

#### **Regional Plan Five-Year Review**

#### Approved by Regional Council: June 25, 2014



# **Regional Plan Vision**

Enhance our quality of life by fostering the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, a strong and diverse economy, and sustainable environment.



# **7 Guiding Principles**

- predictable, fair, cost-effective and timely decisionmaking
- development patterns that promote a vigorous regional economy
- sustainability of cultural historical and natural assets
- Regional Centre as the focus of economic, cultural and residential activities
- make the most effective use of land, energy, infrastructure, public services, and foster healthy lifestyles
- protection of open space, wilderness, natural beauty and sensitive environmental areas
- integrated transportation systems in conjunction with

# First 5-year Review (RP+5)

- Legislative requirement
  - HRM Charter (s. 229.2)
  - Regional Plan Policy (Policy IM-7)
- Evaluate effectiveness of the Plan
- Address changing conditions and new opportunities based on scope approved by Council



#### **Trend in Growth Targets**



Source: CMHC, 2006-2013 New Housing Starts

#### What is not changing - Foundation



#### **RP+5 Process**

COW = Committee of the Whole

CPED = Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee

CDAC = Community Design Advisory Committee

HAC = Heritage Advisory Committee / DRC = Design Review Committee



# **RP+5 Proposed Changes**

**Sustainable Solutions** 

Enhanced Regional Centre

Improved Community Design

Mutually Supportive Land Use and Transit/AT

## **1. Sustainable Solutions**



#### **Sustainable Solutions** Manage growth sustainably

- Commitment to undertake Greenbelting and Public Open Spaces Priorities Plan
- restated growth targets are criterion for initiating secondary planning
- Revised policies for rural growth to encourage growth in defined rural growth centres but place limitations on growth outside of centres

#### Sustainable Solutions Greenbelting & Public Open Space Plan

#### Landscape ecology approach:



Scattered: the patchwork





Linear: the ribbon

Linear: the network





Area: the belt







#### **Sustainable Solutions** Protect water, land and air

- Protect potable water supply areas
  - New policy provisions to amend land use by-laws to better protect public water supply sources
  - Requirements for ground water assessments for rural developments where 10 or more dwellings proposed
- Provisions to adopt tree protection by-law and improved provisions to protect trees within riparian buffers while allowing flexibility across HRM
- Improve management of storm water and erosion
- Consider food security through secondary planning

#### Sustainable Solutions Protect water, land and air

 Urban Forest Management Plan, Climate Risk Management Strategy, Community Energy Plan, Corporate Plan to Reduce Energy identified for guiding priorities, work plans and budgets

#### **Sustainable Solutions** Preserve and Enhance Culture & Heritage Resources

- Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada adopted for guidance of Heritage Property By-law,
- Assist communities in identifying and celebrating cultural and heritage assets
- Identify and preserve cultural landscapes
- Recognize the importance of arts to the creative economy and vitality of our region
- Policy commitment made to undertake Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan

## 2. Enhanced Regional Centre



#### Enhanced Regional Centre Attract Residents and Investment

- Vision statement and principles endorsed by Council through HalifaxbyDesign process incorporated into plan and policy commitment made to prepare a Regional Centre Plan in accordance with these.
- Develop heritage plans and programs to preserve and enhance heritage properties, streetscapes, and districts
- Prepare capital and operating expenditure programs that enhance development
- Create financial and regulatory incentives to

#### Enhanced Regional Centre Attract Residents and Investment

- Recommendations of the Strategic Urban Partnership and the Greater 2011 to 2016 Economc Strategy are to be considered when preparing capital and operating expenditure programs that enhance development
- Create financial and regulatory incentives to stimulate desired growth

# 3. Improved Community Design



#### Improved Community Design Suburban Communities

- Focus new growth in centres where services and infrastructure exist
- Advance complete communities for all areas
- Promote environmentally sustainable transportation modes
- Ensure that there are sufficient lands available along the harbour and in business parks to provide economic opportunities
- Support and enhance land, port and air transportation facilities
- Reduce above grade electrical and telecommunication
  transmission lines

#### Improved Community Design Urban Communities

- Design communities that:
  - a) are attractive, healthy places to live and have access to the goods, services and facilities needed by residents
  - b) are accessible to all mobility needs and are well connected with other communities
  - c) protect neighbourhood stability and support neighbourhood revitalization
  - d) preserve significant environmental and cultural features
  - e) promote community food security
  - f) provide housing opportunities for a range of social and economic needs and promote aging in place

# Improved Community Design

- Balance property rights, lifestyle choices, fiscal and environmental responsibility
- Encourage new growth in centres where supporting services and infrastructure are available
- Natural corridors must first be delineating when planning for new developments
- Secondary planning strategies must consider mobility needs, food security, affordable housing

# 4. Land use and transit/active transportation are mutually supportive



#### Land Use and Transportation Integrated and Sustainable

- Establish Urban Transit Service Boundary
- Require Transit Oriented Development
- Provide rural transit community support
- Protect greenways connections in secondary planning
- Design complete streets for all ages, abilities, and modes of travel
- Road Network Priorities Plan to be prepared in consultation with the community