



 **Watson
& Associates**
ECONOMISTS LTD.

2024/2025 Ward Boundary Review

City of Vaughan

Preliminary Options Report

April 1, 2025

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
905-272-3600
info@watsonecon.ca

In association with:
Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer



Table of Contents

	Page
1. Background.....	1
2. Review of Existing System and Guiding Principles	1
3. Overview of Council Composition and Direction from Council	5
4. Preliminary Ward Boundary Configurations	6
4.1 Preliminary Option 6-1	8
4.2 Preliminary Option 6-2	12
4.3 Preliminary Option 7-1	16
4.4 Preliminary Option 7-2	20
4.5 Preliminary Option 8-1	23
4.6 Preliminary Option 8-2	27
4.7 Evaluation Summary.....	31
5. Further Considerations	33
6. Next Steps	33



1. Background

The City of Vaughan has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, and ICA Associates Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review (W.B.C.C.R.).

The study aims to provide Vaughan Council with the necessary information to decide whether to retain the current council composition and ward boundaries or implement changes. This report presents preliminary observations on alternative ward boundary design options. The review is grounded in the democratic principle that municipal representation in Vaughan should be effective, equitable, and reflective of the City's neighbourhoods and communities.

In the Interim Report (December 18, 2024)^[1] that was considered by Committee of the Whole at a working session on January 22, 2025, the Consultant Team provided an overview of work completed to date and a summary of the information received from the public engagement sessions and tools, such as the survey and project page on Vaughan's Get Involved platform. The report also requested direction from Council on the next steps of the study, specifically in relation to the current representation configuration that sees four Regional and Local Councillors elected by general vote and five City Councillors elected in wards. Council's response to the Interim Report will be addressed below.

The intention of the present report is to provide alternative ward boundary configurations following the motion of Council on January 28, 2025, in relation to possible modifications to the composition of City Council.

2. Review of Existing System and Guiding Principles

An initial evaluation of the existing ward structure is detailed in the Interim Report. The analysis revealed several aspects that fall short of meeting the guiding principles set out for the W.B.C.C.R. See the existing ward structure in Figure 2-1 and population by ward in Figure 2-2.

^[1] <https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=192087>



Figure 2-2
City of Vaughan
Population by Ward (2025 and 2036)

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	79,100	1.07	O+	114,600	1.27	OR+
Ward 2	61,000	0.82	O-	68,250	0.76	O-
Ward 3	73,750	1.00	O	79,050	0.88	O-
Ward 4	81,750	1.10	O+	106,950	1.19	O+
Ward 5	74,700	1.01	O	81,150	0.90	O-
Total/Average	370,300	74,050		450,000	90,000	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

The Consultant Team found that the current system is somewhat successful in respecting communities of interest and does a good job at ensuring most ward boundaries use natural or physical features and to some extent, provides effective representation. However, population disparities between the wards pose a challenge.

According to estimated 2025 ward populations, the difference between the most and least populated wards is approximately 20,000 residents. These disparities are expected to worsen over time, with Wards 1 and 2 projected to have a difference of over 46,000 residents by 2036 and two wards having well over 100,000 people.

In terms of the overarching principle of effective representation, Vaughan's current wards are nearly adequate for 2025. However, population imbalances will undermine this principle over the next decade.

The Interim Report concluded that a W.B.R.C.C. is necessary. Public feedback from various engagement activities has confirmed many of the initial perceptions discussed in the report. While the current ward structure may be suitable for the 2026 municipal election, it is not sustainable in the long term.

Figure 2-3 provides a summary evaluation of the current wards through the lens of the guiding principles.



Figure 2-3
City of Vaughan
Present Vaughan Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	While all wards are in the acceptable population range and two are optimal, the difference between the largest and smallest wards is approximately 20,000.
Future Population Trends	Partially Successful	The population disparity between the present wards is forecast to increase (to 46,000) as development (especially the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre) intensifies.
Communities of Interest	Partially Successful	Current ward boundaries do not always and comfortably contain single, identifiable communities of interest. The scale of growth is contributing to changing communities of interest that are not necessarily reflected in the existing wards.
Physical and Natural Boundaries	Largely Successful	The existing wards largely reflect natural and physical geographic boundaries with some exceptions such as wards crossing Highways 400 and 407.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	Accelerating population imbalances, the mix of communities within the wards and the sometimes-significant range of population disparity in some wards, hinder full effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



3. Overview of Council Composition and Direction from Council

While this review has been proceeding, the Province of Ontario has been reviewing upper tier governance structure and composition. As a result, City Council directed staff and the Consultant Team to explore and conceptualize what Vaughan City council could look like with a potential change in the composition of York Regional Council. The Consultant Team sought further direction from Vaughan City Council on exploring potential changes to the size of council and the implications of such changes. In the Interim Report, the Consultant Team reviewed several alternatives but also asked, “what is the right size for Vaughan’s Council?”.

A staff report (“Consideration of Preliminary Options for the 2024 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review”) was placed on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole Working Session on January 22, 2025.^[2] The Report included two recommendations:

- That Council provides direction on council composition under the existing governance arrangement; and
- That Council provides direction on the size of Vaughan Council without Local and Regional Councillors.
- At that meeting, the Committee of the Whole directed that staff report back with actions based on two scenarios: an unchanged governance arrangement with both local and regional councillors and local councillors and one where local and regional councillors no longer serve on York Regional Council. Under the second, where Local and Regional Councillors no longer served on York Regional Council and were, therefore, no longer part of Vaughan City Council, staff were directed to explore options that involve seven wards.

On January 28, 2025, Council adopted a motion to amend this direction based on the Committee of the Whole Report adopted at its meeting on January 22, 2025: “That City staff also be directed to consider a variety of Ward boundary options different from the original directive of seven (7) Local Councillors, in addition to the Mayor, including but

^[2] <https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=193157>



not limited to a Council composition of six (6) and eight (8) Local Councillors in a scenario where there are no longer Regional Councillors.”^[3]

This report was prepared in response to that direction and includes two preliminary options each for electing six, seven or eight City Councillors. Council did not ask staff to explore additional 5-ward configurations to elect local councillors at this time.

4. Preliminary Ward Boundary Configurations

The evaluation of the current ward system in Vaughan (see Interim Report) suggests that the present wards come close to achieving effective representation in 2025 but that there are some identifiable shortcomings when assessed against the guiding principles for this review. Council could still choose to retain the status quo by turning down any recommended options for an alternative ward configuration. That decision, however, could result in a petition submitted under section 223 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Based on the direction from Council and staff referenced earlier, the Consultant Team has presented and evaluated six preliminary options for consideration at this stage of the W.B.C.C.R.. The options presented contemplate a change to the regional composition (i.e. reduction of regional representation) and an increase in the number of local Councillors/wards. There are two options each presented for 6, 7 and 8 ward configurations. Two of the six options presented (one for 6-ward and one for 7-ward) were provided to the Consultant Team for evaluation by City staff. Those options resulted and evolved from discussions and revisions to original consultant prepared options and concepts.

As the analysis will show, keeping the identifiable communities of interest intact and grouping them with others that are similar and connected, creating wards with roughly equal populations, and providing for effective representation throughout Vaughan poses a challenge. While no one alternative is likely to be judged as completely successful in meeting all the guiding principles, the options presented in this report may place greater emphasis on certain principles over others, while recognizing that each “blend” addresses the goal of effective representation in its own way.

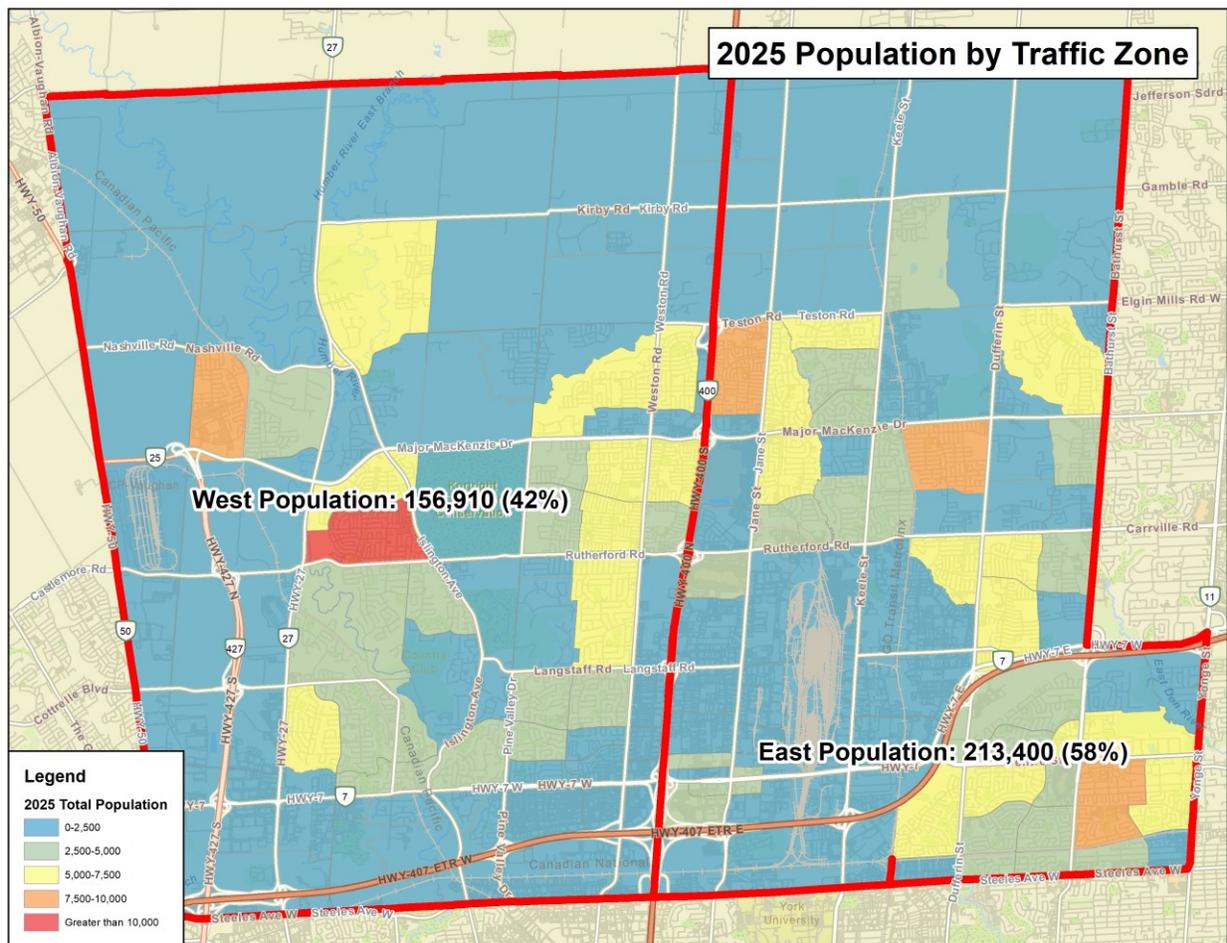
When analyzing the population distribution in the City of Vaughan, significant imbalances become evident. Using Highway 400 as a boundary, the 2025 population on

^[3] <https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=192914>



the west side is approximately 156,910 (42%), while the east side has a population of approximately 213,400 (58%), as shown in Figure 4-1. To address this disparity, the proposed options include allocating an additional ward on the east side of Highway 400 or having wards span across the highway, similar to the current setup where Ward 1 crosses the highway.

Figure 4-1
City of Vaughan
2025 Population Distribution by Traffic Zone



At the time this report was prepared, the Consultant Team utilized growth projections derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in the analysis of the existing ward configuration and the development of the preliminary alternative ward boundary configurations. The Consultant Team recommends that the City continue to monitor population and elector numbers to ensure equitable representation by population across the wards. If



population projections aren't realized or growth patterns are different from estimates, another review may be required at some point in the future.

4.1 Preliminary Option 6-1

As mentioned in the previous section, the Consultant Team provided options and concepts to the city and council for feedback. As a result of discussion and feedback on those options, city staff designed some ward configurations to be analyzed by the Consultant team. Preliminary Option 6-1 is such an option. What follows is the objective presentation and evaluation of this option.

This first six ward option explores a configuration with three wards on either side of Highway 400. As has been noted, the populations are not balanced east/west of Highway 400. The current Ward 1, which stretches across Highway 400 and contains both Maple and Kleinburg, along with an extensive rural area in between, is divided into two wards (the proposed Wards 1 and 4). Woodbridge is still divided (between the proposed Wards 2 and 3), but the northern boundary for the proposed Ward 2 is placed at Rutherford Road, rather than Major Mackenzie Drive towards Highway 27. The northern boundary of the proposed Ward 3 is similarly placed at Major Mackenzie Drive.

On the east side of Highway 400, the proposed Wards 4, 5 and 6 take on familiar configurations, with the proposed Ward 4 using roughly the same boundaries as the present Ward 1 for the Maple community (Rutherford Road and Keele Street in the south), but setting Major Mackenzie Drive and Dufferin Street as an eastern boundary (by moving planning Block 19 into the proposed ward).

Preliminary Option 6-1 provides some familiarity to residents and could be considered largely successful in meeting the communities of interest principle. However, the current and future population disparities are a drawback. Using current population figures, the proposed Wards 1 and 5 would be outside the acceptable range of variation, one well below and the other well above the range. In fact, the proposed Ward 5 would be almost double the population size of the proposed Ward 1. Moving towards 2036, the proposed Ward 1's population comes within range, but the proposed Ward 5 is still very high and outside of the acceptable range of variation. Therefore, it cannot be said that this option meets population parity principles now and in the future.



Figure 4-2
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 6-1
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	41,200	0.67	OR-	60,400	0.81	O-
Ward 2	60,350	0.98	O	65,550	0.87	O-
Ward 3	55,400	0.90	O-	58,000	0.77	O-
Ward 4	53,450	0.87	O-	74,500	0.99	O
Ward 5	85,250	1.38	OR+	110,450	1.47	OR+
Ward 6	74,700	1.21	O+	81,150	1.08	O+
Total/Average	370,300	61,700		450,000	75,000	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-3
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 6-1

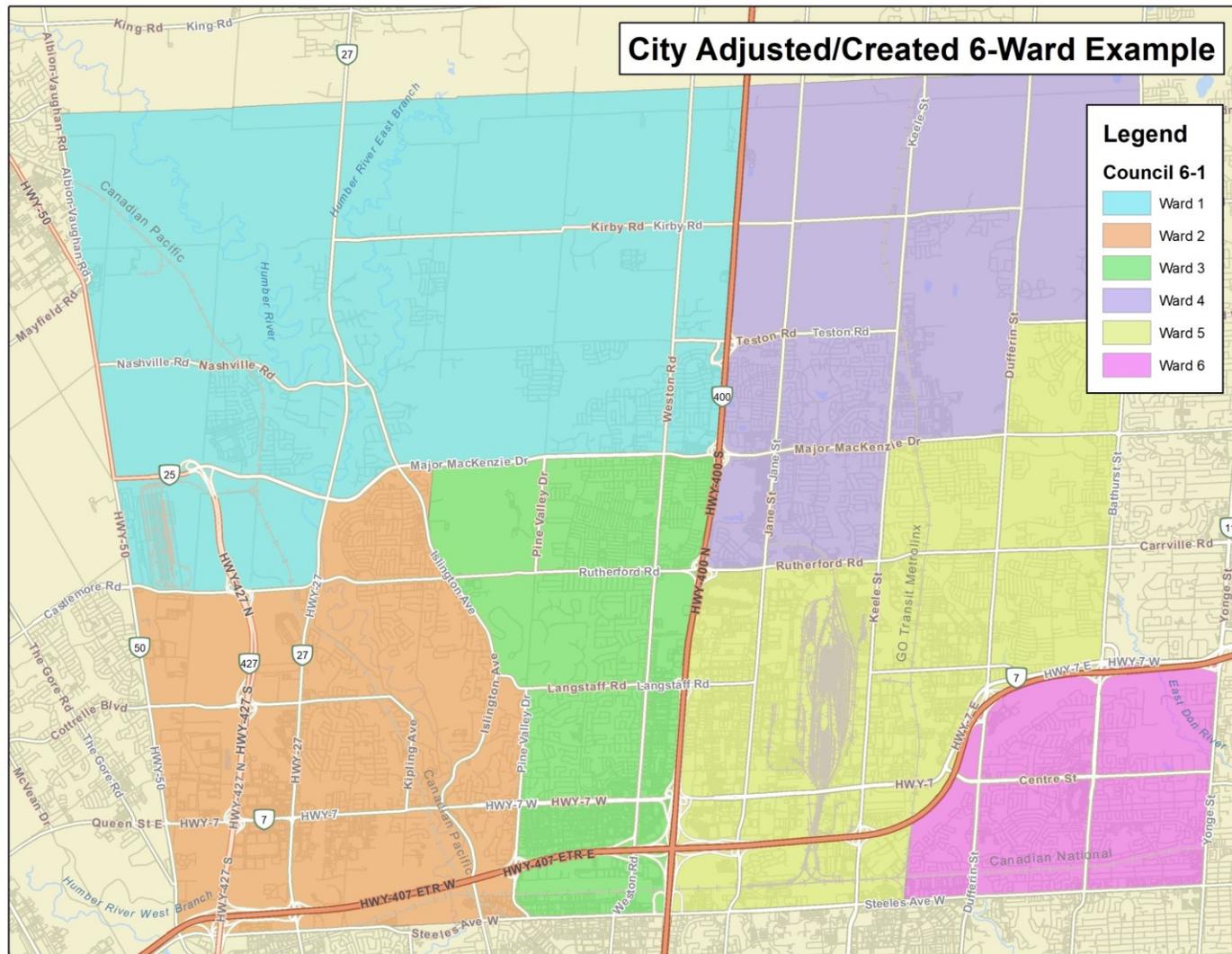




Figure 4-4
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 6-1
Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Significant population imbalance between the proposed Wards 1 and 5. Disparity between largest and smallest ward is over 44,000 people.
Future Population Trends	No	Modest improvement over time, but the proposed Ward 5 remains well above the acceptable range of variation.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most communities of interest are contained comfortably. Woodbridge is split, as in the current system. Maple is split between two wards.
Geographic Representation	Yes	Boundary markers are recognizable.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	Population disparities limit the effectiveness of this option. However, if population growth in the proposed Ward 5 is more conservative than projected, this option has greater viability.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



4.2 Preliminary Option 6-2

Option 6-2 was created by the Consultant team. This option also explores a six-ward system but employs a different design in which one ward crosses Highway 400 in the southern part of the City rather than in the north. The proposed Wards 1 and 2 are roughly similar to those in the previous option – the largest difference being the northern boundary of the proposed Ward 2. The proposed Ward 3, however, takes a much different configuration than as presented in Preliminary Option 6-1, crossing Highway 400 and ending at Keele Street. This produces a much smaller proposed Ward 5, moving the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) into the proposed Ward 3. The proposed Ward 5 takes on a different configuration as well, with its northern boundary running along Rutherford Road, Keele Street and Major Mackenzie Drive and its southern boundary at the municipal boundary with Toronto. The proposed Wards 2, 3 and 5 all cross Highway 407.

This option presents a sizable departure from the current map. While it may seem surprising, it provides for very good population parity both now and in the future. Two of the proposed wards are at the optimal point in 2025 and three are forecast to do so by 2036. By this time, however, the disparity between the most and least populated wards is almost 30,000 people. Rather than crossing Highway 400, this option produces good population parity for the proposed Ward 1, which now includes neighbourhoods further south in Woodbridge.

Most communities of interest are also contained within single wards, except for the proposed Ward 3, which, as mentioned, crosses Highway 400 and includes portions of Woodbridge and Concord/VMC. Overall, this option is largely successful in providing for effective representation.



Figure 4-5
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 6-2
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	69,150	1.12	O+	87,700	1.17	O+
Ward 2	51,350	0.83	O-	57,850	0.77	O-
Ward 3	55,900	0.91	O-	71,250	0.95	O
Ward 4	63,250	1.03	O	85,250	1.14	O+
Ward 5	62,900	1.02	O	73,800	0.98	O
Ward 6	67,800	1.10	O+	74,200	0.99	O
Total/Average	370,300	61,700		450,000	75,000	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-6
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 6-2

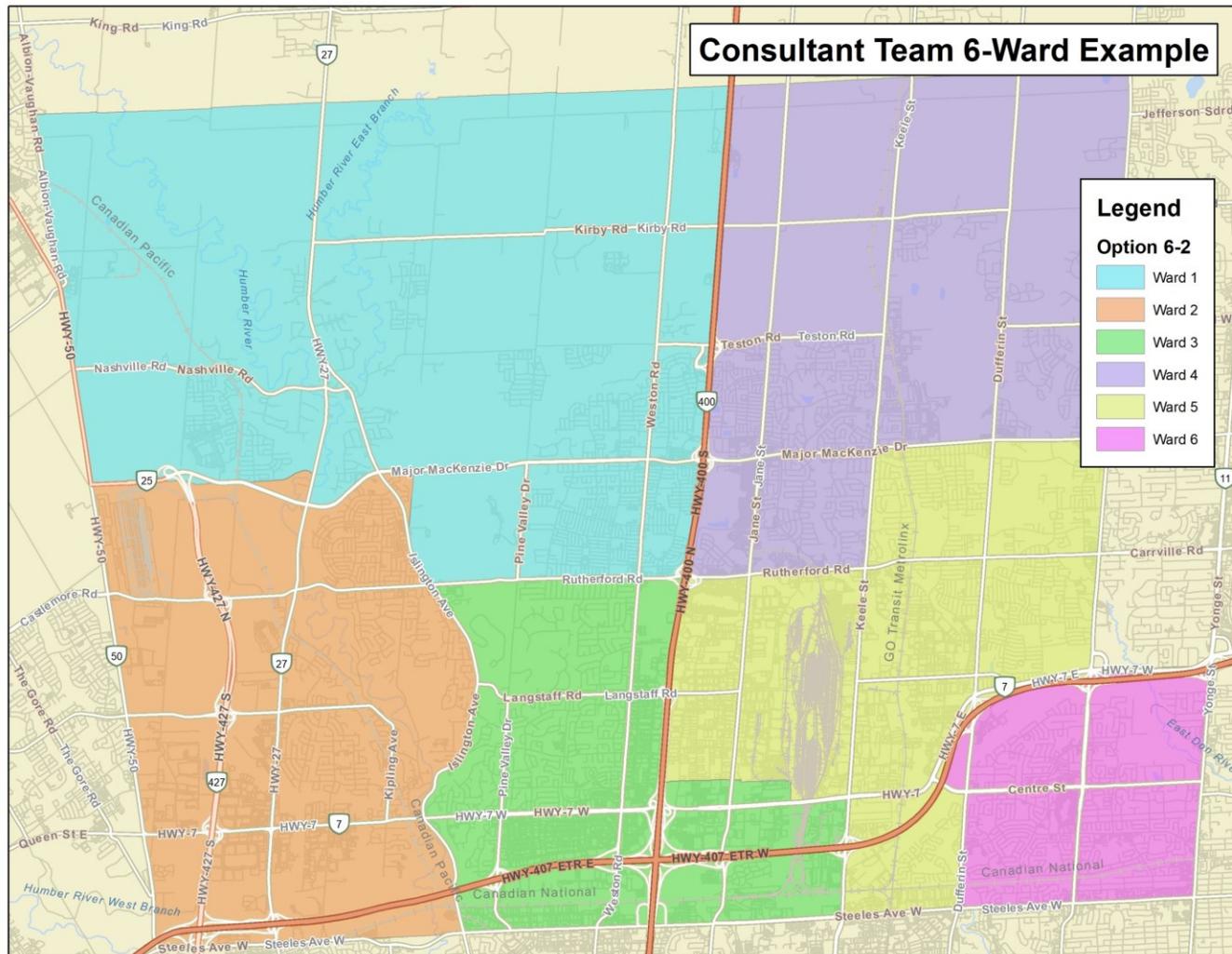




Figure 4-7
 City of Vaughan
 Preliminary Option 6-2
 Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Yes	All wards within the acceptable range of variation.
Future Population Trends	Largely Successful	All wards within the acceptable range of variation and three of six within 5% of optimal. Some variance occurring between the largest and smallest wards (~30K).
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most communities comfortably contained in single wards, with the exception of Ward 3, which crosses Highway 400 and contains portions of Woodbridge and VMC.
Geographic Representation	Largely Successful	Most boundary lines follow identifiable markers, with the exception of some Ward 3 boundaries.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Based upon good population parity both now and in the future, combined with largely meeting other principles, this option provides for largely successful effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



4.3 Preliminary Option 7-1

As mentioned previously, the Consultant Team provided options and concepts to the city and council for feedback. As a result of discussion and feedback of those options, city staff designed some ward configurations to be analyzed by the Consultant team. Preliminary Option 7-1 is such an option. What follows is the objective presentation and evaluation of this option.

As is the case in Preliminary Option 6-1, this option again proposes using Highway 400 as the dividing line between eastern and western Vaughan. The Option provides for a seven-ward system with three wards on the west side of Highway 400 and four on the east.

West of Highway 400, Major Mackenzie Drive is the primary boundary between the proposed Ward 3 on the north and the proposed Wards 1 and 2 on the south, while Islington Avenue and Pine Valley Drive divide the proposed Wards 1 and 2. East of Highway 400, the proposed Ward 6 runs from Rutherford Road towards Steeles Avenue, with Highway 407 as a dividing line between the proposed Wards 6 and 7. Of note, this option includes a large inverse L-shaped ward (the proposed Ward 5) that runs between Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 400 to Bathurst Street and north towards the municipal boundary with King Township. The Maple community is located in the proposed Wards 4 and 5.

This option is not successful in providing for parity in the short term since two wards are outside the acceptable population variance range, with a difference of nearly 33,000 residents between them. However, Preliminary Option 7-1 provides very good population parity towards 2036, since all wards are within the acceptable population variance range. While these population imbalances are forecast to improve, it cannot be said that this option meets the representation by population principle for the next municipal election.

Preliminary Option 7-1 does provide a ward configuration that permits the City to grow into parity over time rather than maintaining that status throughout the intervening election cycles, an alternative that has precedence in Ontario municipal electoral law. The Option also largely protects communities of interest and uses recognizable boundary markers. In all, it can be said that Preliminary Option 7-1 partially provides for effective representation.



Figure 4-8
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 7-1
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	60,450	1.14	O+	67,700	1.05	O+
Ward 2	55,400	1.05	O	58,000	0.90	O-
Ward 3	41,100	0.78	O-	58,250	0.91	O-
Ward 4	34,900	0.66	OR-	55,200	0.86	O-
Ward 5	54,550	1.03	O	62,800	0.98	O
Ward 6	56,150	1.06	O+	73,900	1.15	O+
Ward 7	67,800	1.28	OR+	74,200	1.15	O+
Total/Average	370,300	52,900		450,000	64,300	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-10
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 7-1
Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Ward 4 and 7 are well outside of the range of variation. Ward 3 is also close to falling outside of the acceptable range of variation.
Future Population Trends	Largely successful	Population parity improves over time. Wards 6 and 7 are still high but not outside the range of variation. Population disparity between largest and smallest wards is ~16,000.
Communities of Interest	Largely successful	Six wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 6 includes both the VMC and "North Thornhill" rather than a single community of interest.
Geographic Representation	Largely Successful	Ward 5 an unconventional configuration. Much of the rest of the map is recognizable.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	Existing population disparities impede effective representation in the short term, but this could be a model that improves with population growth.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



4.4 Preliminary Option 7-2

This option was created by the Consultant team. Preliminary Option 7-2 utilizes a very similar design to the previous seven-ward option. The same ward configuration on the west side of Highway 400 is proposed since it provides for good population parity both now and in the future. This design also largely protects each community of interest in the familiar pattern of the current wards. The more substantial changes come on the east side of Highway 400. Instead of an inverse L-shape, the proposed Ward 5 is now a vertical design, running from the northern municipal ward south across Highway 407 to Centre Street in Thornhill. This design separates portions of Thornhill and Maple from one another – a drawback for this option, although many other communities of interest are largely contained within single wards.

This option provides for excellent population parity, with four wards in the optimal range in 2025 despite the gap of more than 23,000 residents between the proposed Wards 1 and 3 (both west of Highway 400). While this parity worsens somewhat as Vaughan moves towards 2036, two wards remain in the optimal range and no wards are forecast to lie outside the acceptable range of variation.

Despite these limitations, Preliminary Option 7-2 provides for effective representation.

Figure 4-11
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 7-2
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	41,100	0.78	O-	58,250	0.91	O-
Ward 2	51,350	0.97	O	57,850	0.90	O-
Ward 3	64,450	1.22	O+	67,850	1.06	O+
Ward 4	51,750	0.98	O	74,000	1.15	O+
Ward 5	52,550	0.99	O	59,950	0.93	O-
Ward 6	48,600	0.92	O-	65,800	1.02	O
Ward 7	60,500	1.14	O+	66,300	1.03	O
Total/Average	370,300	52,900		450,000	64,300	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-13
 City of Vaughan
 Preliminary Option 7-2
 Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Yes	All wards in acceptable range of variation. Three wards are in the optimal range.
Future Population Trends	Yes	All wards in acceptable range of variation. Two wards are in the optimal range.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most communities of interest contained in single wards. The proposed Ward 5 contains portions of Maple and Thornhill.
Geographic Representation	Yes	Boundary markers are clear and follow major and identifiable roadways. The proposed Ward 5 crosses Highway 407.
Effective Representation	Yes	This option provides for effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



4.5 Preliminary Option 8-1

Preliminary Option 8-1 was created by the Consultant team. This option looks to add three additional wards and three additional City Councillors than the current system – in a ‘balanced’ configuration with four wards on each side of Highway 400. That approach, however, is not balanced in terms of the City's population since the four wards east of Highway 400 include almost 60% of the 2025 and projected 2036 population.

The overall population distribution in 2025 is satisfactory since six of the proposed wards (three within the optimal range of variation and three at the acceptable range) are well balanced. Two wards (proposed Wards 6 and 8, both along the eastern municipal boundary) are above the acceptable range of variation. Over the period to 2036, population change causes the two groups of proposed wards take different paths: two of the four western wards (proposed Wards 3 and 4) fall below the acceptable range of variation while the four wards on the eastern side that were unbalanced in 2025 end up within 1,400 residents of one another. In both cases, the population parity and population trends principles are assessed as being partially achieved since two of the eight proposed wards are outside the range of variation.

With eight proposed wards on the map, it is possible to re-assign some communities and neighbourhoods into separate wards that had been grouped together in the present five wards. Proposing wards to separate the Maple and Kleinberg areas is the most obvious example but a system with more, smaller wards can better represent communities like Concord, North Thornhill and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.

The boundaries of the proposed wards generally adhere to perceptible arterial roadways, although the proposed Ward 6 straddles Highway 407.

While this option provides relatively good population parity in the short term, some wards – notably the proposed Wards 6 and 8 – fall above an acceptable population range but are small in area. The longer-term population change is well accommodated with the wards that fall below the lower end of the range of variation in 2025 are those where growth is forecast to be modest.



Figure 4-14
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-1
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	39,550	0.85	O-	46,250	0.82	O-
Ward 2	45,350	0.98	O	59,400	1.06	O+
Ward 3	35,600	0.77	O-	39,900	0.71	OR-
Ward 4	36,400	0.79	O-	38,350	0.68	OR-
Ward 5	45,500	0.98	O	67,200	1.19	O+
Ward 6	58,800	1.27	OR+	66,750	1.19	O+
Ward 7	48,600	1.05	O	65,800	1.17	O+
Ward 8	60,500	1.31	OR+	66,300	1.18	O+
Total/Average	370,300	46,300		450,000	56,250	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-15
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-1

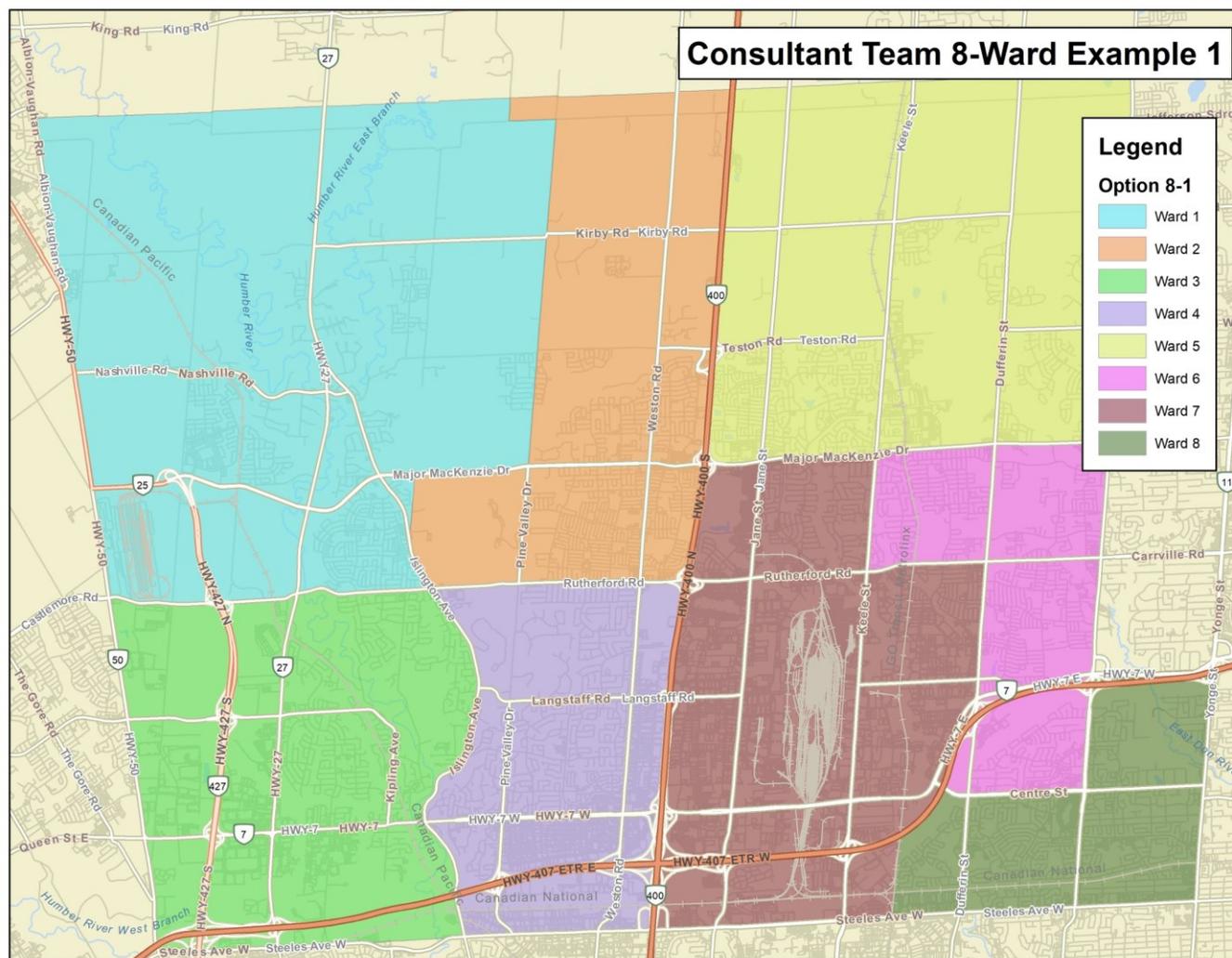




Figure 4-16
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-1
Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Partially Successful	Two wards outside the range of variation.
Future Population Trends	Partially Successful	Population parity improves over time, but two wards fall outside the acceptable range of variation. Population disparity between largest and smallest wards approximately 28,800.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Seven wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 7 includes both the VMC and “Southern Maple” rather than a single community of interest.
Geographic Representation	Largely Successful	Boundary markers are clear and follow major and identifiable roadways.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	This option largely provides for effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



4.6 Preliminary Option 8-2

This option was created by the Consultant team. The final preliminary option presents a second eight-ward system, with one ward crossing Highway 400 in a similar fashion to Preliminary Option 6-2. The proposed Ward 1 contains much of the Kleinburg and Nashville communities, including portions of northern Woodbridge, while the proposed Ward 2 is home to the Vellore neighbourhood and much of the rural territory towards the northern municipal boundary with King Township. Woodbridge is divided between the proposed Wards 3 and 4, with Rutherford Road used as the northern boundary for both. Across Highway 400, the proposed Ward 5 runs from the highway along Major Mackenzie Drive towards the eastern municipal boundary, largely containing the Maple community. The proposed Ward 6 is a strip ward running along the eastern municipal boundary, combining portions of Thornhill with the Thornhill communities north of Highway 407. The proposed Ward 8 includes much of the remainder of Thornhill, while the VMC falls within the proposed Ward 4.

This option provides for very good population parity in 2025, with four wards in the optimal range but only one ward in the range by 2036. None of the proposed wards are outside the accepted range of variation both now and in the future. Seven of the wards also provide for a reasonable grouping of communities, with only the proposed Ward 4 failing to do so, as it contains both portions of the VMC and eastern Woodbridge. Much of the map, with the exception of the proposed Ward 4, uses recognizable boundary lines. As such, this option can be said to largely provide for effective representation.



Figure 4-17
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-2
Population by Proposed Ward

Ward	2025			2036		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	39,550	0.85	O-	46,250	0.82	O-
Ward 2	45,350	0.98	O	59,400	1.06	O+
Ward 3	45,200	0.98	O	50,350	0.90	O-
Ward 4	46,250	1.00	O	60,800	1.08	O+
Ward 5	45,500	0.98	O	67,200	1.19	O+
Ward 6	41,950	0.91	O-	47,950	0.85	O-
Ward 7	52,900	1.14	O+	58,700	1.04	O
Ward 8	53,600	1.16	O+	59,350	1.06	O+
Total/Average	370,300	46,300		450,000	56,250	

Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 4-18
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-2

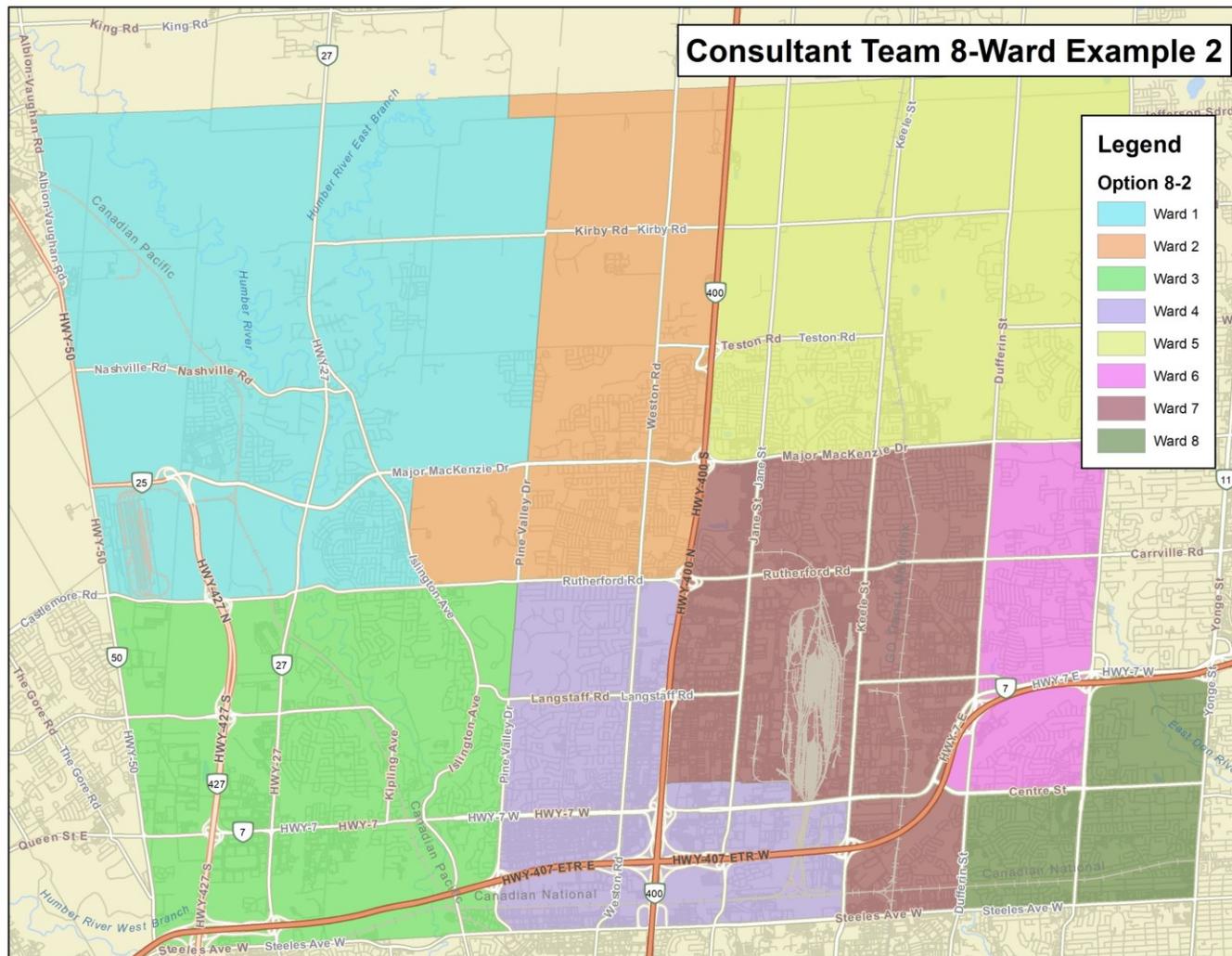


Figure 4-19
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Option 8-2
Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	Yes	All wards within acceptable range of variation. Half of the wards within optimal range of variation.
Future Population Trends	Largely Successful	Not as good as 2025 population parity, but all wards within acceptable range of variation. One ward in optimal range.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Seven wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 4 includes both the VMC and "East Woodbridge" rather than a single community of interest.
Geographic Representation	Largely Successful	Ward 7 an unconventional configuration. Much of the rest of the map is recognizable.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	This option largely provides for effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as "Yes" (fully satisfied), "Largely Successful," "Partially Successful," or "No" (not satisfied).

4.7 Evaluation Summary

Earlier in this paper, the Consultant Team determined that the current ward boundary system in Vaughan does not provide for complete effective representation and that alternative ward configuration should be explored that could better accommodate growth within the City and reflect the communities of interest across the municipality.

The Preliminary Options presented in this report provide a spectrum of potential alternatives to better accommodate the guiding principles and recognize the way the City has developed since the present ward boundaries were drawn. To be clear, these Preliminary Options were developed for a city council where there are no local and regional councillors.

All Preliminary Options in this report offer innovative approaches to representation by adding one, two or three additional wards, with some placing an emphasis on population parity for 2025 (in other words, primarily to catch up with the population changes since the present wards were adopted) or by placing an emphasis on forecast growth (to allow the City to gradually grow into parity beyond the 2026 municipal election). The six Preliminary Options provide varied combinations and arrangements of the existing and emerging neighbourhoods and communities across the municipality that contribute to the goal of effective representation.

No single Preliminary Option is the “perfect” solution to some of the shortcomings identified in this Review, but the Consultant Team believes that when it has narrowed these Preliminary Options down to a smaller number of Recommended Options, each can be defended as an improvement to the present ward system in Vaughan.

A summary evaluation of the options is provided in Figure 4-20.

Figure 4-20
City of Vaughan
Preliminary Options Evaluation Summary

Preliminary Option	Representation by Population	Municipal Growth Trends and Projections	Geographic and Topographic Boundaries	Communities of Interest	Effective Representation
Existing Wards	Largely Successful	Partially Successful	Partially Successful	Largely Successful	Partially Successful
Option 6-1	No	No	Largely Successful	Yes	Partially Successful
Option 6-2	Yes	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful
Option 7-1	No	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Partially Successful
Option 7-2	Yes	Yes	Largely Successful	Yes	Yes
Option 8-1	Partially Successful	Partially Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful
Option 8-2	Yes	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful

Levels of evaluation for how the Guiding Principles are met



5. Further Considerations

The options presented herein are preliminary; they reflect the application of the core principles for this review to the distribution of population and communities within the City of Vaughan.

Designing an electoral system that will deliver effective representation to such a diverse and growing community requires some accommodation: designs that put an emphasis on representation by population today can hinder fair representation for residents who will locate in growing parts of the City in the coming decade. Designs that place a priority on grouping selected neighbourhoods can result in the over- or under-representation of those same communities around the council table. Grouping several distinctive communities in the same ward may systematically reduce the voice of minorities, whether they be geographic, economic, or social.

The purpose of this report is to stimulate discussions in Vaughan and encourage residents to consider their preferred ward boundary configurations for the City. The options included are deliberately called “preliminary” since much of the next phase of this review involves gathering the perspectives of residents on these alternatives.

6. Next Steps

Following the second phase of public engagement, where the preliminary options outlined in this report will be presented to the public for feedback, the Consultant Team will prepare a final report and presentation for Council.