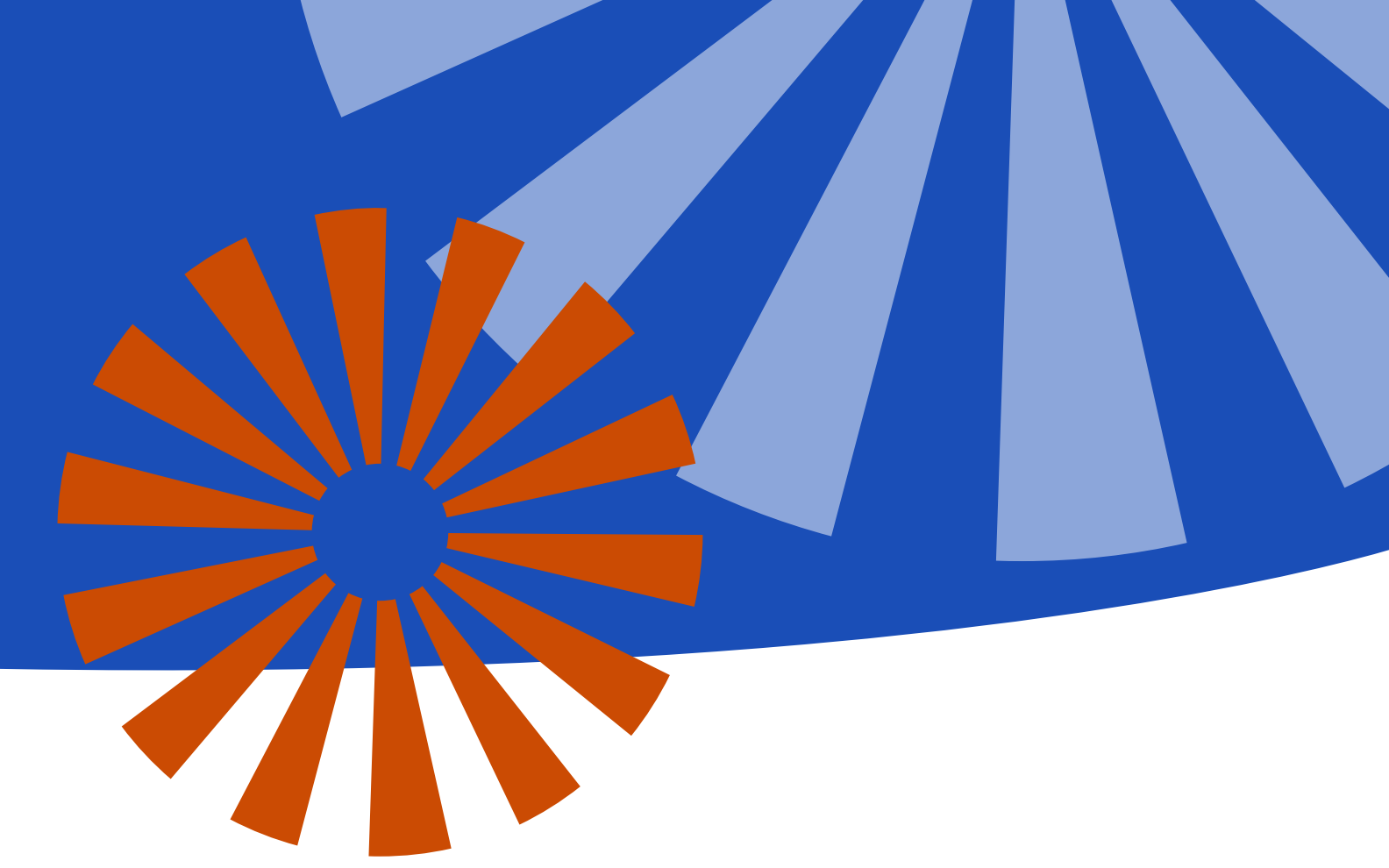




What is Kitchener 2051?

A project to create a new Official Plan for the City of Kitchener.

Kitchener 2051 will be a plan for our future, building on today. It presents a significant opportunity for all of us to think about how we live, how we move, how we grow, what we love about Kitchener, and what we want to become.

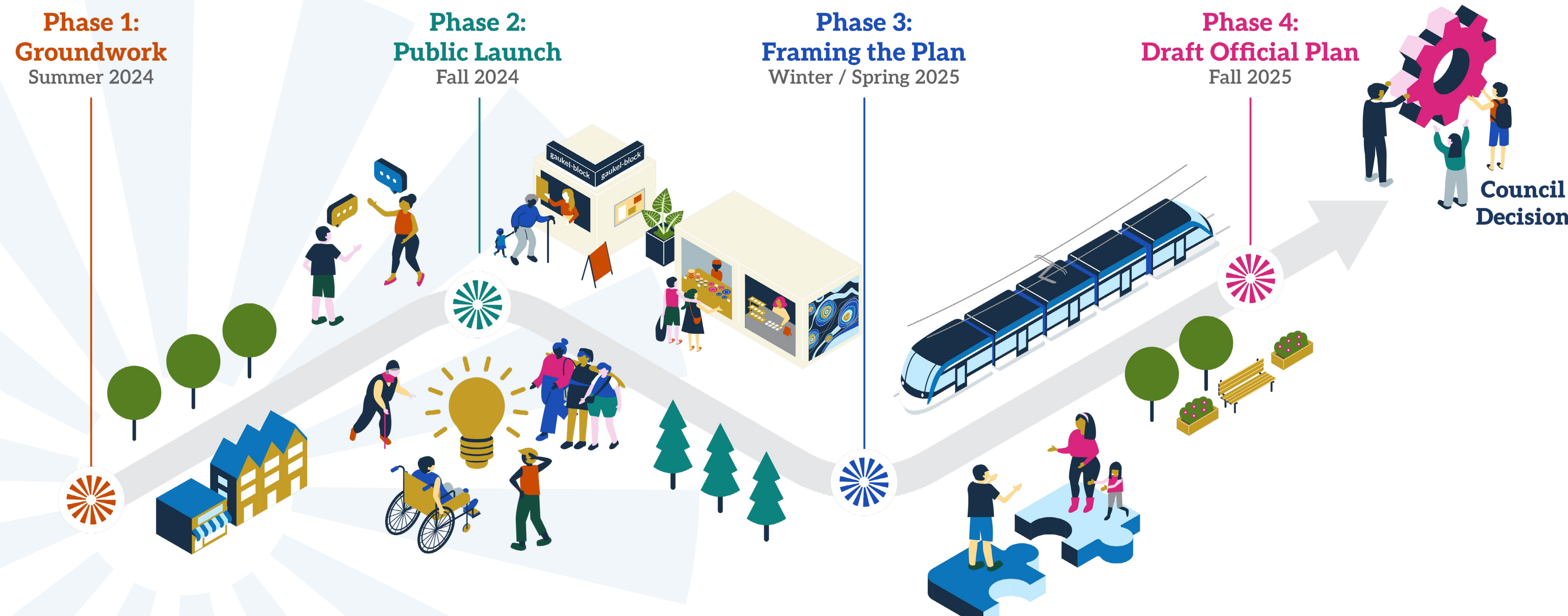
Alongside the new Official Plan, a new Transportation Master Plan process will start in 2025 to guide our future transportation network – a blueprint for local roads, walking, cycling, and rolling, and how we can respond to new ways to get around.

What does the future of my neighbourhood look like? How can we welcome new neighbours and take better care of those who live here today?

What new ideas can help address our most pressing community challenges? How can we ensure that Kitchener takes care of the world around us, and each other?

What makes the cities I've visited or dream of living in great? How can they inform the Kitchener of the future?

What's our journey?



A process about the people who call Kitchener home, today and in the future.

That includes Indigenous people, newcomers, longtime residents, business owners and entrepreneurs. It's about those who live and work here today but also about those who are not yet here. Like the young people who will grow old in our community, the family looking to move to Kitchener, or the student who will call our community home after graduation.

Kitchener 2051 needs to consider a full range of perspectives to shape an Official Plan that reflects the needs of all. This includes those often underrepresented in these processes, like equity-denied communities, renters, and people who have experienced homelessness, poverty, and housing precarity.

We need YOU to help shape an Official Plan that reflects who we are, what we value, and the Kitchener we can become.

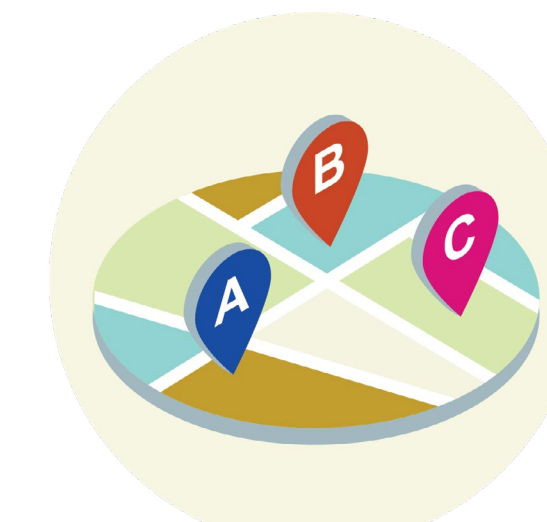
Over the next year and a half, we will be hosting conversations at different times and in many ways, including:



In-person



Online

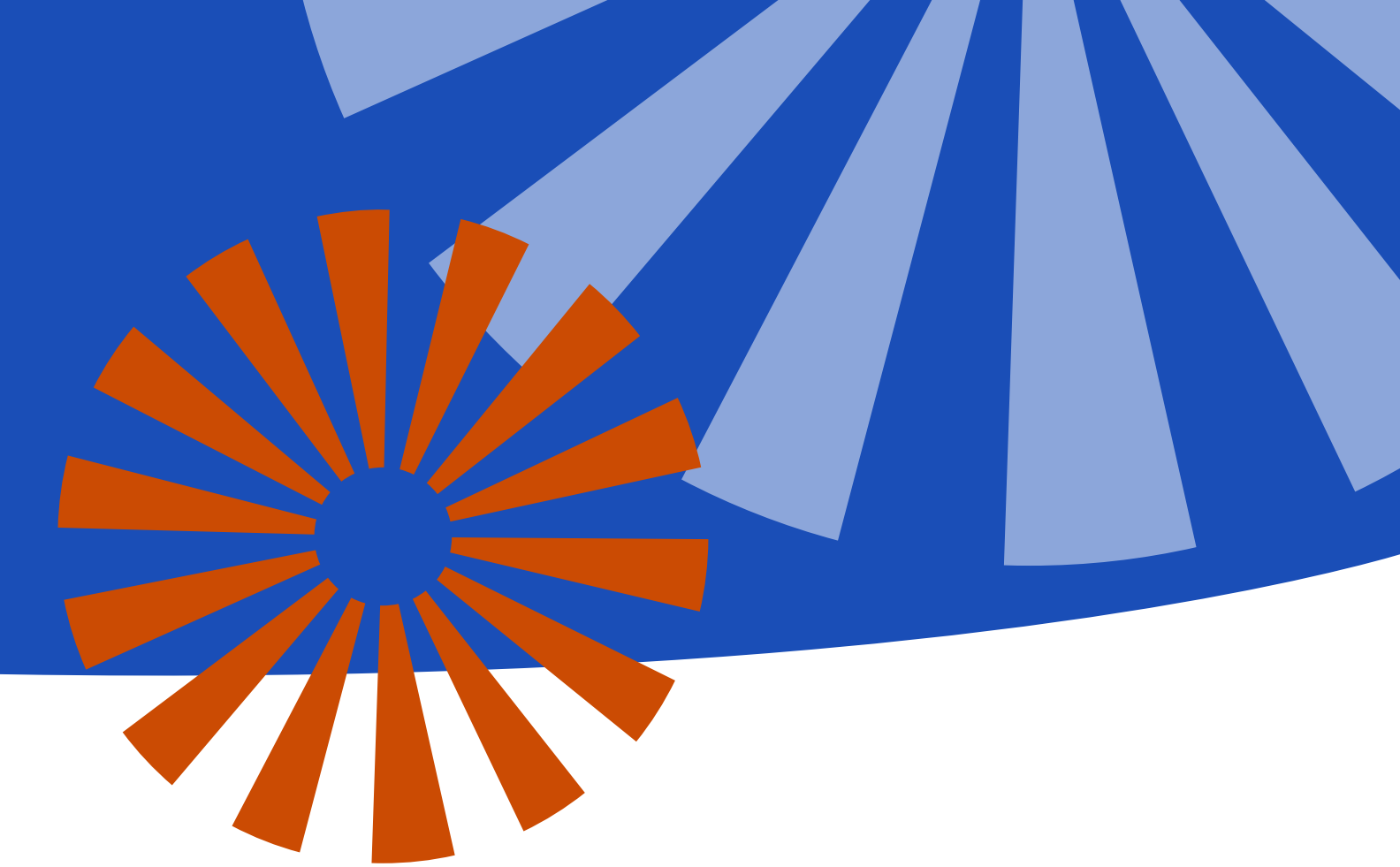


In neighbourhoods across the city



SCAN ME

Visit engagewr.ca/Kitchener2051 to sign-up and stay involved!



What is an Official Plan?

Official Plans set the course for a municipality's future.

An Official Plan is our road map for land use and community building matters. It sets out our long-term vision, shared values, and policies that help guide decision making on land development, economic growth, the environment, and more.

Writing a new Official Plan gives us a chance to realize Kitchener's vision from our Strategic Plan:



Building a city for everyone where, together, we take care of the world around us and each other.

Kitchener's Official Plan is over 10-years old and has positively shaped growth and development across our community since 2014. But just as we change year by year, so does our city. Now, after a decade of change, it's time for us to update this plan to reflect the state of our city today and our aspirations for the future.

The new Official Plan will serve as the main city-building tool to guide change, investment, and action across our city.

The Province, Region of Waterloo, and City also have many other policies, plans, and strategies that are used to achieve objectives across the city, region, and province. In some cases, these documents provide directions that our Official Plan is required to implement.

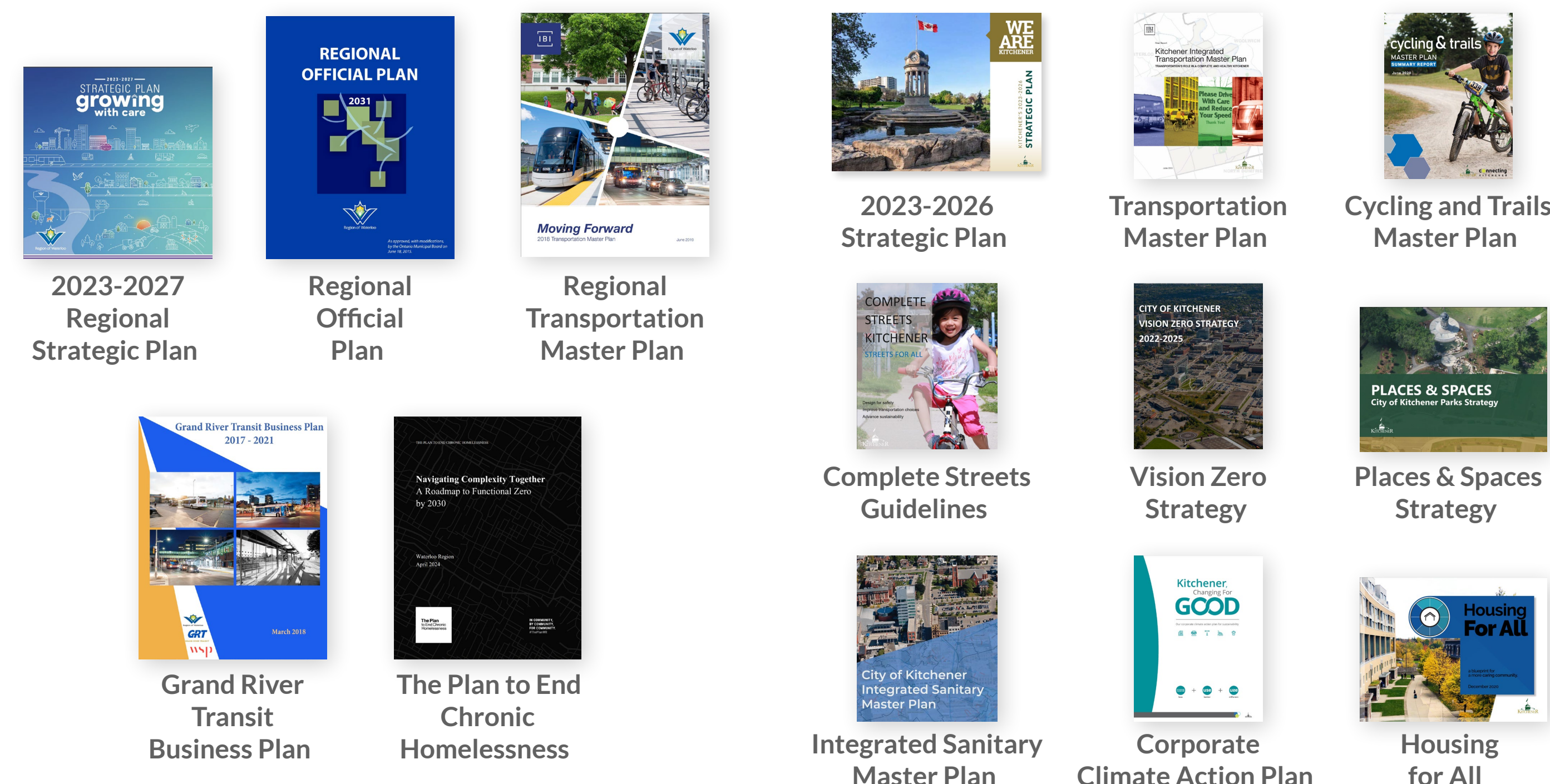
The Province sets out the legal rules for planning across Ontario and policies that apply to every municipality.

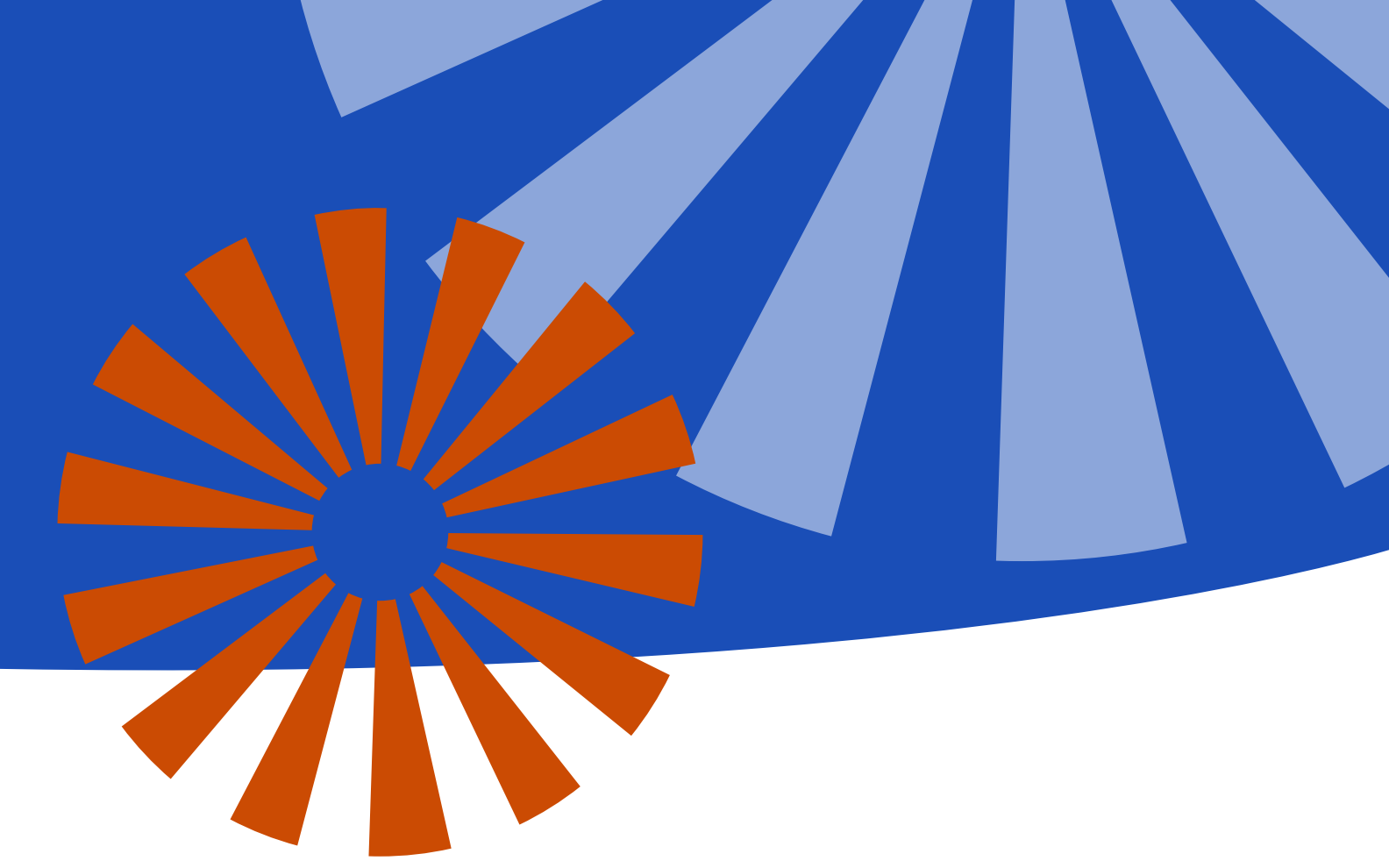
The Region of Waterloo plans for housing and infrastructure across all seven area municipalities, including Kitchener.

In addition to the Official Plan, the City of Kitchener has other plans, strategies, and guidelines that plan for the future.

The Region of Waterloo and City of Kitchener must align our plans with Provincial rules, policies, and plans, which include the *Planning Act* and Provincial Planning Statement, 2024.

The City of Kitchener must also align its Official Plan with the policies that the Region sets out.





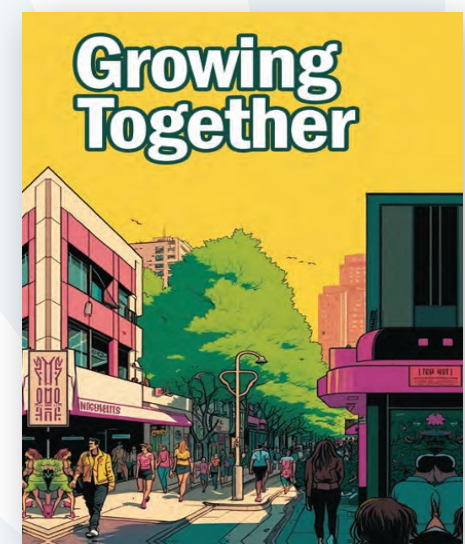
Where can we make change?

We will be engaging on four key themes which relate to different aspects of an Official Plan.

Kitchener 2051's themes are drawn from the 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan, which is our shared vision for the future of Kitchener, developed with community. They relate to how we move, how we live, how we care for one another, and how we thrive. While these themes are being engaged on as separate topics, they are all interrelated; our conversations on any one theme will have connections to all of the project's themes.

Not everything is changing through this process.

While Kitchener 2051 will set out a plan for growth and change throughout the city, it will also carry forward some recent and on-going city-building projects, including:



Growing Together West (complete) and East (ongoing)



The Places and Spaces Parks and Open Space Strategy (to be completed in 2025)



Secondary Plan processes like the Dundee Secondary Plan (On-going)

There are also some areas that will not change in the new Official Plan, such as the mapping of our Natural Heritage System or the urban boundary.



A Connected City is about how we move and how we grow. Elements of the Official Plan that relate to this theme include the transportation system, and our urban structure which defines where we grow.



A Green City is about how we plan for the planet and our resiliency. Elements of the Official Plan that relate to this theme include natural heritage and environmental management, parks and open spaces, and natural hazards.



A Thriving City is about how we create vibrant communities for all. Elements of the Official Plan that relate to this theme include housing, economy, community facilities, arts and culture, and heritage.



A Caring City is about how we plan for community wellbeing. This theme is related to every aspect of the Official Plan. It's about embedding equity and inclusion into everything we do in hopes that we can all feel a sense of belonging in our city.