

Revisions to Act 247.

The MPC enables participating municipalities to implement the policies of a multimunicipal comprehensive plan without the requirement for regional zoning. Following the completion of the Plan, municipalities amend their individual municipal ordinances to reach general consistency with the policies of the adopted plan. This allows municipalities to maintain their autonomy while promoting consistency with surrounding municipalities in regard to the management of growth and protection and/or preservation of resources.

There are several land use benefits associated with the adoption of a multimunicipal comprehensive plan that a municipality and/or region can implement. Two of those benefits, the regional accommodation of the fair share burden and the transfer of development rights across municipal borders, are options the Oxford Region will consider implementing post-adoption.

Regional Resources and Facilities.

In order to address many resources and facilities, a municipality must look beyond its borders to the larger Region. More often than not, resources and facilities are not restricted by, but rather transcend, municipal political boundaries. To adequately address access and maintenance issues on a facility such as U.S. Route 1, for example, a municipality should look at the corridor as a whole, not just the section of road that bisects their Township. Similarly, to adequately address protection and preservation of a resource such as the Big Elk Creek, a municipality must look at the stream as a whole, not just the section that creates the eastern boundary of Elk Township.

Municipal Time and Money.

The development or update of a comprehensive plan is a complex, time-consuming, work program. This process can take anywhere from 18 to 30 months to complete including plan development and adoption. Based on the assumption that the update to an individual plan would take approximately 24 months, the update of every plan in the Region (excluding West Nottingham) could take 5-10 years depending on availability of funding and access to consulting services. Based on the course taken by the Oxford Region, the Plan should be completed and adopted in about 36 months.

The Vision Partnership Program (County Funding Program) provides a higher level of funding for a multimunicipal comprehensive plan, requiring a fraction of the financial commitment necessary for each municipality to update their individual comprehensive plans.