

AHC Committee Timeline Activity – September 15, 2025

Legend (superscripts):

Council report and direction = CRD

Committee direction = CMTE

Meeting topics/presentations = MTP

Events – public or committee = EPC

AHC key dates/ milestones

Each bullet equals one sticky note comment.

2023

October: Ad Hoc Committee members appointed^{EPC}

- The first public open house on the site (more to come)
- Meeting new people
- How wonderful to have been asked to be a member
- The importance of process and communications cannot be understated. Modify ASAP.

November: First meeting^{EPC}

- Grand Trunk Renewal (GTR) – This will take time, but it is a pivotal opportunity for Stratford

December: Communications strategy proposal by John Kastner and Andrew Hilton^{MTP}

- The building is just a fraction of the site
- High level of public interest

2024

January: First six-month work plan drafted^{CMTE}, first discussion of vision and guiding principles as a workshop.^{MTP}

- The inside of the shops; amazing; the scope and the span itself

February: FAQs for the GTR site and project from John and Andrew^{MTP}, workshop on vision and guiding principles,^{MTP} work plan and update to Council^{CRD}

- Learned that the most productive work comes in small groups with a defined task... (1/2)
- ...when we were paired up for “homework” to develop the guiding principles (2/2)

March: Presentation from YMCA of Three Rivers on their vision for a new community facility^{MTP}, workshop on vision and guiding principles^{CMTE}, *GRANDTrunk Dialogue 1: Where are we and where do we go from here?* event at Rotary Complex (attended by over 100 people)^{EPC}

- Open house/public input; wide range of ideas
- Good community engagement
- Full house in Rotary Complex! Interested city!

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April:

GRANDTrunk Renewal Dialogue 2: What can we Learn from Elsewhere? – On April 13, attended by over 120 people (panels included the Mayors of Guelph and Kitchener, an architect, and an economic development director for Kitchener).^{EPC} Presentation from Paul Kalbfliesch on “How Does Your City Play?”^{MTP}, review of draft vision and guiding principles and proposal for community engagement on these principles^{CMTE}, report to Council on draft guiding principles and proposal for community engagement^{CRD}, Krista Robinson from Stratford Public Library (SPL) on potential partnership.^{MTP}

- Seeing how involved the people of Stratford were in this process
- Re-remembering the cultural significance

May: Preparing the community pop-ups

- Holding a three-week-old baby at the library pop up

June: Review of draft guiding principles^{CMTE}, outcomes of community pop-ups^{CMTE}, Jed Kilbourn of Waterfront Toronto on “Partnership Models for Urban Revitalization”^{MTP}, ten pop-up, community stakeholder events across the city (Stratford Perth Pride, SPL, Anne Hathaway Splash Pad, Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association (55+) (SLAAA), etc.)^{EPC}

- Visioning of the GTR site
- Community engagement, pop-up, town hall, etc.

July: Kendra Fry on repurposing underutilized buildings into community hubs and affordable housing^{MTP}, insights from community engagement to inform/revise vision and guiding principles^{CMTE}

- Community organizations interested in space; moving services to one area.

August: First discussion of Indigenous engagement strategy^{MTP}, discussion of the official plan review^{MTP}, direction on site activations and animation^{MTP}, update to Council and updated work plan^{CRD}

- Excited about the inclusion of indigenous groups
- Clubs in Stratford that would like to have a dedicated place to meet, a shared space.

September: Seana Irvine on developing Evergreen Brick Works in Toronto^{MTP}, report to Council to endorse the vision and guiding principles and share community insights^{CRD}

- Excellent guiding principles and vision!
- Council’s support

October: Presentation on affordable and attainable housing models from Unity Housing,^{MTP} proposal for site tours and discussion of brownfield remediation^{MTP}

- Hard work by staff

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November: David Kusturin, Chief Project Officer for Waterfront Toronto, presented on brownfield considerations ^{MTP}; Stratford Arts and Culture Collective on community needs for performing arts ^{MTP}

- Good presentations were provided to us by other communities.

December: Mark Conway of NBLC on Master Plan to Business ^{MTP}, environmental remediation Q&A with Taylor Crinklaw ^{MTP}, key recommendations discussion (activations, community facility, residential development, parking) ^{CMTE}, partnership working group findings (Herb Klassen and Karen Haslam), committee survey findings (Ray Harsant) ^{MTP}

- Being part of a good group
- Vast potential of the GTR building physically; and the community program
- An Indigenous engagement work plan is critical. Must start now.

2025

January: No meeting

February: Peggy Vacalopolous on shared community facility benchmark research ^{MTP}, update on key recommendations for Council and Committee endorsement ^{CMTE}, updated workplan, updated key messages (John and Andrew) ^{MTP}, report to Council and endorsement of key actions ^{CRD}

March: Workshop with SvecGroup re: development strategy planning & process ^{MTP}

- Joe & Rock's presentations

April: No meeting

May: Shelterlink presentation on their needs ^{MTP}, discussion on interim uses and summer programming at the site ^{MTP}, workshop with SvecGroup on dynamics impacting development options for the GTR ^{MTP}, proposal to update the Master Plan from the VPA Working group ^{MTP}

- Melanie Reasbeck joins the project team as the GTR Coordinator
- City building is a complex dynamic

June: Review development options prepared by SvecGroup ^{MTP}, discussion on Master Plan update ^{CMTE}

July: Report to Council on development options ^{CRD}

- Our motion regarding keeping as much of the structure as possible

August: Grand Trunk Master Plan refresh ^{MTP}

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September: Final revisions to Master Plan ^{MTP}, recommendations on the Master Plan update and other recommendations ^{CMTE}

- Being a voice for the future

October: Master Plan updates and recommendations presented to Council ^{CRD}. “Trophy x Dream Weavers” activation event held, and Destination Stratford’s LED “Heart” sculpture is on the building façade throughout most of the month. ^{EPC}

- Making concrete recommendations
- Seeing the future
- The passion of the community to determine the future of the site