

Sean Hertel **MES, MCIP, RPP**

Urban Planning Consultant



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ACCREDITATIONS

Registered Professional
Planner (RPP)

Ontario Professional
Planners Institute

EDUCATION

Master in Environmental
Studies (MES), York
University 2012

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Urban
Studies, University of
Windsor, 1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Urban Planning Consultant
2012 - Present

York Region
2000 - 2012

Urban Intelligence Inc.
1998 - 2000

NRU Publishing Inc.
1998 - 2000

City of Toronto
(formerly Metro Toronto)
1997 - 1998

VISION, PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The creation of cities is one of our greatest and most lasting achievements. They are the highest expressions of our ingenuity, aspirations, and values. Planning is a calling to continue the best of our city-building traditions while imagining and preparing for successful futures in the face of wicked problems that include safeguarding people and assets against the perils of rapid climate change, global competition for talent and resources, rising inequality, and a growing distrust of government and experts. As a Registered Professional Planner it is my purpose and responsibility to think and act in the public interest, and in the process seek and employ the best evidence and approaches required to make the right decisions at the right time for the right reasons. In this way I describe myself to be a “visionary incrementalist,” a planner who sees beyond the horizon and who takes the necessary steps to get there.

EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES

I have been a planner for over 20 years with progressive and varied experience in the public and private sectors in Ontario, currently leading my own small Toronto-based practice with a particular focus on helping public and private sector clients plan for and grow around transit. My work requires a high capacity and competency for research, analysis, policy formulation, implementation strategies, facilitation, clear and compelling reports, and captivating presentations.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

LECTURER | University of Waterloo, School of Planning
Waterloo, Ontario | April 2017 – Present

Courses: - Planning and Physical Infrastructure (Spring Term)

- Pragma Council Member

LECTURER | Ryerson University, School of Urban and Regional Planning,
Toronto, Ontario | September 2016 – Present

Courses: - Advanced Design Studios (Fall and Winter) -
- Community Sustainable Development (Winter 2017)
- City Building: Planning for Non-Planners (Fall and Winter)
- The Human World (Fall 2017)

RESEARCH FELLOW | York University, City Institute at York University
Toronto, Ontario | 2012 – Present

- Co-coordinator of the Greater Toronto Suburban Work Group, a governance component of the collaborative research initiative, “Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land and Infrastructure in the 21st Century.”
- Principal Investigator of transit equity research, funded by the Province of Ontario’s Transit Agency, Metrolinx.

MEMBERSHIPS

Canadian Institute of Planners

American Planning Association

American Association of Geographers

Alpha Lambda International, Simcoe Chapter

Urban Land Institute

Greater Toronto Transportation Conference

SPEAKING AND FACILITATING

Sept 2019 *"Biennial of the Americas" Festival: Empathy in Action* (Denver, Colorado)

Mar 2019 *"Fare Integration: What's the Deal?"* York University (Toronto, Ontario)

Apr 2018 *"Planning and the unplanned urban revolution in Toronto's (sub)urban periphery"* American Association of Geographers (New Orleans, Louisiana)

Sept 2017 *"Transit Equity: Why it matters, what it is, and how we get it"* Ottawa Transportation Equity Summit (Ottawa, Ontario)

Nov 2016 *"Great idea, but you can't do that here: policy barriers to affordable housing"* Options for Homes and GTA Housing Action Lab, National Housing Week (Toronto, Ontario)

CENTRE + CORRIDOR AND INTENSIFICATION STUDIES

EGLINTON WEST PLANNING + STREETScape STUDY

City of Toronto (Apr. 2018 – Feb. 2019)

- Led land use planning and development potential analyses to inform future planning policy changes to further the integration of planning and development with future light rail transit (LRT) in the corridor.

GATEWAY MOBILITY HUBS + INTENSIFICATION CORRIDOR OPPORTUNITIES + CONSTRAINTS STUDY

City of Brampton (Feb. 2016 – Dec. 2018)

- Led the planning analysis to formulate a policy and implementation framework to support the build-out of Brampton's designated Mobility Hubs and other strategic intensification nodes and corridors, as part of the comprehensive review of the Brampton Official Plan.

RESIDENTIAL INTENSIFICATION IN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOODS STUDY

City of Kitchener (Jan. 2016 – Dec. 2016)

- Provided best practices and analyses of intensification typologies as Project Advisor.

PACE SUBURBAN BUS - 95TH STREET CORRIDOR TRANSIT STUDY

City of Chicago (Jun. 2013 – Jan. 2014)

- Led the land use planning review and analysis, as part on an international multi-disciplinary team, to enhance transit-oriented development in this major arterial in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois.

CENTRES, CORRIDORS + SUBWAYS PROGRAM

York Region (2008 – 2012)

- Established and managed an interdisciplinary portfolio to lead and enhance the policy and development framework for intensification and transit-oriented development in the Region's system of Regional Centres and Regional Corridors, including the formulation of new transit-oriented development policies for the 2010 Regional Official Plan.

MAJOR TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

MAJOR TRANSIT STATION AREAS STUDY

Region of Peel, Ontario (Jan. 2019 – Ongoing)

- Leading the review, analysis and policy formulation for over 80 rapid transit stations area across this Region of over 1.5-million people, to prioritize and align development planning with rapid transit implementation phasing, as a key driver of the Region of Peel's 2041 Growth Management Strategy.

SPEAKING AND FACILITATING

Oct 2016 *“What would Jane Jacobs say? The absence of social equity considerations in planning”* Ontario Professional Planners Institute (Hamilton, Ontario)

Sept 2016 *“Next Stop: Equity”* Transportation Association of Canada Conference (Toronto, Ontario)

June 2016 *“Building Affordable Housing in the GTA”* Building Industry and Land Development Association (Toronto, Ontario)

Mar 2016 *“Smart Students and Smart Track”* Ryerson City Building Institute, (Toronto, Ontario)

Nov 2016 *“Working Outside Academia”* City Institute at York University Career Development Workshop, (Toronto, Ontario)

Mar 2015 *“DesignJam Toronto – TrafficJam”* OCAD University (Toronto, Ontario)

Oct 2014 *“Healthy Communities & Planning in a Digital Age”* Ontario Professional Planners Institute Symposium, (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

Sept 2014 *“Cities on the Edge”* Canadian Council for Urbanism (CANU), (Toronto, Ontario)

Feb 2014 *“The elusive search for good density: the cure for what divides us?”* Canadian Urban Institute, University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)

LANGSTAFF GATEWAY SECONDARY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

City of Markham (Apr. 2017 – Ongoing)

- Providing project management, departmental and agency coordination, and master-plan level policy analysis to the City to guide Phase 1 development of this Urban Growth Centre, planned to achieve at full buildout 32,000 residents and 15,000 employees served by five modes of transit including subway and regional rail.

THE O.R.C.A. PROJECT

Toronto (Sep. 2016 – Dec. 2017)

- Led the planning analysis and rationale to support official plan and zoning amendment applications to facilitate the over-building of the downtown rail corridor for a high-density and mixed-use development including a large contiguous publicly-accessible open space.

RAPID TRANSIT AND MOBILITY STUDIES

POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW OF THE ST. CLAIR AVENUE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) (Sep. 2017 – Ongoing)

- Leading land use and development analysis of this LRT transit corridor to assess the degree to which transit investment has achieved stated planning objectives.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Metrolinx (Mar. 2017 – Aug. 2017)

- Led the synthesis and writing of the next RTP for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), to guide the transportation infrastructure, service and program priorities to 2041.

NORTHERN ONTARIO MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) (Dec. 2016 – Feb. 2018)

- Co-led the synthesis and writing of a comprehensive transportation strategy for Northern Ontario, incorporating findings from public and agency consultation, and technical analyses.

CORNELL TRANSIT TERMINAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

York Region Rapid Transit (Jan. 2016 – Dec. 2016)

- Planning Manager for the construction of this important eastern terminus of York Region's transit network within the City of Markham.

SWITCHING TRACKS: TOWARDS TRANSIT EQUITY IN THE GREATER TORONTO AND HAMILTON AREA

(Sep. 2014 – Feb. 2016)

- Conducting academic and case study research to investigate, and to recommend strategies to improve, suburban transportation equity and public benefit gaps in the region. The research project is housed at the City Institute at York University, and funded by the Province of Ontario's transit agency Metrolinx.

PUBLICATIONS

2019 *“House Divided: How the Missing Middle Can Solve Toronto’s Housing Crisis”* Supply, Demand and Demographics

2019 *“Revitalizing Mid-Sized Cities”*. Y Magazine

2017 *“From Dreamscapes to Nightmares? Suburban Imaginaries, Challenges and Prospects in the 21st Century.”*

Fixing postsuburbia: Recalibrating the way we think, speak and act upon Toronto’s periphery

2016 *“Coming Home: How we can reframe Canada’s housing crisis”*. Alternatives Journal

2016 *“What would Jane Jacobs Say? Why planners should think and do more about social equity”* Ontario Professional Planners Institute

2016 *“Public transit and the public good: why and how planners can deliver more equity.”* Ontario Professional Planners Institute

2016 *“Next Stop Equity: Routes to fairer transit access in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area”* York University

2015 *“Erst reden, dann handeln”* Refitting Suburbia: Erneuerung der Stadt des 20. Jahrhunderts in Deutschland und den USA

2013 *“The Greater Toronto Suburban Working Group Roundtable Report”* York University

2013 *“Planning and density issues in Toronto’s hyperbia”*. Eco Web Town

CITY-BUILDING AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND STRATEGIES

KNOWLEDGEBASE DEVELOPMENT FOR UNDERSTANDING + MONITORING MUNICIPAL GROWTH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Neptis Foundation, Toronto (Jun. 2018 – Jan. 2019)

- Designed and led this applied research project to determine and disseminate a common growth management methodology for municipal intensification and urban expansion policies.

PLANNING FRAMEWORKS FOR MANAGING GROWTH AND INVESTMENT: APPROACHES & INSIGHTS FROM 8 CITIES COMPARABLE TO TORONTO

City of Toronto (Feb. 2015 – Jun. 2015)

- Provided a comparative analysis of international approaches to growth management and infrastructure investment, to support the City of Toronto’s Official Plan Review process.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP MATTERS: ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES TAKING ACTION TO STRENGTHEN THE GREENBELT

(Sep. 2014 – Feb. 2015)

- Interviewed 42 staff from 30 municipalities and prepared a report for the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to catalogue and analyze the implementation of the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, with the aim to share best practices and provide input into the upcoming 10-year review of the Plan.

YORK REGION ‘MAKE RENTAL HAPPEN’ CHALLENGE

(Jul. 2013 – Dec. 2014)

- Designed and administered an international ideas competition for the York Region Human Services Planning Board, to generate bold and innovative approaches for increasing the supply of market rental housing in The Regional Municipality of York.

NORTH MARKHAM URBAN EXPANSION AREA

(Aug. 2012 – Feb. 2013)

- Conducted original research, and presented land use planning evidence on, development intensification and community services/facilities integration for the Ontario Municipal Board hearing on Amendment No. 3 to the Regional Official Plan for the Regional Municipality of York, on behalf of the Region, to support the planning by the Region and City of Markham.

GREATER TORONTO SUBURBAN WORKING GROUP

(Jun. 2012 – Dec. 2013)

- Co-established and co-coordinated a working group of industry, government, non-profit, and professional actors with the aim to better understand, and make recommendations on, the processes shaping the development and governance of Toronto’s inner and outer suburbs.