

Neighbourhood Planning

A red line art illustration of a row of houses, spanning the width of the slide.

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Why Neighbourhoods?

Place matters

- Cities are about places – e.g. legislated authorities relate to control of land
- Place has significant impact on health, social development, economic outcomes
 - Belonging?
- Place-based approaches help enable horizontality

Collaboration matters

- No agency or sector can deal with complex issues alone
- Days of funding new agency, department, are long gone, and were often not that effective – driven by issues/symptoms, not causes

Why Neighbourhood Planning

- **Best practices...**
- **Break silos (internal and external)**
- **Bring line departments together on significant capital and operating projects**
- **Outcomes focused**
- **Citizens and Councillors expect governments to work in a joined-up way**

NPI Pilot

➤ Hintonburg

- **Downtown neighbourhood, usual urban issues**
- **Facing significant demographic and physical changes**
- **Wellington St. artery being rebuilt (Public Works)**
- **Zoning and Land use plan along Wellington corridor (Planning)**

➤ Vars

- **Rural village on outskirts of City**
- **Urban / rural issues**
- **Economic development > future of villages?**

Hintonburg

- **Started Fall 2006**
- **Juggling / friction**
 - competing timelines, processes
 - focus on corridor ↔ neighbourhood
- **Defined themes for discussion**
 - e.g. Safety, Traffic, Arts, Human Services
 - Weekly meetings Feb to June with community stakeholders
“continuity task force”
 - Outreach to broad community surveys, open houses
 - Variety of stakeholders involved because of 3 projects
- **Vision...**

Lessons Learned

- Internal steering committee with DCM's to line staff meets every 6 weeks
- Need to define what our different consultation processes are best at doing
- Depts need to consult with each other before planning significant consultations
- Data is important - Nghd profiles
 - Indicators > what, when and why
 - Outcomes
- Managing expectations means sharing not owning information

Challenges

- **Traditional approaches to capital, operating programs are issue, output focused, thus so are approaches to consultation**
- **Managing expectations often means not discussing things,**
 - **issues are there anyway, better to deal with them in the open...**
- **Community reliant on government?**

Summary/Implications

- **Pilot has led to changes to how staff work together, but systems have not moved**
- **Community expects governments to work this way**
- **All social, economic and land-use policies have their outcomes at the neighbourhood level**
- **Place-based approaches helps break silos because encourages consideration of causes and conditions, not just symptoms**
- **What we measure matters**
- **But...**

Summary/Implications

- **Governments have tended to overlook place and focus on issues**
- **Civil society has turned into citizens as consumers (taxes = fees for service)**
- **Place not seen as relevant > Individuals “matter” not community/place**
- **Meaningful outcomes hard(er) to measure**
 - **Long-term**
 - **Data scaling**

Questions?



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http://www.ottawa.ca/city_services/planning/neighbourhood/index_en.html