

Appendix B

Evaluation Criteria for Growth Options

Theme	Objective	Evaluation Criteria
Growth Management	Support Planned Regional Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the concept allocate growth in a way that supports the long-term viability of the Planned Regional Structure? • How well does the concept support intensification within existing or planned new Strategic Growth Areas?
	Foster development of complete and compact communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept support complete communities within the built-up area and in designated greenfield areas? • How well does the concept promote a more compact built urban form? • How well does the concept help to reduce the growth of greenhouse gas emissions through intensification, and support for a wider variety of built forms and land uses?
	Build a sustainable and active transportation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept support multi-modal access to the GRT transit network, and facilitate other sustainable and active modes of travel, such as walking, cycling and travel with the use of mobility aids, including motorized wheelchairs? • How well does the concept support minimizing vehicle miles traveled and the growth of greenhouse gas emissions? • How well does the concept support a low emissions transportation system? • How well does the concept support the existing and future expansion of the ION rapid transit network?
	Provide flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well can the concept adapt to unknowns/uncertainties such as shifts in demographics, economic conditions, extreme weather events and advances in technology (e.g. transportation technology, work from home technology)?

Transportation, Infrastructure and Financing	Optimize use of existing or planned infrastructure and public service facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient capacity in existing or planned municipal infrastructure (e.g., roads, transit, water, wastewater, stormwater management) and public service facilities (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, libraries and schools) to support the growth concept? • How well does the concept optimize the use of existing infrastructure and public service facilities?
	Ensure cost effective/ financially viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept ensure that growth is financially viable over the long term through optimization of existing regional and area municipal infrastructure and public service facilities, and minimization of long-term operations and maintenance costs?
	Facilitate green infrastructure and reduce risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept enable opportunities for energy, resource and water conservation, and promotion of green infrastructure to support climate change mitigation and adaptation?
Agricultural and Mineral Aggregate Resources	Protect prime agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the concept minimize the need for conversion of prime agricultural land and provide for continued investment in the agricultural food network? • How well does the concept help the agricultural system become more resilient to outside shocks, such as extreme weather events destroying crops elsewhere in the world? • How well does the concept support local food production, processing and distribution to decrease energy use and emissions by reducing the length of trips between farms, processing facilities, and grocery stores, or selling directly to homes and businesses?
	Protect mineral aggregate resources and existing aggregate operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed expansion area contain any deposits of mineral aggregate resources? • Would development within the proposed expansion area preclude or hinder the expansion or continued use of any existing mineral aggregate operations?

Natural Heritage and Source Water Protection	Protect, enhance and support the Region’s Natural Heritage System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept protect and preserve or enhance a connected natural heritage system? • How well does the concept support nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g., prevent flooding, provide shade, and sequester carbon)?
	Source water protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the proposed expansion area meet any applicable requirements of the Region’s source protection plan?
Livability	Support housing choice and affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the concept align with the target housing demand and market pressures for the Region? • Does the concept align with housing affordability objectives and targets of the Region?
	Public Health/Active Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept contribute to a pattern of development that supports healthy and active living, and create better public health outcomes? • How well does the concept help to minimize the health effects of climate change, such as illnesses related to extreme cold or heat events, or increased exposure to air pollution?
Economic Growth	Protect and support Employment Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the concept protect or enhance the Regional Employment Areas and support opportunities for increased employment (i.e. through intensification opportunities within regional employment areas, or job growth within regional employment areas, other local employment areas, and strategic growth areas)? • How well does the growth concept help provide sufficient land, in appropriate locations, to accommodate the Region's employment growth? • How well does the growth concept support the economic diversity of the region? • Does the growth concept support a better balance of jobs and housing in communities across the region to reduce the need for long distance commuting and greenhouse gas emissions?