

MEMO: Interim Report Council Reflection on Round 2 Direction

Port Perry Fairgrounds Visioning Exercise (Your Voice Your Fairgrounds)

Following the presentation of the Interim Report, the project team invited Council to reflect on the findings from Round 1 engagement and provide any additional context to help guide the next phase of work.

This reflection step builds on what we heard from citizens and stakeholders and is intended to ensure that the development of conceptual options for Round 2 is grounded in both community input and Council's broader perspective.

Overall Direction

Feedback received from Council members who participated indicates general alignment with the direction outlined in the Interim Report and supports moving forward with the development of conceptual options for the site.

There is a shared understanding that the next phase should focus on exploring a range of possibilities that reflect community values, while remaining grounded in practical considerations such as feasibility, long-term use, and financial sustainability.

Key Themes from Council Reflection

1. Confirmation of Core "Givens"

Council feedback generally supports the proposed starting points for Round 2, including:

- Maintaining space for the annual Fair and core fairground functions
- Ensuring the site remains a publicly accessible, community-serving space
- Exploring park-like improvements and flexible, multi-use opportunities
- Exploring programs or spaces that build community connection and may support revenue
- Exploring how the site could respond to evolving community needs over time
- Considering how the site could be utilized in response to the diversity of viable community-sourced ideas
- Ability to phase improvements over time

These elements align with what we heard from citizens in Round 1 and provide a consistent foundation for concept development.

Council feedback supports exploring a range of options, including:

- Practical, achievable improvements that are mindful of long-term costs and implementation
- Enhancements that support every day, year-round use of the site
- Assessing the size and layout of the site to consider multi-use opportunities that allow the space to serve different needs across seasons and activities
- Flexibility to consider larger-scale ideas, where appropriate

This approach reinforces the importance of presenting options that prioritize practical use and long-term value, while still illustrating different levels of change and associated trade-offs.

2. Focus on Connectivity and Integration

Council highlighted the importance of considering how the Fairgrounds connects to surrounding community assets, including:

- Nearby parks, recreation spaces, and waterfront areas
- Existing and potential trail and pedestrian networks

This reinforces the need to think of the Fairgrounds as part of a broader system of community spaces.

3. Consideration of Long-Term Viability

Council feedback also reflects an interest in ensuring that any future direction:

- Is financially and operationally sustainable over time
- Can be implemented in phases, where appropriate
- Balances community benefit with realistic delivery considerations

What This Means for Round 2

Based on this input, the project team will move forward with developing a small number of conceptual options that:

- Reflect the values and priorities identified through community engagement
- Align with Council's overall direction and considerations
- Illustrate different ways the site could evolve over time, including potential trade-offs

These options will be shared with citizens and stakeholders in Round 2 to gather further feedback and help refine a preferred direction for the Fairgrounds.

Next Steps

Round 2 engagement will focus on testing these conceptual options with the community, building on the strong foundation established through Round 1 and Council's reflection.

As with all phases of this process, feedback will be shared openly, and input from citizens, stakeholders, and Council will continue to guide the path forward.