



Downtown Plan Progress Update

Since the start of the new year, the Consultant Team, in collaboration with City of London staff, has undertaken a new round of engagement as part of Phase 2 of the Downtown Plan. This engagement has included conversations with members of the Downtown London community as well as targeted discussions with City staff across departments.

The purpose of this engagement is to begin refining the draft directions and actions that will form the Downtown Plan. Input gathered through these discussions helps to test emerging ideas, identify priorities, and ensure that proposed actions are both responsive to community needs and implementable within the City's policy and operational context.

Key findings from engagement in January to date include:

- **Public Space and Year-Round Use:** Participants supported investment in Downtown's major public spaces, including Victoria Park, Rotary Square, Ivey Park, and Harris Park to ensure consistent, year-round use. While small-scale interventions were generally viewed positively, participants emphasized that these should be delivered as part of an ambitious, long-term vision backed by meaningful capital investment.
- **City Leadership and Vacancy Solutions:** There was an emphasis on the role of municipal leadership in addressing Downtown vacancies and economic conditions. Participants noted that vacant storefronts and offices in the Downtown are driven by several issues, including demand, quality of space, cost and downtown perception.
- **Economic Development, Arts and Culture:** London has a vibrant arts and culture community full of local talent. Participants emphasized that arts and culture must be a critical part of the Downtown Plan and a pillar of economic development. Funding needs to align with continuous support for arts and culture organizations, spaces, and new opportunities.
- **Access, Inclusion, and Everyday Use:** Participants highlighted the importance of making Downtown more accessible, safe, and welcoming for everyday users, including families, students, youth, creatives, and community groups. Improved



communication, coordination, and promotion were identified as ongoing challenges in helping people discover and regularly use existing programs, spaces, and assets.

To build on this work and gather broader public input, a virtual Downtown Summit will be held on **Thursday, February 5, 2026, 6 – 7:30pm via Zoom**. The Summit will provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the refined draft directions and actions and to help shape the final Downtown Plan. Community members and partners are encouraged to attend and participate. [Register for the webinar](#) today or go to the project's [Get Involved](#) webpage any time before the meeting to sign up.

Feedback from ongoing engagement and the virtual Summit will be used to further refine the actions and implementation approach of the 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 January 30, 2026.