

MARKHAM CENTRE SECONDARY PLAN UPDATE

Development Options Engagement Summary

June 21, 2021





Vision and Guiding Principles

Development Options

What We Heard

Workshops with Members of Council

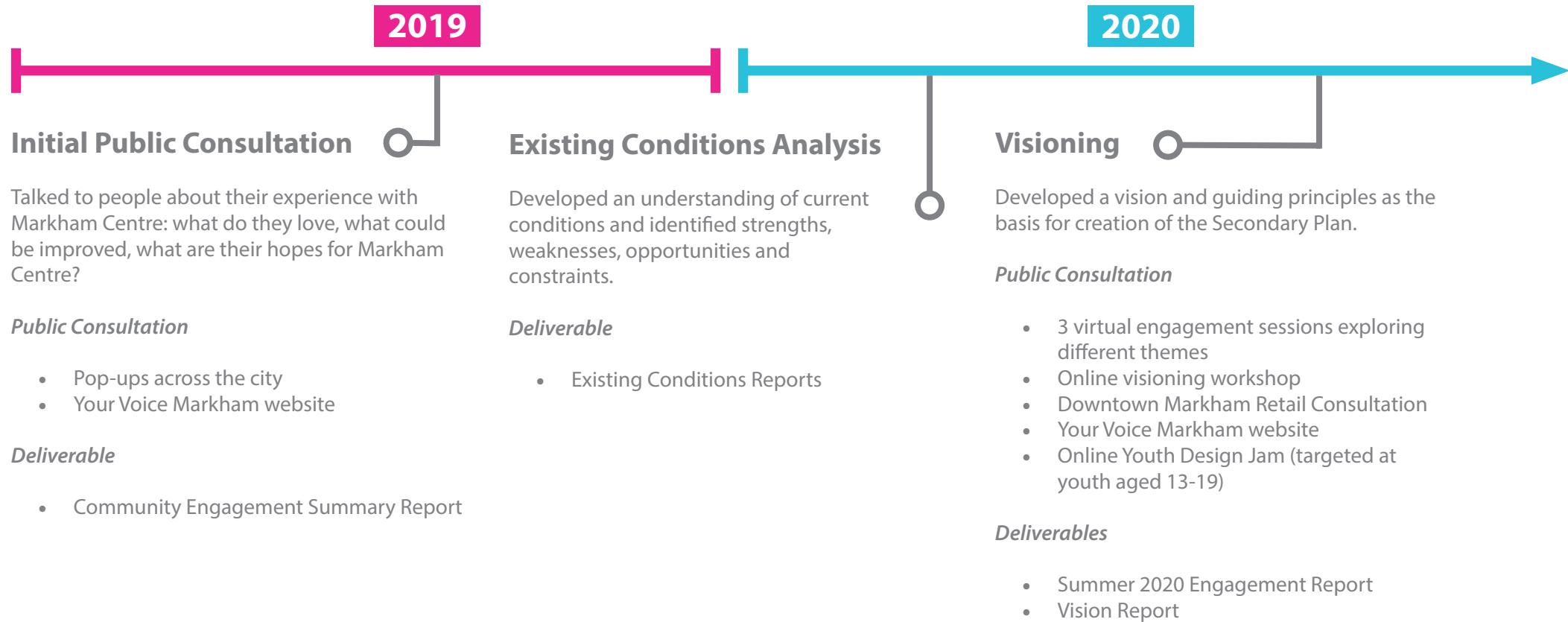
Meetings with Landowners

Your Voice Markham Website

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Next Steps







Markham Centre is Markham's downtown.

**It is the heart of the city
and a vibrant, intensive,
mixed use urban core.**

Guiding Principles



- 1** Create a place that is the heart of Markham
- 2** Support a diverse and prosperous economy
- 3** Support arts, culture, and recreation
- 4** Create an efficient and safe transportation system
- 5** Create a great public realm
- 6** Foster diverse built form
- 7** Build neighbourhoods with access to all the things needed for daily life
- 8** Realize the full potential of the Rouge River Valley as an environmental and placemaking feature
- 9** Champion sustainability and environmental performance
- 10** Plan for inclusive and diverse neighbourhoods
- 11** Transition from suburban to urban



What will the Vision and Guiding Principles look like in practice?

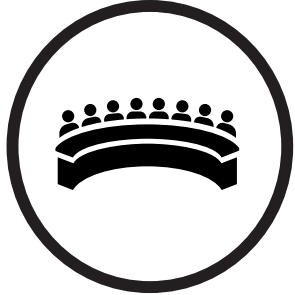
Option 1: Business as Usual

Demonstrates the implications of how Markham Centre will evolve based on its current trajectory

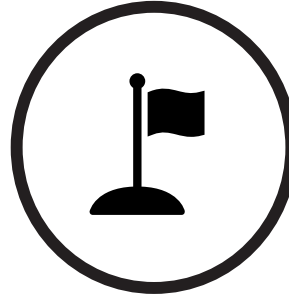
Option 2: Preliminary Concept

Tests out an alternative trajectory for Markham Centre based on 8 big moves

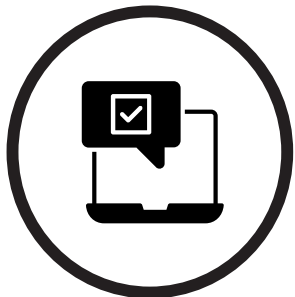
Consultation Activities



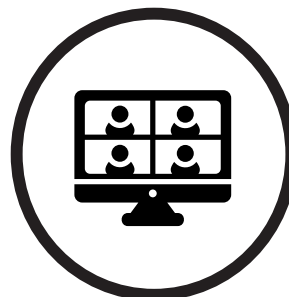
3 half-day workshops
with small groups of
Council Members



13 one-on-one meetings
with Markham Centre
landowners



30+ survey & forum
responses on Your
Voice Markham Website



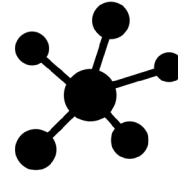
Virtual public meeting with
53 participants in small-
group discussions

What We Heard

Key Areas of Feedback



Building forms and heights



Connected neighbourhoods



Forming a civic district



Parks and open spaces



Transit, walking, and cycling



Building forms and heights



Council Members

- Mix of building forms and heights
- Transitions from tall and mid-rise buildings to adjacent low-rise areas
- Concentrate density at the transit node, with secondary node at Highway 7 and Warden Ave



Your Voice Markham

- Majority against excessively tall building heights
- Transitions from tall and mid-rise buildings to adjacent low-rise areas
- Concentrate density at the transit node
- Some opposition to intensity at Highway 7 and Warden Ave



Landowners

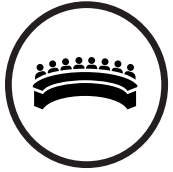
- Proposed heights and densities are too low
- Tallest buildings should be located close to higher-order transit infrastructure
- Majority agree with transit node as primary area for development intensity; some preference for Highway 7 and Warden Ave as primary node



Virtual Meeting

- Majority against excessively tall building heights
- Transitions from tall and mid-rise buildings to adjacent low-rise areas
- Concentrate density at the transit node

Forming a civic district



Council Members

- Civic district near the transit node
- Anchored by civic facilities (e.g., public square, central library, community centre, museum, performing arts centre), retail, and public art
- Mixed thoughts on maintaining, repurposing, or relocating the Civic Centre



Your Voice Markham

- Civic district near the transit node
- Anchored by civic facilities (e.g., public square, central library, community centre, museum, performing arts centre)
- Mixed thoughts on maintaining, repurposing, or relocating the Civic Centre



Landowners

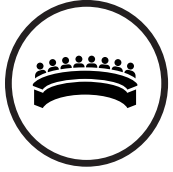
- Some opposition to relocating the Civic Centre from Highway 7 and Warden Ave



Virtual Meeting

- Civic district near the transit node
- Anchored by civic facilities (e.g., public square, central library, community centre, museum, performing arts centre), employment, office, and retail uses
- Mixed thoughts on maintaining, repurposing, or relocating the Civic Centre

Transit, walking, and cycling



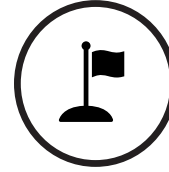
Council Members

- ✓ World-class rail station and area
- ✓ 407 Transitway and Viva Rapidway alignments should be finalized ASAP
- ✓ Safe crossings across tracks, Warden Ave, Hwy 7, separated bike lanes, and well-connected trail network through Markham Centre and beyond
- ✓ All-season maintenance and accessibility



Your Voice Markham

- ✓ More local bus service
- ✓ Safe track crossings, separated bike lanes, and well-connected trail network through Markham Centre and beyond
- ✓ All-season maintenance and accessibility



Landowners

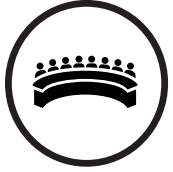
- ✓ 407 Transitway and Viva Rapidway alignments should be finalized ASAP



Virtual Meeting

- ✓ GO, Viva, and 407 stops close together to facilitate easy transfers
- ✓ More frequent bus service
- ✓ Safe track crossings, separated bike lanes, and well-connected trail network through Markham Centre and beyond

Connected neighbourhoods



Council Members

- Sense of place in each neighbourhood
- Pedestrian-friendly, street-level retail (e.g., small- and large-scale stores, restaurants)
- Balance of people (residential uses) and jobs (employment/office uses)
- Consider Cornell as a cautionary tale



Your Voice Markham

- Pedestrian-friendly, street-level retail (e.g., small- and large-scale stores, restaurants)
- Network of paths and public squares
- Local schools needed



Landowners

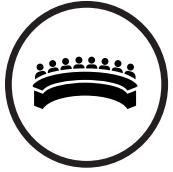
- Some landowners would like their sites to be prominent landmarks/gateways in each neighbourhood
- Schools, child care, and community amenities to support future residents
- Mixed thoughts on feasibility of certain uses (e.g., office), based on market interest



Virtual Meeting

- Pedestrian-friendly, street-level retail (e.g., small- and large-scale stores, restaurants)
- Network of paths and public squares
- Local schools and child care facilities needed

Parks and open spaces



Council Members

- ✓ More parkland and sports facilities needed
- ✓ Accessible through all modes of transportation
- ✓ All-season programming and maintenance
- ✓ Protect the naturalized Greenway



Your Voice Markham

- ✓ More parkland and all-ages play/sports facilities needed
- ✓ Accessible through all modes of transportation
- ✓ All-season programming and maintenance
- ✓ Protect the naturalized Greenway



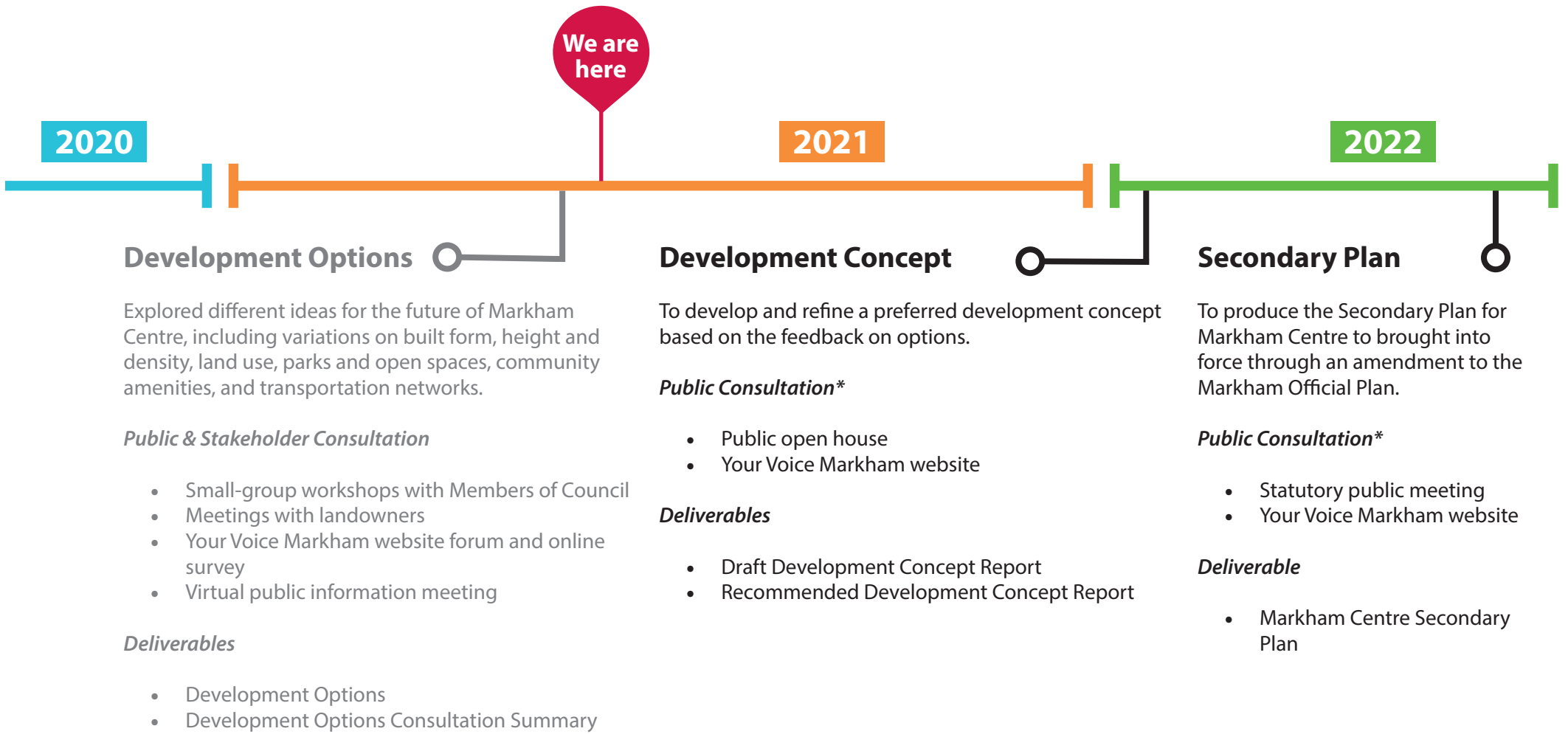
Landowners

- ✓ Management of Tributaries 4 and 5 should be finalized as soon as possible
- ✓ Variety of parks, open spaces, and trails needed to support future neighbourhoods
- ✗ Some concern with pedestrian pathways on private lands



Virtual Meeting

- ✓ More parkland and all-ages play/sports facilities needed
- ✓ Accessible through all modes of transportation
- ✓ All-season programming and maintenance
- ✓ Protect the naturalized Greenway



**Future public consultation approaches will be determined based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to use virtual platforms rather than in-person events.*



Thank you!

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