

ATTACHMENT A-5
Regional Plan Review Phase 5 Work Plan Framework

DEVELOP FUTURE GROWTH SCENARIOS AND A STRATEGIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES PLAN

The Regional Plan envisions that Halifax Regional Municipality will grow to be a region supporting one million people. In Phase 5, we will develop and test a range of scenarios for where to direct housing, jobs, and community infrastructure in a way that will support our goals for healthy, connected, and inclusive communities.

A Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Priorities Plan will provide a framework for long-term planning and fiscal management, allowing the Municipality to look ahead and ask: What infrastructure and services will we need? Where will we need this? Why do we need it? When do we need it and how will we pay for it?

Actions	Related Regional Plan Section
<p>Project Population, Housing, and Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and model several future population and employment scenarios based on relatively stable and uncertain variables. • Assess population, housing and employment forecasts and their implications in relation to the available supply of developable land, housing supply and demand, and the provision of a range of housing choices. • Assess trends in employment and consider the future distribution of jobs across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5 Strategic Growth Planning
<p>Identify Important Natural and Cultural Places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize the open space network and culturally significant places for protection and to shape the region's communities. • Identify areas of ecological value and opportunities for connectivity when assessing lands for future development. • Identify areas of cultural value, including culturally significant places, heritage resources and cultural landscapes when assessing lands for future development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.3 Regional Planning • Section 6.4 Protecting and Connecting Open Space • Section 6.4.1 Ecological Corridors • Section 9.3 Sharing Our Stories • Section 9.4.5 Cultural Landscapes • Section 10.4.2 Priorities Plans
<p>Identify Climate Hazards and Critical Infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current and future climate change hazards and critical infrastructure at risk to extreme climate events, and direct development away vulnerable places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6.6 Protecting Critical Infrastructure • Section 10.4.2 Priorities Plans

<p>Identify Potential Future New Areas for Serviced Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Urban Reserve lands and developer requests for expansions to the Urban Service Area boundary against Regional Plan policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.5.1 Population Growth and Monitoring Section 2.6.3 Urban Reserve Designation See Site-Specific Requests for consideration in Phase 5 (Attachment A-6).
<p>Assess Urban Growth Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and confirm expected population and employment density in the Regional Centre, based on adopted Centre Plan policy. Work with the Suburban Community Planning team to review and confirm expected population and employment in the Suburban Area, aligned with the Suburban Plan process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.4 Urban Area Land Use; Map 3
<p>Assess Rural Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Rural Centres and determine settlement types and expected population and employment density for each centre. Undertake technical studies of groundwater, wastewater management, and mobility, to inform potential for future growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.5 Rural Area Land Use; Map 4
<p>Assess Locations for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Halifax Water to ensure coordinated and efficient planning of municipal water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure by assessing projected population and employment growth, the various settlement pattern scenarios, and associated infrastructure requirements for the Halifax Water Integrated Resource Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.3 Regional Planning Section 2.5 Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Planning Section 10.6 Water and Wastewater Services
<p>Assess Mobility Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare future population and employment distributions to inform the Regional Transportation Model. Identify existing and potential strategic corridors or additional mobility network connections. Consider the findings of Link Nova Scotia's (formerly the Joint Regional Transportation Agency) Regional Transportation Plan. Consider the findings of the Future Serviced Communities study. Consider the findings of the Subdivision Egress study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.6.1 Complete Streets and Strategic Corridors Section 7.6.2 Complete Networks; Map 7

<p>Assess Community Infrastructure:</p> <p><i>Parks, Outdoor and Indoor Recreation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with Parks & Recreation on the Parks & Outdoor Facilities Plan and Indoor Recreation Facilities Plan, to consider the location and distribution of community facilities when reviewing locations for growth and ensure that services are available or planned to accommodate new development. <p><i>Libraries:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the location and distribution of libraries when reviewing locations for growth and work with Halifax Public Libraries to ensure that services are available or planned to accommodate new development. <p><i>Schools:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the location and distribution of schools when reviewing locations for growth and work with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education and Conseil Scholaire Acadien Provincial to ensure that services are available or planned to accommodate new development. <p><i>Emergency Services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the location and distribution of emergency service infrastructure when locating growth and work with emergency service providers to ensure that services are available and planned to accommodate new development. • Provide continued support for the development of partnerships to provide a range of community infrastructure and services for residents towards complete communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5.2 Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Planning • Section 4.3 Parks • Section 4.4 Community Facilities • Section 4.4.2 Libraries • Section 4.4.3 Public Schools • Section 4.5 Public Safety and Emergency Services
<p>Financial Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support long-term infrastructure planning, consider financial tools such as infrastructure charges, approaches to capital budgeting and asset management. • Consider investment models that emphasize co-location and planning for infrastructure, services, and other community benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.5.2 Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Planning • Section 10.5.5 Infrastructure Charges

UPDATE THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

To support the municipality's long-term growth, the outcomes of the Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Priorities Plan, and the Suburban and Rural Community Planning programs, consider amendments to the Regional Plan, Regional Subdivision By-Law, all Community Plans and Land use By-Laws to align with the preferred growth scenarios and support building healthy, complete communities.

Actions	Related Regional Plan Section
<p>Review the Regional Land Use Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply the Open Space and Natural Resource designation to recognize the value of the Green Network. Consider whether amendments are needed to Regional Plan Maps 1-4, the Urban Service Area boundary, or the Urban Transit Service Boundary, to support the preferred growth scenarios. Consider amending Growth Management policies and/or removing Growth Control Areas in the Beaver Bank/Hammonds Plains Plan Area, where the amendments would support the preferred growth scenarios. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.3 Regional Planning, Maps 1-4 Section 2.4 Community Planning Section 2.6 Regional Land Use Structure Section 3.3.2 Suburban Community Planning Section 10.5.1 Rural Growth Management
<p>Suburban Community Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Suburban Planning Program to update the Suburban Area boundary in the Regional Plan as the Suburban Plan process progresses. Amend the Regional Plan to reflect any additional areas for growth that have been identified by the Suburban Planning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.4 Community Planning Section 3.3.2 Suburban Community Planning Map 3
<p>Rural Community Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revise the location of the Rural Centres, to reflect where technical studies have shown there is capacity for increased housing or jobs. Update conservation design development policies to streamline the development process within Rural Centres. Consider how development (particularly subdivision) is permitted in Rural Areas outside of Rural Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.4 Community Planning Section 3.3.3 Rural Community Planning Section 10.4.4 Conservation Design Developments Map 4
<p>Regional Subdivision By-Law and Development Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Regional Subdivision By-Law to improve understanding and implementation of subdivision regulations. Complete inventory of legacy subdivisions and identify those which will have development rights until 2031. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 10.5 Regional Subdivision By-Law Section 4.3.1 Parks and Outdoor Facilities Priorities Plan Section 6.5.3 Stormwater and Flooding Section 6.7 Transitioning to a Low Carbon Future

- Amend the Regional Subdivision By-law to reflect the identified Level of Service Standards for parks and outdoor facilities, consistent with the anticipated Parks and Outdoor Facilities Priorities Plan.
- Update development regulations to better align with the municipality's goals for protecting the environment, adapting to climate and building resilient communities.
- Review the Municipal Design Guidelines to ensure new and existing rights-of-way align with the policies and objectives of the Regional Plan and the Integrated Mobility Plan, and that communities are designed to support connectivity.
- Develop green infrastructure standards for stormwater management.
- Consider whether further amendments are needed to remove barriers to emerging forms of renewable energy, including small-scale wind energy.

- Section 10.7 Municipal Design Guidelines