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Downtown Plan Progress Update

Work on the Background Study for the Downtown Plan is underway and includes a review of the past and current planning framework for Downtown London. This review helps ensure that the Downtown Plan builds on previous efforts, aligns with citywide priorities, and responds to the needs of the Downtown area.

Downtown Planning Framework Summary

In 1988, London's Official Plan referenced Downtown for the first time, sparking further planning efforts in the 1990s, including the Downtown Design Guidelines and the Downtown Community Improvement Plan (CIP), which remains in effect today to encourage private investment and revitalization. The Downtown CIP was amended in 2017 to expand the boundary to include the Richmond Row area, thereby increasing the number of eligible properties for the financial incentive programs, and in 2021 to include performance measures for tracking program impact.

The *Downtown Millennium Plan* (1998) catalyzed revitalization, leading to key investments like Covent Garden Market and John Labatt Centre (now Canada Life Place).

Our Move Forward – London's Downtown Plan (2015) outlines a series of actions and transformational projects that aim to create a vibrant and distinctive Downtown neighborhood. This included the creation of Dundas Place and its ongoing year-round programming. In 2016, *The London Plan* was adopted as the City's Official Plan, using "place types"—categories based on the intended character and function of an area—to guide growth, with the Downtown Place Type envisioned as the most high-density, mixed-use area.

Recent planning efforts include the 2019 *Core Area Action Plan* (CAAP), which aimed to revitalize the Core Area—Downtown London (including Richmond Row) and Old East Village—by improving safety and supporting businesses and vulnerable populations. While the CAAP is no longer active, it continues to inform downtown initiatives through the 2021 Core Area CIP. Understanding London's Downtown planning history is key to shaping the new Downtown Plan, ensuring it builds on past successes and addresses existing gaps.

Continuing Engagement

Community consultation for the Downtown Plan is continuing throughout the summer, and Londoners are encouraged to fill out this short survey to share their ideas and feedback: [Share your feedback](#)

- Project updates will continue to be shared on the project webpage and the City's social media channels: [Downtown Plan](#)

If you require any accommodation to fully participate in the engagement process, or have a comment or question regarding this project, please contact the Downtown Plan project team using the contact information below.

Email: dmp@london.ca

The information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31. Except for personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This notice was issued July 2, 2025.