



Our Town. Our Plan. Our Future.

September 2016



Town of Oliver

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW & UPDATE

OLIVER'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP)

In March, Oliver launched a project to review and update its Official Community Plan. The current OCP was adopted in 2004, with occasional amendments since then. This review and update looks to address the new opportunities and challenges that have emerged in the 12 years since the last OCP was adopted.

**OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH
4 – 7:30 PM
ELKS LODGE
477 Bank Ave
(entrance to Hall is on
Kootenay St)**

Come and learn about the draft OCP and how it's incorporating community input and directions.

It's your plan. It's your Oliver.



It's been a busy summer for the OCP Update team.

Over the summer the team wrapped up a Community Survey (see below), met with residents at the Evening Markets through July, and worked on completing a preliminary draft of the updated OCP.

The current draft includes input provided by residents, community and business groups and other stakeholders through the first round of engagement and the recently completed Community Survey. A working copy will be made available for public review on the project website soon (www.oliver.ca - see "What's new?").

OCP reorganization highlights and revisions include:

- *Population and development capacity projections have been updated*
- *Coordinated and improved chapter structure*
- *Permitted uses are more clearly and consistently stated for land use designations*

- *Key Council 2016 Strategic Plan actions are included as OCP actions*
- *Downtown revitalization highlighted throughout OCP (as directed by public input)*
- *New policy chapters on Economic Development and Community Health and Wellbeing*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is at the core of the OCP update and we've been working hard to engage residents and business owners. In addition to open houses, focus groups and digital outreach, we also conducted an OCP Community Survey that asked for feedback on a number of issues relevant to the OCP. The survey was made available online on the Town of Oliver's website, while paper copies were available at Town Hall, Okanagan Regional Library and the Rec Centre. Paper copies were also distributed through the month of July at the Evening Market. Approximately 149 people filled out the survey.

The survey confirmed many of the issues, challenges and opportunities that identified at OCP open houses and focus groups. Survey highlights includes the top three community values participants wanted the OCP to support were:

- Small town atmosphere
- Access to nature and recreation opportunities (in Town and nearby)
- Quality of services (e.g., recreation, infrastructure)

The top three community challenges participants hoped the OCP could address were:

- Limited local commercial services (e.g., stores, shops)
- Limited local work opportunities
- Limited local and regional transportation options (e.g., transit)

Participants were also asked to rank 10 broad goals (distilled and refined from the 2004 OCP) to guide the new OCP in order of importance to them. Three clear and dominant goals emerged in this order:



Economic development: Support and retain existing businesses, while encouraging new businesses to locate in Oliver.



Downtown revitalization: Support and enhance Downtown Oliver as the community's commercial hub and activity centre.



Sense of place: Protect and enhance Oliver's small town, rural character.

A Town of Oliver OCP Update Community Survey Report is available for Council review that summarizes the entire survey.

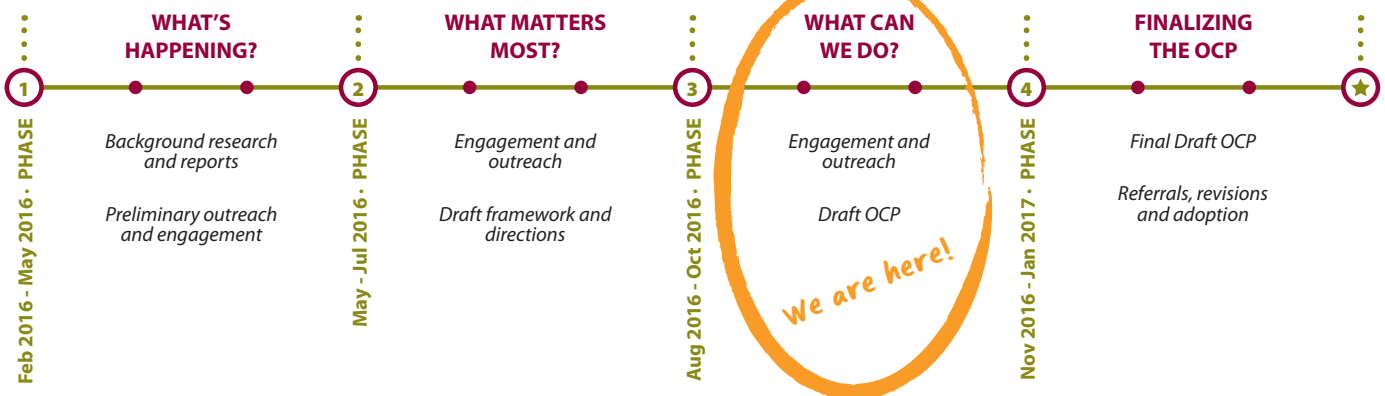
WHAT'S NEXT?

We're on schedule and looking to meet with residents and stakeholders in early October to present the draft OCP. We will be sharing a preliminary draft OCP this fall for review at an Open House and through other outreach. The timeline below outlines major project components and expected timing.

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WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information contact Chris Garrish, Senior Planner at the RDOS (email: cgarrish@rdos.bc.ca / phone: 1-877-610-3737) or visit our project webpage at www.oliver.ca/official-community-plan-review-update.

