# Hamilton Economic Development

Economic Development Action Plan

Available at: <http://investinhamilton.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2021-2025-EcDev-Action-Plan-Digital_Web.pdf>

The 2021-2025 Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) is a blueprint for our community’s priorities. This strategy was developed during the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that is why the EDAP stands as a living document that aims to address post-pandemic recovery efforts while providing services needed to those economic sectors that require it the most. This strategy further underscores paths to transformations that are both sustainable and socially equitable.

The strategy’s effectiveness and objectives are measured across 77 action items and 13 stretch targets. These objectives and targets are measured annually and presented to Hamilton City Council. As of the most recent council update, 25 action items have been completed, 40 are in development, and 12 are awaiting initiation.

These actions span six key themes:

* Facilitating a skilled and adaptable workforce
* Enhancing digital infrastructure and services
* Growing business and investments
* Moving goods and people
* Revitalizing priority areas and placemaking
* Building transformational projects

Stretch goals serve to measure the strategy’s efforts toward bold and ambitious change in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of an overall effort to reduce the residential tax burden, efforts under the EDAP have seen 3,778,742 square feet of new industrial and commercial investment, $488 million in new non-residential tax assessment, and more than $1.043 billion in industrial and commercial construction value.

Some challenges have emerged since the EDAP’s launch in 2021. Occupancy in Hamilton’s Business Improvement Areas and office properties have fallen since COVID-19, and show no signs of near-term recovery. Ongoing monitoring, analysis, and consultation under the EDAP have led to new efforts to secure real-time data sources and the creation of a new downtown strategy that includes placemaking initiatives, cleaning, and ongoing support for the City of Hamilton’s Start-Up and Office Tenant Attraction program.

Community and public engagement were essential components of the EDAP’s creation. This engagement, which informs the audience for the EDAP, includes two years of business surveys yielding more than 2,500 responses, 300 participants in the Our Future Hamilton Summit, direct engagement with more than 100 representatives of key industry sectors, and the recommendations of community strategies including the Just Recovery for Hamilton policy paper.

Building a sustainable future for Hamilton is at the core of the EDAP’s actions. Some of these activities are short term in nature, such as seeking opportunities to increase social, local, and green procurement. Others are focused on transforming practice through the creation of incentive programs to support meeting climate change targets. The EDAP also includes a handful of actions that are generational, such as the remediation and transformation of the former Stelco manufacturing lands into a best-in-class business park that is open to the public and a model of sustainable development.

Ongoing public engagement on the EDAP’s successes are conveyed through Economic Development’s quarterly newsletters, blog posts, and strong engagement with the press. With one-third of the EDAP’s actions completed within the first two years, Hamilton is on track toward recovery and growth.