

Within the horizon of the new Official Plan (2021 to 2046), the city is expected to accommodate 189,000 new jobs. The new Official Plan answers the question of where these jobs should go in order to support 15-minute neighbourhoods and to build upon investments in transit infrastructure.

The New Official Plan recognizes Ottawa as a city of neighbourhoods, lively street corridors, bustling hubs centred around rapid transit stations and frequent transit routes. A key feature of the New Official Plan is to support existing and create new 15-minute neighbourhoods: where the day-to-day necessities, including employment, are accessible within a 15-minute walk.

Direct employment to hubs and corridors

Office employment is considered a low-impact land use and this enables it to be easily integrated with residential uses, giving people the opportunity to live near to their place of work.

The New Official Plan directs the predominant knowledge-based jobs typically located in offices to the new Hub and Corridor designations.

- Hubs are areas centred around rapid transit stations with a high density of development incorporating a mix of uses. They are intended to be the major places of employment in the city and will include the largest office developments.
- Corridors are major streets that already feature a range of mix uses and have frequent street transit service. Along with Hubs and Corridors are intended to provide some of the essential neighbourhood services that underpin 15-minute neighbourhoods, including employment.

Integrate compatible land-uses in neighbourhoods

Currently, the interior of many Ottawa neighbourhoods is predominantly residential. New Official Plan policies will allow for the establishment of an array of new neighbourhood-scaled service, retail, cultural and leisure uses in Neighbourhood designations. The new policies, where possible, will encourage these uses and provide benefits to the immediate community. Contributing to the function of any given area as a 15-minute neighbourhood. This will provide greater opportunities for small businesses while strengthening 15-minute neighbourhoods for residents.

Protect more impactful employment uses in the urban and rural areas

Activities such as manufacturing, warehousing and distribution are generally incompatible with neighbourhoods. The City will continue to provide enough land for these activities required to support the economy and to fulfill the requirements of Provincial Policy.

In the New Official Plan, these land uses that have a greater impact will be concentrated in the new “Traditional Industrial, Freight and Storage” or “Rural Industrial, Freight and Storage” land use designations. They will serve the manufacturing, construction, warehousing, and trades – all of which are essential to the function of our city. The New Official Plan identifies current and future industrial, freight and storage areas, protecting them from incompatible land uses nearby and to provide adequate lands for these jobs, where they will not conflict with or compete against other uses.

