
For Information

REPORT TITLE: Healthy Development - Monitoring Map

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OBJECTIVE

To provide an overview of the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map, a set of indicators and tool used to evaluate the implementation of Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Region of Peel's Imagine Peel 2015-2035 Strategic Plan includes 20-year outcomes that Peel is a community that promotes mobility, walkability and various modes of transportation; and that Peel is a community where the built environment promotes healthy living.
 - In September 2017, Regional Official Plan Amendment 27 (ROPA 27) – Health and the Built Environment, Age-Friendly Planning and Technical and Administrative Updates came into effect as By-law 12-2017.
 - The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map aims to evaluate ROPA 27 implementation by measuring 20 indicators across six core built environment design attributes (i.e., density, service proximity, land use mix, street connectivity, streetscape characteristics, and efficient parking) known to be associated with health outcomes, as well a composite score intended to measure overall walkability.
 - Present indicators include 2016 baseline data; staff will reassess these indicators every five years to monitor and report on changes.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

The health of a community is significantly impacted by the built environment, including transportation systems, land-use patterns and urban design. Traditional suburban design often includes sprawl and car-dependence, which are associated with low levels of physical activity, and an increased risk for developing chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes. In 2015, there were approximately 161,342 Peel residents aged 20 years and older living with diabetes, and 11,045 newly diagnosed cases. In both instances, Peel's rates are consistently higher than those of the province.

Regional staff have worked collaboratively over many years to integrate health considerations into land use and transportation practices to create healthier, complete communities. As a result, and in consultation with the local municipalities and the

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development industry, the Healthy Development Framework was developed. The Healthy Development Framework is a collection of tools that assess the following areas of the built environment that are known to influence physical activity: density, service proximity, land-use mix, street connectivity, streetscape characteristics and efficient parking. Appendix I provides more information about these six core attributes.

A significant achievement for the Region related to health and the built environment includes Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27 – Health and the Built Environment, Age-Friendly Planning and Technical and Administrative Updates. ROPA 27 was adopted by Regional Council on February 23, 2017 and came into effect upon provincial approval on September 1, 2017. The policies in ROPA 27 strengthen the application of health-based criteria into land-use planning processes across Peel Region by:

- Requiring the Region and local municipalities to consistently integrate the evidence-informed elements of the Healthy Development Framework into relevant planning policies and documents;
- Requiring new development applicants to complete a health assessment, as part of the development application process; and report results to local council by 2022; and,
- Requiring health assessments for new Regional-owned or municipal-owned and operated public facility project applications.

Currently, the policies under ROPA 27 are being implemented by the local municipalities, and health assessments continue to be a requirement of a complete development application. Health staff are engaging with regional and local municipal staff to ensure alignment between the HDA and local and regional policies, guidelines, and standards.

Evaluation of ROPA 27 policies requires comprehensive data on existing health-supportive infrastructure and monitoring of this infrastructure across Peel Region over time. Public Health, with significant contribution from Digital and Information Services, developed the Region's Healthy Development: Monitoring Map, which presents a series of indicators that provide a baseline assessment of health-supportive infrastructure in Peel. Indicators will be monitored and re-measured every five years to track progress on the implementation of ROPA 27 policies.

The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map includes indicators that are structured according to the six core attributes of healthy design, as identified in the Healthy Development Framework. As well, a composite indicator to reflect overall walkability was developed.

In comparison to the Neighbourhood Information Tool (NIT), which assesses neighbourhood well-being, the Healthy Development Monitoring Map uses consistent data sources across each of the three local municipalities and the indicators are created at the Census Dissemination Area (DA) level. Additionally, there is no demographic data used, but rather strictly using built form infrastructure data. The NIT uses socio-demographic information, such as age, immigration and ethnicity to build their tool and this data is created at the Service Delivery Area (SDA) level of geography.

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2. The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map

a) Methods

Significant effort has been taken to identify data sources and indicators that can be used consistently for future monitoring. Indicators were developed to align with the Healthy Development Framework. Additional inputs included peer-reviewed literature and best-practices from provincial, national and international indicator-development projects and reports, as well as input from local municipalities and Regional stakeholders.

Indicators were designed to use accessible data sources that could be tracked over time. Data used in the development of indicators were available at no additional cost, were collected comprehensively across Peel, and are updated every few years or in-line with scheduled Canadian Census updates. The indicators were calculated using data at the Census Dissemination Area, which are small geographic areas of uniform population size of approximately 400 to 700 persons.

Twenty indicators were identified to evaluate the effectiveness of ROPA 27 policies. These indicators are organized under the six built-environment attributes of the Healthy Development Framework, enabling the tracking of policy objectives.

The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map also includes the Peel Walkability Composite Indicator. The Peel Walkability Composite Indicator is an overall indicator of walkability that measures how well the built environment supports active transportation. It is comprised of eight indicators to create a 'walkability index score'. The Peel Walkability Composite Indicator captures many related built environment variables in one measure, which is easier to track and communicate to decision-makers. Together, the 20 indicators, and the Peel Walkability Composite Indicator, benchmark and measure the implementation of ROPA 27 across Peel.

See Appendix I for additional details on the 20 indicators and the Peel Walkability Composite Indicator.

b) Stakeholder Consultation

Communication and engagement have played an important role in all development phases of the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map. Regional staff have consulted with local municipal Policy and Development Services Planning staff from all three local municipalities through a series of formal Technical Advisory Committee and independent feedback meetings.

c) Mapping Tool Functionality

The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map enables the user to read the background, objective and intended uses of the indicators. Embedded within the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map are seven dashboards that are divided into tabs to display individual indicators and their associated data. The dashboard includes a description of the individual indicator, why it is important to health, and data that support each indicator. Each dashboard updates the data as the user selects individual areas in the map. The tool has the functionality to select different levels of geography, such as municipalities, dissemination areas and custom geographies.

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3. Ongoing Policy Monitoring

a) Frequency of Updates

The indicators in the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map will be updated every five years, to align with the Canadian Census. The next scheduled update will occur in 2021. The indicators presented in the current version of the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map forms the 2016 baseline assessment of health-supportive infrastructure in Peel. Indicators do not currently have established targets, but change will be monitored over time compared to the baseline.

The Healthy Monitoring Map acts as a comparison tool to monitor for measurable change in health-promoting built environment elements throughout Peel. This will assist in monitoring the outcomes of the 20-year Strategic Objectives for the Region. Although there are no set targets to be reached, the goal with the tool is to increase walkability and seek a gradual improvement of health supportive infrastructure across Peel.

b) Intended Uses

The primary purpose of the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map is to monitor the implementation of ROPA 27 policies. As such, the indicators were created to fulfil this evaluation requirement.

The tool has been used to support decision-making by local organizations by providing reliable and relevant information on the community design features that enable healthier, complete communities. The tool provides a user-friendly format that enables the Region of Peel, local municipalities and partners to use the tool as an input to enhance the quality of data in the decision-making process.

The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map tool cannot be used to report on the Province's land use planning framework. The Province's land use planning framework requires municipalities to monitor and report on identified indicators which are quantified in the objectives of the Regional Official Plan and the requirements of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Further, the tool should not be used to assess policy objectives, such as Growth Management, in the Region. The indicators are not intended to be used to assess development applications as they provide a 2016 point-in-time assessment of built environment features which may change in the interim. Additionally, the Peel Walkability Composite Indicator is not a Walk Score, which is a proprietary web-based algorithm that assigns a walk score from 0 to 100 for an address point. The Peel Walkability Composite Indicator uses different indicators and is calculated at the Census Dissemination Area level.

The purpose of the tool is not to be used to predict mode choice, but rather to assist in communicating the results of ROPA 27 progress using one easily understandable measure. The Peel Walkability Composite Indicator (PWCI) combines indicators to demonstrate the spatial distribution of built environment infrastructure that facilitates active transportation opportunities. To date, validation of the PWCI has not occurred using the 'gold standard' of real pedestrian counts. This type of data is not available at the geographic level used in our analysis.

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c) Next Steps

The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map will be shared across Regional departments and local municipalities and will be publicly accessible via a link through the Regional webpage. The data generated by the indicators in the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map are a valuable input in analyzing trends in the Region. Regional staff will continue to work with local municipalities to influence the health of the built environment in Peel. Further the Healthy Development: Monitoring Map indicators will be reassessed every five years to assist in the ongoing monitoring of the health impacts of development at the Regional and local municipal level.

CONCLUSION

Implementing health considerations into land use and transportation processes and policies requires a sustained effort to demonstrate long-term progress in creating healthy complete communities. The Healthy Development: Monitoring Map enables the systematic evaluation of these efforts through a novel and user-friendly tool. Currently, indicators provide a benchmark of existing health-supportive infrastructure in Peel. Staff will reassess these indicators every five years to monitor the implementation of ROPA 27 policies.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Healthy Development Framework Built Environment Attributes and Corresponding Indicators

Appendix II – Healthy Development Monitoring Map Screen Shots

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