



Downtown Plan Progress Update

The Consultant Team, in collaboration with City of London staff, is continuing the Phase 2 engagement for the Downtown Plan. In February, the engagement included conversations with City Staff and other key Downtown partners. In addition, there was a public Virtual Webinar in early February where members of the London community learned about the progress of the plan and shared their thoughts and questions about the draft actions.

You can view the webinar on the [City of London's YouTube channel](#) or through the [Get Involved](#) webpage.

Key findings from the Virtual Webinar include:

- **Safety, Wellbeing, and Social Supports:** Participants discussed how barriers to enjoying the Downtown include the safety concerns around visible drug use, vacant storefronts, and fear of crime. It was emphasized that any Downtown activation must be paired with stronger social supports, harm reduction partnerships, improved lighting, and better maintenance of public spaces.
- **Downtown as a Complete Neighbourhood:** Participants called for a more diverse, community-oriented ground-floor uses and “third spaces” such as cafes and lounges to encourage daily activity. In addition, a grocery store was identified as a key missing anchor to support the residential growth.
- **Activation, Arts, and Culture:** Arts and culture were positioned as central to Downtown’s identity and economic vitality. Participants supported regular programming, affordable space for artists, and stronger investment in existing cultural assets.
- **Access, Mobility, and Public Realm:** Parking availability and cost were major concerns, alongside calls for safer cycling infrastructure, improved snow clearing, and better lighting. Riverfront activation and stronger connections between retail and green space were recurring priorities.
- **Governance and Partnership:** Participants emphasized clearer leadership, stronger public-private collaboration, zoning flexibility, and incentives to address vacancies and support Downtown revitalization.

The engagement feedback to date has been invaluable and continues to be used to inform the actions and implementation of the Downtown Plan. Feedback will continue to be collected until **March 13, 2026** so please share any further thoughts on the [Get Involved](#) webpage before then.

If you require any accommodation to fully participate in the engagement process, or have a comment or question regarding this project, please contact the Downtown Plan project team using the contact information below.

Email: dmp@london.ca

The information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31*. Except for personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This notice was issued March 4, 2026.