NEW REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

HIGH LEVEL PROCESS & FRAMEWORK
OBJECTIVES

• Promote and achieve great development outcomes that contribute to complete community solutions and an authentic urban experience

• Protect Regional Natural and Agricultural Resources and adequately respond to the challenges of Climate Change

• Provide clear policy direction where necessary and discretion where appropriate.

• Address Provincial requirements, Regional mandate matters and provide guidance to LAMs.

• The New Official Plan will be processed under Section 26 of the Planning Act
Decision To Initiate

• In November, 2016, Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee approved the recommendations of Report PDS-40-2016 allocating staff resources and budget to complete the Regional Official Plan over the next 5 years.
Required Work

• Evidence Based Background Studies to inform the Official Plan have been prioritized considering the following:

  – completion of MCR Background Study work
  – strategies required by the 2017 Ontario Growth Plan or address other Provincial Plans
  – some Background Studies already initiated
  – time required to complete the background studies
Growth Management Puzzle
Goal- Substantial Completion Q2-2018

- Land Budget
- Employment Lands Strategy
- Urban Structure
- Housing Strategy
Land Budget

• the amount of developable urban land needed for residential and employment purposes to 2041

• identify any excess lands (not developable by 2041)

• guidance from the Province is expected by Q1 2018
Employment Lands Strategy

• ensure sufficient and marketable supply for traditional industrial employment

• identify *Regional Employment Areas* - areas of business and economic activity for long term employment development which are to be protected from conversion

• ensure sufficient population based employment lands to serve the growing regional population
Urban Structure

- identify important strategic regional growth nodes
- assign population and density accordingly
- strategic growth targets will be established for downtown St. Catharines which is identified as an Urban Growth Centre.
Housing Strategy

- promote an appropriate density and mix of housing forms

- promote choice, aging in place opportunities and affordability

- set affordable housing targets

- identify tools to support affordable housing
Rural and Natural Systems Management Puzzle
Framework completions - Q2-2018

- Agriculture Framework
- Natural Heritage & Water Systems Planning
- Aggregate Resources
- Climate Change
Agriculture Framework

• recognize agriculture is a primary driver of the regional economy

• protect the unique land base as reflected in Provincial planning documents

• Update specific policy, such as agricultural-related and on-farm diversified uses to support the interest of the local agricultural industry

• ensure conformity and supportive policies for the agricultural economy/industry.
Natural Heritage & Water Systems Planning

• Will be a significant component of the new ROP to meet Provincial policy direction

• watershed planning is required to ensure water resources and storm water management are properly addressed

• assess natural heritage and water systems options for policy and mapping

• establish criteria and identify features for provincial compliance

• develop watershed planning policy framework
Aggregate Resources

- aggregate resources are located throughout the region and are essential to the economy

- extraction of the resource is necessary - a need to address land use compatibility

- an amendment to update Aggregate Resource policies in the ROP initiated through Imagine Niagara will be carried forward as a section of the new ROP
Climate Change

- Climate change and the reduction of GHG is the foundation of the 2017 Growth Plan

- Focus on transit supportive development, complete communities, multi-modal transportation, complete streets, watershed planning and natural heritage protection

- Climate change guidance will be integrated throughout the New ROP (watershed planning and low impact development standards)

- A climate change study will assess obligations and options on the region’s role relative to GHG targets.
Engagement Process Considerations

- Engagement of Ingenious Peoples at the start
- Carry forward essential information and direction
- Clear understanding that one policy decision impacts another
- Ensure Council members feel involved
- Ensure the “Regional Mandate” is considered and identified
- Ensure broad based and personal consultation
- Provide strategic facilitation where necessary
Moving Forward

• Endorsed of ROP Framework Report/Work Plan by PED Committee

• Comply With Planning Act Requirements - Special Council Meeting & Open Houses

• Complete ROP in Sections for endorsement and consolidate endorsed sections for Council adoption

• Present to Local Council’s to highlight approach and invite involvement

• Use Imagine Niagara to theme public topics, visioning and engagement
QUESTIONS?