



## The Corporation of the Township of Southgate Notice of Virtual Public Meeting Concerning a Proposed Official Plan Amendment

**What:** The Township seeks input on proposed Official Plan policies for delegation authority within the municipality.

**Public Meeting Date:** October 23, at 1:00 PM

**Location of the Public Meeting:** Please join the electronic public meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at the below link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95341385964?pwd=bDd6OTJWYStGWnRESkxORUZwL25Ddz09>

You can also dial-in using your phone. **Phone:** [+1 647 374 4685](tel:+16473744685) **Meeting ID:** 953 4138 5964  
**Passcode:** 336403

### **How can I participate in the Public Meeting?**

Public participation is encouraged. To participate in the virtual meeting, please contact Lindsey Green, Clerk, by email at: [lgreen@southgate.ca](mailto:lgreen@southgate.ca) or by telephone at: 519-923-2110 ext. 230

### **What if I can't attend the Public Meeting?**

You can learn more about the proposed development by contacting the Township office, or by reading the materials on the website at the below link(s). You may choose to submit comments via letter or email after taking the time to learn about the proposed development. See the relevant contact information below:

Web Link: [Official Plan Amendment Delegate Authority](#)

### **What can I expect at the Public Meeting?**

The public meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the proposed policy for delegation authority within the Township. Attendees can hear a brief presentation about the development, ask questions, and/or make statements either in favour of, or in opposition to the development. No decisions are made at this meeting, it is an opportunity to learn and provide feedback.

### **What is being proposed through the application?**

The Province of Ontario has made several changes to the *Planning Act*, with the goal of streamlining the planning process in Ontario. As part of these changes, municipalities are encouraged to investigate and examine opportunities to streamline applications through delegation of decisions to Staff. This allows for faster processing of applications and to be made without waiting for a Council meeting.

The proposed Official Plan amendment would provide policy to allow Council, via the appropriate Delegation By-law, to delegate certain decisions for planning applications or relevant agreements to Staff to speed up decision making. Staff would be enabled to make decisions and enter into agreements associated with certain applications (like subdivision or development agreements).

The Grey County Official Plan (Section 9.5 (7)) supports the delegation of decisions to staff without the need for a County Official Plan amendment. This proposal would amend the Southgate Official Plan to add relevant policy for delegating decisions and amend (where required) existing sections to reflect staff being a decision maker (subject to a delegation By-law).

The delegation of this decision making would not change any appeal rights currently in effect in the *Planning Act*.

### **Why is this Public Meeting being held and what are your rights?**

In Ontario, the planning and development process is open and transparent, where opinions from all individuals and groups are welcomed. To change its Official Plan policies the Township must hold a public meeting. This meeting is one of your chances to learn about the proposed changes and offer your opinions. Under the legislation covering this process, you have the following rights:

1. Attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan Amendment.
2. If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Township of Southgate to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of



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Southgate before the Township Official Plan is approved or refused, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

3. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Southgate before the Township Official Plan amendment is approved or refused, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.
4. Section 17(36) defines the parties that are eligible to appeal the decision on the Official Plan amendment to the Ontario Land Tribunal.
5. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Township of Southgate on the proposed Township Official Plan Amendment or Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Township of Southgate using the contact information noted above, and quote File **OPA 2-24**.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Township staff, who can answer questions on the proposed changes, or the planning process.

Notice dated this **24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024** at the Township of Southgate.

### **A note about information you may submit to the Township:**

Under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), all information provided for, or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record, including resident deputations. This information may be posted on the Township or County websites, and/or made available to the public upon request. **Please note that all submissions and the personal information contained therein will become part of the public record in their entirety and may be posted to Southgate's website.**

Please be aware that the public meeting may be broadcast online and may be recorded.

Lindsey Green, Clerk  
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