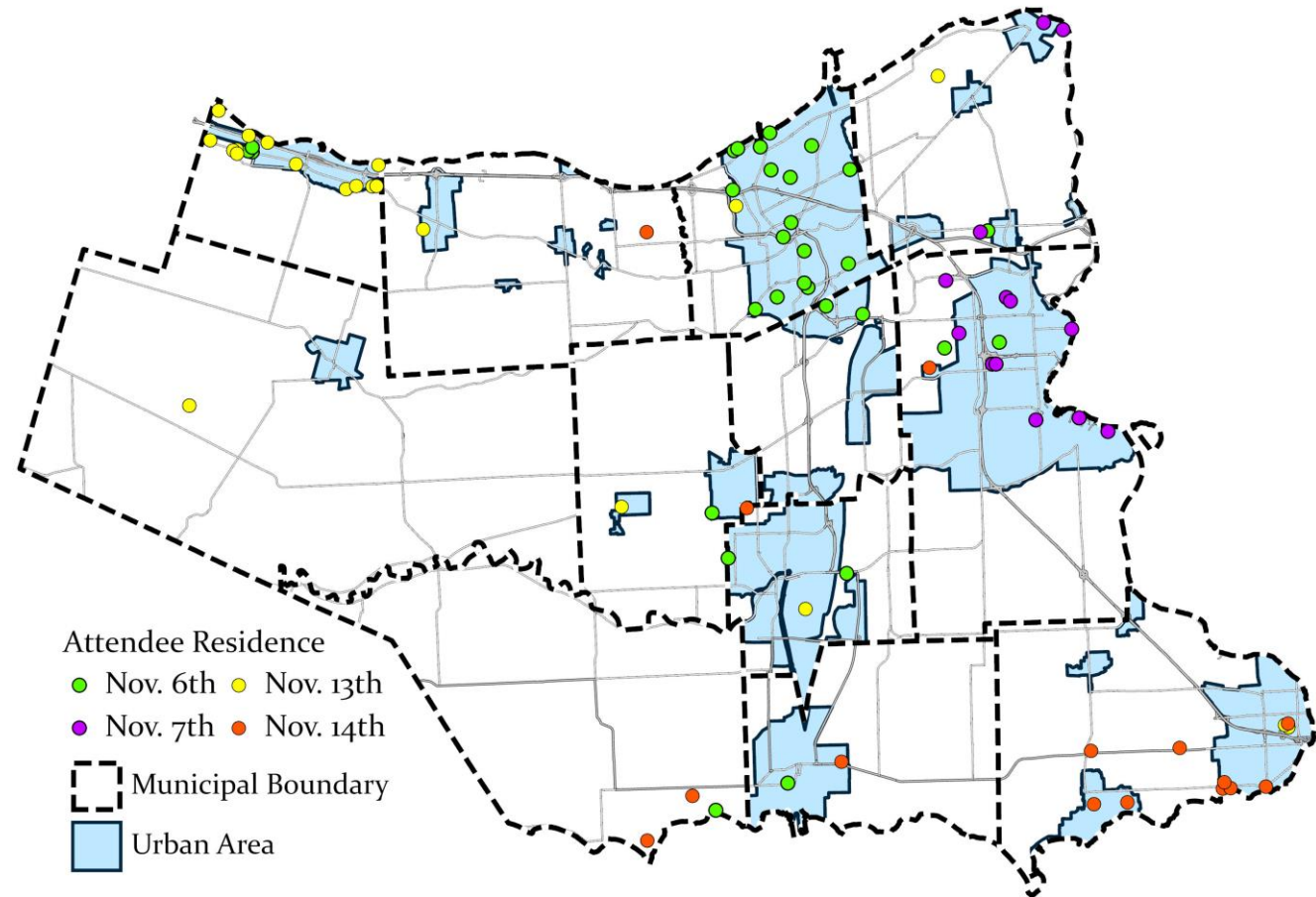- Consultation
- Land use designations

Public Information Centres (PICs)– November 2019

- 4 PICs:
  - Nov. 6 - Thorold
  - Nov. 7 - Niagara Falls
  - Nov. 13 - Grimsby
  - Nov. 14 - Fort Erie

- 161 attendees
- 213 interactive board comments
- 61 surveys completed

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PICs– Map Where You Live

- 79 participants
  - 70% urban area
  - 30% rural area

Attendee Residence
- Nov. 6th
- Nov. 7th
- Nov. 13th
- Nov. 14th
- Municipal Boundary
- Urban Area

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PICs – Digital Survey

Survey Question	Top 3 Results
What is most important for the future of Niagara?	1. More transportation options 2. More housing options for all ages and incomes 3. More jobs
What is most important when it comes to managing growth in Niagara?	1. Directing growth to appropriate locations 2. Using our land and resources wisely 3. Ensuring growth is supported by infrastructure
What do you value the most about Niagara's rural and agricultural areas?	1. The natural environment, open space and scenery 2. Wineries, events and tourism 3. Access to a variety of local food
What is most important for employment areas?	1. Access to major infrastructure 2. Locational / financial competitiveness 3. Flexible land use patterns
When planning growth in Niagara, it is important to address climate change.	1. Strongly agree (32) 2. Agree (11) 3. Strongly disagree (7)

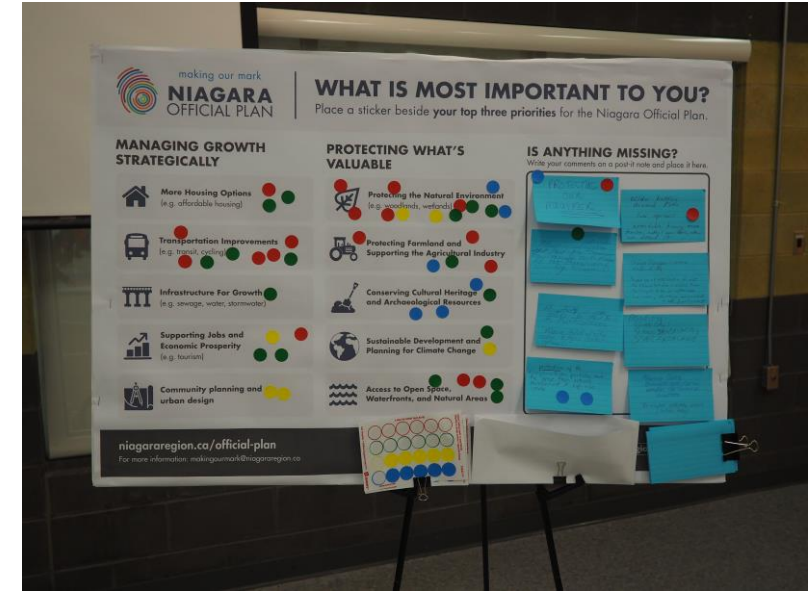**Have your say!**

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PICs– Interactive Boards
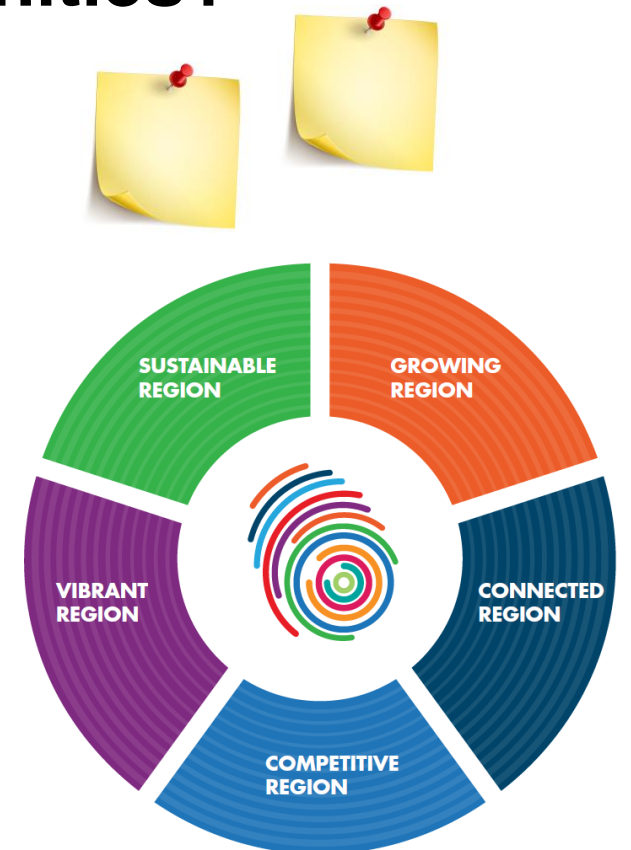
What is most important to you?

Top 5 Results:

1. Protecting the natural environment
2. Transportation improvements
3. More housing options
4. Access to open space, waterfronts and natural areas
5. Supporting jobs and economic prosperity

PICs– Interactive Boards

What are our biggest challenges and opportunities?

Biggest Challenges	Biggest Opportunities
• Low density development • Housing diversity • Proactive planning • Archaeological assessment • Public transit • Resource extraction • Infrastructure for growth • Impacts to natural environment • Extreme weather events	• Higher-density development • More housing options • More secondary plans • Regional Archaeological Management Plan • Public transit/complete streets • GO train • Manage resource extraction • Protect natural environment • Action on climate change

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SUSTAINABLE REGION
GROWING REGION
CONNECTED REGION
COMPETITIVE REGION
VIBRANT REGION

Next Steps

DEVELOP AND EVALUATE OPTIONS, AS APPLICABLE

PREPARE DRAFT POLICIES AND MAPPING

CONSULT ON DRAFT POLICIES AND MAPPING

Q1 2020

Q2 - Q3 2020

Q4 2020

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