

**From:** Yvonne Zyma

**Sent:** May 29, 2022 6:46 PM

**To:** Angie Hallman <angie.hallman@wilmot.ca>; Barry Fisher <Barry.Fisher@Wilmot.ca>; Cheryl Gordijk <cheryl.gordijk@wilmot.ca>; Jeff Gerber <Jeff.Gerber@Wilmot.ca>; Jennifer Pfenning <jennifer.pfenning@wilmot.ca>; Les Armstrong <les.armstrong@Wilmot.ca>

**Cc:** clerks <clerks@Wilmot.ca>

**Subject:** Regional Official Plan Growth Options

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Dear Mayor Armstrong and Wilmot Council,

I am writing you today since proposals for changes to the ROP are on Monday's council agenda. It is important for the citizens of Wilmot to speak up and be engaged in order for Wilmot Township to serve its constituents well.

You have guided us well through a number of contentious planning issues; please continue to do so as you look forward to 2051.

Before giving my feedback to the Region, I studied the 3 growth options proposed by Regional staff. It amazes me that Option 1 was even presented as a consideration. All of the options rely on unrealistic growth calculations that don't add up in the real, market driven world.

I am grateful that there are well educated and experienced citizens like Kevin Eby, whose employment at the Region of Waterloo's Planning Dept. coincided with my mine. His knowledge of the Region is invaluable and realistic.

Wilmot resident Kevin Thomason and he have worked together and presented an **Option 4**, which should really have been presented by the Region.

I'm including the points from the Option 4 proposal (attached) that highlight why **more intensification** is the best option:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XTUxfb5--BKeh7KWwKsCKF781gIExYOO/view?usp=drivesdk>

- continuing the legacy of forward-thinking planning and innovative leadership for which the Region of Waterloo is renowned
- making a clear statement that Regional Council is serious not only about responding to climate change, but also is willing to take a leading role in doing so
- promoting a higher rate of intensification generally consistent with current trends, making it the most easily achievable of the no Community Area expansion options
- continuing to enhance support for expansion of LRT and other higher order / high frequency forms of transit as a tool to reshape the urban areas of the Region consistent with the vision of the RGMS
- delaying consideration of expansions for Community Area purposes until a better forecasting methodology is developed

- serving as a low / no risk placeholder to see how the post pandemic world, the on-going change from age-in-place to age-in-neighbourhood, efforts to promote soft intensification, development of the missing middle, and climate responsive changes/initiatives unfold over the next five years
- providing the opportunity for simple course corrections, if necessary, through future MCR processes
- allowing resources to be directed to implementation measures aimed at solving near-term problems rather than being wasted on the process of allocating limited areas of expansions associated with Option 2, which, even if eventually required (which this paper disputes), would not be needed for decades to come

Thank you for your work keeping Wilmot a vibrant and caring community.

*Yvonne Zyma*