

Burlington's Strategic Plan 2015-2040

REVISED DRAFT

Welcome to Burlington's 2015-2040 Strategic Plan

The City of Burlington's 2015-2040 Strategic Plan is the result of a year of engagement that includes input from residents, businesses, community groups, city employees and members of Burlington City Council.

The city is facing a number of economic and demographic changes that require a co-ordinated and strategic response. The city is undergoing an important transition, one that some municipalities don't step up to. Burlington is one of the first Southern Ontario municipalities to stop sprawling and instead grow in place. In addition to our core mandate of providing a range of critical city services, the city has decided to add a new mandate: to actively "city-build."

City-building means using all of the tools available to City Council, working with community partners to define how we grow, and to actively shape the physical, social, economic and cultural fabric of the city as we grow.

The new Strategic Plan is fundamentally different from past plans. It is the 25-year blueprint for city-building and will be supported in more detail with the Official Plan*, Transportation Master Plan*, Asset Management Plan, Burlington Economic Development Strategic Plan and the corporate work plan. This strategic plan takes on the challenging issues of today and tomorrow, seizes current and future opportunities and helps Burlington prepare for the next 25 years.

This plan is a framework for critical decision-making and considers how we manage our resources. Although the plan has a 25-year horizon, there will be five-year work plans, prioritization of the goals and initiatives within the plan and a conversation with the community to address our changing city and new realities. It encourages a common goal across Burlington in partnership with our community.

During the engagement process, the city heard what is important to the people of Burlington. Here are the four key strategic directions you will learn more about in this Strategic Plan.

Burlington is:

- A City that Grows
- A City that Moves
- A Healthy and Greener City
- An Engaging City.

Key Strategic Directions

A City that Grows

The City of Burlington attracts talent, good jobs and economic opportunity while having achieved intensification and balanced, targeted population growth for youth, families, newcomers and seniors.

A City that Moves

People and goods move throughout the city more efficiently and safely. A variety of convenient, affordable and green forms of transportation that align with regional patterns are the norm. Walkability within new/transitioning neighbourhoods and the downtown are a reality.

A Healthy and Greener City

The City of Burlington is a leader in the stewardship of the environment while encouraging healthy lifestyles.

An Engaging City

Community members are engaged, empowered, welcomed and well-served by their city. Culture and community activities thrive, creating a positive sense of place, inclusivity and community.

Key Strategic Objectives

Through the City of Burlington's 2015-2040 Strategic Plan, we will accomplish these objectives:

Population Growth

Focused and directed population growth that will lay the foundation for a larger economy, more jobs, fiscal sustainability, better infrastructure and public transportation.

Targeted Intensification

Higher densities in key intensification areas (including *mobility hubs, downtown, uptown, along major roads and commercial plazas) that will build neighbourhoods that are environmentally friendly, infrastructure-efficient, walkable, bikeable and transit-oriented.

Economic Growth

A clear and focused economic development vision that will help sustain a prosperous and complete city.

Demographic Growth

Attraction of younger people and newcomers to help sustain the fiscal, social, environmental and cultural fabric of the city.

Better Traffic Flows, More Public Transportation and Increased *Modal Splits

Improved traffic flows within the city and region through improved public transportation, *active transportation and intensification that allow residents to get where they need to go more quickly and efficiently.

An Accessible City

Municipal programs, buildings, services and public spaces are accessible, available and welcoming to people of all abilities.

A Healthier Environment

Better environmental outcomes that will help to combat climate change, improve quality of life and economic competitiveness and foster civic pride.

Healthier Lifestyles

Better health of residents that will positively impact resiliency and quality of life.

Engaged Residents and an Engaged Community:

An engaged community where culture, civic activities, neighbourhood initiatives and recreational activities enhance and grow the sense of engagement, community, place and unity.

Our Vision

Where people, nature and business thrive

Our Values

Working together,

1. We are a caring, friendly and inclusive community
2. We value innovation and trusted partnerships
3. We demonstrate respect by being fair and ethical.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

A City that Grows

The City of Burlington attracts talent, good jobs and economic opportunity while having achieved intensification and balanced, targeted population growth for youth, families, newcomers and seniors.

A City that Grows: Our Future by 2040

1.1 • Promoting Economic Growth

When a City that Grows creates the kind of city people want to live in, you attract businesses to locate here.

1.1.a

The city, region, province, educational institutions and industry work in partnership to support our continued prosperity by developing an environment that is attractive to high-growth *knowledge-based companies.

1.1.b

More people who live in Burlington also work in Burlington.

1.1.c

The city's vision for employment lands has been developed with aggressive targets. The community, developers and industry together are achieving our economic potential. The city, along with its partners, supports the development of employment lands through timely planning, infrastructure investments and other incentives.

1.1.d

Employment lands are connected to the community and region through *active transportation and public transit. Employment lands include transportation links and options that are easy to access and contribute to a sustainable, walkable and bikeable community.

1.1.e

Small businesses contribute to the creation of *complete neighbourhoods where residents are close to goods and services.

1.1.f

Innovative, entrepreneurial businesses have settled or developed in Burlington. The city has helped create the technological support, business supports, infrastructure and educational environment to attract startups and growing businesses.

1.1.g

Burlington's downtown is vibrant and thriving with greater intensification attracting both businesses and people to enjoy the quality of life.

1.1.h

The City of Burlington's rural areas will be economically and socially active, producing agricultural products and providing rural recreational activities for the city.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Initiatives:

- Create an employment lands vision that drives investment and growth in the *Prosperity Corridors
- Develop and put in place a redevelopment and intensification strategy for the *Prosperity Corridors
- Build one brand for the City of Burlington to attract both business and people
- Initiate and develop a strategy for Burlington's rural areas. This strategy will consider economic, social, cultural and environmental factors in support of the rural community, agricultural industry, *natural heritage and water resources.

- Develop and implement a strategy to attract post-secondary institutions to Burlington. Encourage connections between future employees and employers to help grow Burlington's economy.
- Make it easier for businesses to locate in Burlington, attracting more investment.
- Create and invest in a system that supports the startup and growth of businesses, innovation hubs and entrepreneurship.

Progress indicators:

- Median household income
- Labour force by industry
- Industry location targets
- Income distribution to track inequity
- Percentage of families with low income
- Number of hectares of farmland under active cultivation
- Average time through the development process
- Jobs per hectare
- Increased percentage of the community that works in Burlington
- Employment and unemployment rates.

A City that Grows: Our Future by 2040

1.2 • Intensification

A City that Grows demonstrates density (intensification) done well. There are green design options, less sprawl, more affordable housing choices and improved public health in a vital, diverse and safe city.

1.2.a

Growth is being achieved in *mixed-use areas and along main roads with transit service, including *mobility hubs, downtown and uptown.

1.2.b

*Mobility hubs are developed near each GO Station and in the downtown.

1.2.c

Aging commercial plazas are being redeveloped and transformed into mixed-use neighbourhood areas where a mix of residential, commercial, cultural, or institutional uses are provided. Buildings are connected to the street with doors and windows, have high-quality design and provide pedestrian and cycling connections.

1.2.d

New and transitioning neighbourhoods are being designed to promote easy access to amenities, services, recreation and employment areas with more opportunities for walking, cycling and using public transit.

1.2.e

Older neighbourhoods are important to the character and heritage of Burlington and intensification will be carefully managed to respect these neighbourhoods.

1.2.f

City policy encourages and rewards energy-efficient buildings and other on-site sustainable features, reducing Burlington's environmental footprint. Existing buildings are renovated to improve efficiency.

1.2.g

Intensification is planned so that growth is financially sustainable and so new infrastructure needed to support growth is paid for by new development.

1.2.h

Burlington has a downtown that supports intensification and contains green space and amenities, has vibrant pedestrian-focused streets, is culturally active and is home to a mix of residents and businesses.

1.2.i

Architecture and buildings are designed and constructed to have minimal impact on the environment reflecting urban design excellence that create buildings and public spaces where people can live, work or gather.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The city will include growth targets and their related opportunities in its Official Plan. This will be complete by the end of 2018.
- Through policy, the city will influence the redevelopment of aging commercial plazas and transform them into mixed-use neighbourhood hubs.
- The city will work with Halton Region and other partners to develop a servicing plan for intensification areas.
- The city will conduct and implement an intensification plan that will include a specific focus on the *Urban Growth Centre and will develop a strategy for the downtown core that will promote residential and appropriate niche/boutique office development.
- The city will develop energy and sustainable site feature guidelines to require new/renewed buildings to promote energy-efficient technologies.
- The city will analyze the costs of all forms of development.

- The city will put in place the recommendations of the strategic action plan for the downtown (known as Core Commitment) and extend, where possible, recommendations to other urban centres.
- The city will create and implement an awards program to recognize and celebrate excellence in architecture, urban design, streetscaping, landscaping and sustainability in all developments.

Progress Indicators:

- Number of aging commercial plazas that have redeveloped
- Number of mobility hubs that are developed
- Intensification (floor space ratio) for mobility hubs, downtown, urban corridors, commercial plazas and urban employment areas.

A City that Grows: Our Future by 2040

1.3 • Focused Population Growth

A City that Grows encourages young families, youth and newcomers to locate in Burlington to help sustain the fiscal, social and cultural fabric of the city.

1.3.a

Burlington is an inclusive and diverse city that has a growing proportion of youth, newcomers and young families and offers a price range and mix of housing choices.

1.3.b

Seniors are supported by a strategy that promotes health, recreation, transportation and allows them to remain in their home or neighbourhood as long as possible.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- Future development will be higher density, walkable and accessible, transit-oriented with appealing streetscapes. The city will become a leader in walkability and bikeability scores in the province and will be fully aligned with provincial strategy and goals.
- The city will prioritize the planning for each *mobility hub. The plan for each mobility hub will consider/include design, jobs and housing, servicing, public transportation, parks and green space.
- The city will develop and implement a strategy in co-operation with other levels of government to support young families:
 - A range of housing types and supply will allow young families and newcomers to locate in Burlington.
 - Infrastructure will support the economic, social, environmental and community goals of youth, young families and newcomers.

- Upon completion of the *Official Plan, the city will prepare a housing strategy.
- By 2020, the city will develop a liaison office to attract immigrants, while remaining a destination of choice for all newcomers.
- An Age-Friendly strategy for seniors will be developed by the end of 2019. This will include addressing the need to have sufficient seniors' programming space.
- The city will improve its ability to monitor, track and understand Burlington's demographic growth trends and profile.

Progress Indicators:

- Walkability score applied to intensification and population growth
- Percentage of trips by bike or transit
- Population by demographics
- Median age
- Immigration numbers and percentages
- Household size
- Median housing price by type
- Mix of available housing types.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

A City that Moves

People and goods move throughout the city more efficiently and safely. A variety of convenient, affordable and green forms of transportation that align with regional patterns are the norm. *Walkability within new/transitioning neighbourhoods and the downtown are a reality.

A City that Moves: Our Future by 2040

2.1 • Increased Transportation Flows and Connectivity

A City that Moves offers transportation options and actively connects people and places.

2.1.a

Public transportation systems will have efficient, greener, convenient and usable transportation options including consideration of evolving technologies within the city and the broader region.

2.1.b

*Mobility hubs are being developed and supported by intensification and *built forms that allow walkable neighbourhoods to develop. *Metrolinx will have worked with the city to ensure the creation of hubs aligns with intensification and built form objectives.

2.1.c

*Complete Streets vision is put in place through a co-ordinated plan, which will include on-road and off-road bike lanes, sidewalks, multi-use paths and trails and a public transit system that are all well-connected throughout the city.

2.1.d

Employment areas are well-served by public transportation and riders can access the regional and provincial transportation network.

2.1.e

All levels of government work together to create a transportation experience that offers convenient and timely connections between municipalities.

2.1.f

The city works with Halton Region and the province to address the issues of vehicle traffic that cuts through the city.

2.1.g

*Walkability and cycling has guided the development of new and transitioning neighbourhoods and the downtown so that people rely less on automobiles.

2.1.h

Rural areas of Burlington are connected to the city and are part of transportation planning and investment considerations.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The city will prepare master plans along with implementation strategies for each mobility hub. These plans will consider urban design, land use, servicing, public transportation, parking and parks and open space needs. The city will work with *Metrolinx to create hubs that align with intensification and objectives.
- The city will work with *Metrolinx, Halton Region and the province to find multi-modal, flexible and affordable solutions to accommodate the projected traffic generation from growing *employment lands.
- The city will shift a greater proportion of inbound and outbound traffic to public transportation and prepare a long-term strategy to support the growth of public transportation.
- Burlington Transit will work with neighbouring jurisdictions to promote seamless transportation service delivery in and out of Burlington.
- As the city grows, light rail and bus rapid transit systems will be evaluated.

- Future development in key mixed nodes will be higher density, walkable, accessible and well-serviced by public transportation. The city will become a leader in walkability in the province and will be fully aligned with provincial strategy and goals.
- Future development in higher densities will consider car-share and bike-share options.

Progress Indicators:

- Percentage of all trips within Burlington by public transit
- Percentage of all trips entering and leaving the city by public transit
- Community modal split
- Walkability scores
- Gold Standard for Bicycle-Friendly
- Peak and all-day congestion tracking
- Number of kilometres of bike lanes, trails and sidewalks
- Connectivity measures: The ability to go from one end of the city to the other on a multi-use trail.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

A Healthy and Greener City

The City of Burlington is a leader in the stewardship of the environment while encouraging healthy lifestyles.

A Healthy and Greener City: Our Future by 2040

3.1 • Healthy Lifestyles

A Healthy and Greener City improves public health and quality of life.

3.1.a

Every resident of Burlington lives within a 15 to 20-minute walk from parks or green spaces.

3.1.b

Parks and green spaces are multi-use. Residents and visitors will be able to use them in a number of ways.

3.1.c

Burlington increases the availability of community garden plots so that residents may grow their own fresh and healthy food.

3.1.d

The trail system is being linked to the city's park network, to neighbourhoods and to other regional systems including transit, ensuring that the city's rural area and waterfront are easily accessible and accommodate walking and cycling.

3.1.e

The *Bruce Trail is being supported by planning and investments to ensure usability, safety and access.

3.1.f

Burlington adopts an appropriate walkability score tool, using it to help make planning decisions.

3.1.g

Rural Burlington has improved access to parks and amenities, and the city is supporting several initiatives to create unique recreational offerings in the rural area.

3.1.h

The city supports Halton Region's rural strategy, including support for growing food locally.

3.1.i

Recreation and sports programs are widely available to all residents through both the City of Burlington and partners in the community.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The Parks Master Plan will be updated to reflect growth objectives and changing density in the city.
- Major developments will be required to provide public space.
- The city will engage with Halton Region, Bruce Trail Association, Conservation Halton and other partners to develop the Bruce Trail to promote access and awareness, with the goal of creating new entry points to trails and improving safety.
- The city, working with the community, will lead the development of 10 or more self-sustaining community gardens by 2018.
- In the context of the *Transportation Master Plan, the city will complete a plan and put in place initiatives that create connectivity of trails, parks and streets.
- The city will develop and adopt walkability scores.
- The city will explore opportunities to support the conversion of former local quarries into recreational areas. These will maintain the objectives

contained within the Niagara Escarpment Plan and Halton Region Official Plan.

- The city will work with public, private and community groups to provide recreation programs that reflect the city's residents.

Progress Indicators:

- Number of participant visits to recreation programs, services and facilities
- Percentage of residents that are satisfied with recreation programs
- Percentage of residents satisfied with Burlington's parks and other open spaces
- Kilometres of trails connected to parks
- Number of trail access points created
- Percentage of parks and green space that are within a 15-20 minute walk for residents
- Total kilometres of multi-use trails.

A Healthy and Greener City: Our Future by 2040

3.2 • Environmental and Energy Leadership

A Healthy and Greener City improves energy efficiency, protects the natural environment and mitigates climate change impacts.

3.2.a

The city has a healthy, *natural heritage system that is protected, well-connected, conserved and enhanced and forms a fundamental component of the city's urban and rural areas.

3.2.b

The city's operations are net *carbon-neutral.

3.2.c

The city's urban forest and *tree canopy has increased and continues to thrive.

3.2.d

Burlington's waterfront continues to be clean, safe and usable. The city takes a leadership position in ensuring the rehabilitation and preservation of the city's creeks and streams.

3.2.e

The city will work with community stakeholders to implement the *Community Energy Plan and achieve the goals and objectives related to energy conservation, generation and availability.

3.2.f

The city reinforces its strong position in protecting the existing urban-rural boundary.

3.2.g

The city recognizes that climate change is a significant issue and is working with community and all levels of government towards the goal of the Burlington community being *net carbon-neutral.

3.2.h

The city will become a leader in storm water management and low impact development.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The city will develop and implement a plan to make city operations net carbon-neutral.
- In partnership with others including the community, provincial and federal levels of government, the city will undertake research in order to make Burlington net-carbon neutral.
- The city will complete and implement a climate change adaptation plan.
- The city will update and implement the *Community Energy Plan so that it is efficient, resilient and economically viable.
- Working with Burlington Hydro, the city will explore *district energy, *micro-generation and new storage technologies.
- The city will advocate that the *Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System will be recognized, within four years, in provincial or federal legislation and will receive the appropriate funding to complete the required land assembly.
- The streetscape plans and private development will increase the city's tree canopy.

Progress Indicators:

- Energy consumption for city operations and city-wide
- Expansion and growth of the urban forest
- Greenhouse gas emissions for city operations and city-wide

- Progress on energy targets in the *Community Energy Plan and Corporate Energy Management Plan
- Progress report on actions in the *Community Energy Plan.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

An Engaging City

Community members are engaged, empowered, welcomed and well-served by their city. Culture and community activities thrive, creating a positive sense of place, inclusivity and community.

An Engaging City: Our Future by 2040

4.1 • Good Governance*

An Engaging City involves residents to enhance sound decisions.

4.1.a

The city is known for its sound decision-making processes through initiatives such as creating a Charter of Good Governance that reinforces Burlington's responsibilities, accountabilities and objectives.

4.1.b

City information is more accessible with an increase in the number of residents who engage with the city. The city practices open government and uses new technology to engage residents and collaborate in decision-making.

4.1.c

The city continues to balance increased services and investments with the need to be responsible with tax dollars.

4.1.d

Burlington's position is articulated to senior levels of government on pressing policy matters.

4.1.e

City infrastructure, such as buildings and roads, are in good condition and properly maintained.

4.1.f

New infrastructure needed to support growth is paid for by new development.

4.1.g

Enhanced performance measurements give the community the ability to track key indicators of the city's progress.

4.1.h

The city actively encourages and welcomes collaboration with residents and stakeholders in the decision-making process.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The city will create a Charter of Good Governance. This charter will be a framework for excellent decision-making.
- The city, working with key community partners, will develop a report card that will outline the status of the economic, social and environmental well-being of residents and report on overall community health.
- The city will build government outreach capacity to engage with, liaise with and influence relevant governments.
- Annual property tax increases will reflect inflationary increases, infrastructure renewal financing and increased service investments.
- The city will continue to implement initiatives in the *Community Engagement Charter.
- By the third quarter of 2017, the city will develop and start to implement a strategy to increase outreach and inclusivity through an approach at both the staff and political level.

Progress Indicators:

- Percentage of public satisfaction with city programs and services

- State of city infrastructure indicators, such as pavement quality index and facility condition index
- Annual tax increases
- Percentage of citizens that believe the city offers the opportunity for meaningful input into decision-making
- Percentage of citizens that believe the city uses and responds to input.

An Engaging City: Our Future by 2040

4.2 • Community Building through Culture and Community Activities

An Engaging City makes all residents feel welcomed and part of the cultural fabric of our city.

4.2.a

The city supports and encourages the community to identify opportunities to build active, creative neighbourhoods.

4.2.b

All residents, including newcomers, feel welcomed and at home in Burlington. The city supports new and existing cultural celebrations and initiatives.

4.2.c

The City and its community cultural partners reach out to new and diverse communities to expand the cultural fabric.

How will Burlington make this happen?

These are some examples of actions and measures of success:

Strategic Initiatives:

- The city will develop and put in place initiatives that support and empower community building at the neighbourhood level. An initial report will be provided to Council in the context of the 2016 budget.
- The city will continue to implement initiatives in the *Cultural Action Plan.
- The city will encourage better collaboration and co-ordination among existing and new cultural partners.
- The city will adopt an approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces to ensure they are inviting people places. This will be accomplished by using the power of the arts, culture, architecture and

design (such as mobility hubs, artist live-work spaces and cultural nodes).

- The city will expand the Public Art Program by developing policies and programs, such as public art on private property.
- The city will revise policies related to culture activities and programs, such as *busking, zoning, event permitting, to allow for easier and more accessible initiatives.
- The city will better align the strategies, resources and goals of current cultural partners with broader city objectives, including:
 - Youth and Newcomer Strategy
 - Intensification and *mobility hubs.
- The city will encourage targeted cultural programming that engages newcomers and a more diverse audience with the goal of promoting cultural diversity.

Progress Indicators:

- Annual attendance at cultural and civic events
- General measures of volunteerism
- Number of annual events and performances
- Economic value of cultural events
- Number of new neighbourhood initiatives supported by the city
- Percentage of population reporting a strong sense of belonging in their community.

GLOSSARY:

Active Transportation: Active transportation includes human-powered methods of transportation, such as walking, cycling, rollerblading and using a wheelchair.

Bruce Trail: The Bruce Trail is a hiking trail in southern and central Ontario. It is 885 kilometres long and runs through Burlington.

Built Form: Built form describes the look, style and functionality of buildings and the surrounding areas.

Busking: Busking or street performance is the act of performing and providing entertainment in public places.

Carbon-neutral: Having a net-zero carbon footprint refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount not used, or buying enough carbon credits to make up the difference.

Community Energy Plan (CEP): Burlington's Community Energy Plan provides a holistic view of how energy is used and generated for the community and will help:

- Identify areas where conservation and efficiency measures can be focused
- Assess the potential for local generation, particularly renewable energy and the use of smart-grid technology
- Look at the energy implications of future growth and prosperity.

There are five goals and associated objectives in the plan related to:

- Behaviour change (a culture of conservation)
- Energy efficiency
- Energy generation and security
- Land use and growth
- Transportation

Community Engagement Charter: The Community Engagement Charter is an agreement between and among Burlington City Council and the community concerning citizen engagement with city government. It establishes the commitments, responsibilities and fundamental concepts of this relationship.

Complete Neighbourhoods: Places where residents can easily access necessities such as housing, employment, food, transportation, recreation and retail.

Complete Streets: Policy and design approach where streets are planned and designed to allow for safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for everyone using any form of transportation.

Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System: Situated at the western end of Lake Ontario, the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System is a unique ecological corridor that runs from Cootes Paradise Marsh to the Niagara Escarpment. It includes 9,000 acres of significant lands that connect Hamilton and Burlington, with 4,700 acres of these lands permanently protected and growing while another 4,300 acres of the lands in the area are privately owned. The result is a disconnected patchwork of smaller protected areas, each valuable but isolated.

Since 2006, 10 local government and non-government partner organizations, including the City of Burlington, have been working together to protect and help connect these lands, with a vision to create one of Canada's largest urban ecoparks: the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System.

Cultural Action Plan: The Cultural Action Plan is a set of 47 recommendations approved by City Council to advance arts and culture in Burlington. The recommendations are focused on four main areas: Leadership, Communications and Outreach, Local Investment and Cultural Nodes and Clusters.

District Energy: District energy systems produce steam, hot water or chilled water at a central plant, which is then piped underground to individual buildings for space heating, domestic hot water heating and air conditioning. Electricity can be produced from the waste heat to improve overall efficiency.

Employment Lands: Employment Lands and the Prosperity Corridor: Employment lands are areas of land defined within the Official Plan for employment uses. Burlington's major employment lands are split into five investment districts.

Good Governance: Governance is the process of decision-making. Good governance is a concept that centres on the responsibility of governments to meet the needs of the people.

Knowledge-based companies: A Knowledge Economy is a general term used to denote companies and jobs that are knowledge-intensive (require a high level of research and education) and result in a product that can be exported for a high-value return.

Natural heritage system: refers to the sum total of the elements of nature including trees, plants, creeks and forests, together with associated geological structures, such as the Niagara Escarpment, and formations (geodiversity).

Mobility Hubs are locations with significant levels of planned transit service. A mobility hub consists of a major transit station and the immediate surrounding area, where different forms of transportation come together. It is also a concentrated point of employment, housing and recreation, making mobility hubs places of significant economic development and activity where office buildings, health care, educational institutions, government service and information centres, shopping malls and restaurants can be located.

Mixed-use (Areas): Residential, employment, retail and entertainment uses are all allowed in Mixed-use Areas to create vibrant live-work relationships.

Metrolinx: Is a Crown agency that manages and integrates road transport and public transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Metrolinx in 2007 created a Regional Transportation Plan and merged with GO Transit in 2009.

Microgeneration: Microgeneration is the small-scale generation of heat and electric power by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs, and is alternatives or supplements to traditional, centralized grid-connected power.

Modal Split: A modal split is the proportion of total person trips that uses each of the various modes of transportation, such as, public transit, automobile, walking and cycling.

Official Plan: An Official Plan is a statutory document required by the province that describes a city's land-use strategy over the next 20 years. It is prepared with input from the public and helps to ensure future planning and development will meet the specific needs of the community. An official plan deals mainly with issues, such as:

- the location and form of new housing, industry, offices and shops

- the anticipated needs for services, such as roads, watermains, sewers, parks, schools and community amenities
- where future growth will happen in the city and how to make effective use of available land
- opportunities for community improvement initiatives
- community identity, place-making and urban design.

Prosperity Corridors: Employment Lands and the Prosperity Corridor: Employment lands are areas of land defined within the Official Plan for employment uses. Burlington’s major employment lands are split into five investment districts.

Transportation Master Plan: The Transportation Master Plan defines a shared vision and strategy that is intended to map out a transportation future that will help the city grow responsibly by providing multiple travel options that are convenient, affordable and safe. The key goals of the Transportation Master Plan are to:

- Integrate transportation planning and infrastructure investment with land use planning and intensification strategies to support sustainable development and livable communities
- Achieve greater use of alternate modes of travel, including walking, cycling and public transit, while reducing dependency on the private automobile
- Promote a transportation mode shift which allows public transit, walking and cycling to be considered as attractive options to reduce vehicular demands on our existing network while supporting healthy and active lifestyles and an overall increase in quality of life
- Develop a transportation system that is interconnected and integrated with alternative modes to allow people, commuters and goods to move efficiently throughout the city
- Contribute to a vibrant and economically prosperous community through the development of a transportation system that fosters economic growth and stability
- Provide residents with a range of affordable and accessible mobility choices, regardless of income or ability.

Tree Canopy: A tree canopy describes the coverage provided by the leafy upper branches of trees.

Urban Growth Centre: Urban Growth Centre is a proper term used by the province to describe specific geographic locations. Downtown Burlington is identified as an urban growth centre. These centres are planned as focal areas for investment in institutional and region-wide public services, as well as commercial, recreational, cultural and entertainment uses. Urban growth centres support major transit infrastructure, serve as high-density major employment centres that will attract provincially, nationally or internationally significant employment uses and they accommodate a significant share of population and employment growth.

Walkability: Walkability is the ability of people to walk to amenities, such as grocery stores, green spaces, health care, employment, fitness and restaurants. Walkability scores rate the ability to do day-to-day activities without a vehicle.