



City of Barrie

Ward Boundary Review

Preliminary Examples

April 30, 2025

Context



Composition of Council

- The minimum size for the council of a local municipality in Ontario is five, “one of whom shall be the head of council”
- No clear principles at play, no “standards” and no formulas to apply in determining the appropriate size of Council
- Barrie’s council is composed of 11 members, 6 above the minimum
- The composition of local councils in Ontario varies widely

Guiding Principles to Design Wards



A **ward-based** electoral system should address these core principles/guidelines:



REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT AND FUTURE POPULATION AND ELECTORAL TRENDS

Accommodating for and balancing future increases or decreases in population growth or decline to maintain a general equilibrium in the representation by population until the next ward boundary review is anticipated to be conducted;



CONSIDERATION OF NATURAL AND PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Utilizing geographical and topographical features, primary and secondary road patterns, railway and public transit routes and servicing districts as natural ward boundaries and to help foster and identify neighbourhood groupings;



COMMUNITIES OF INTERESTS

Recognizing settlement patterns, traditional neighbourhoods, school districts and community groupings (social, historical, economic, religious and political diversities) while at the same time, not fragmenting the City.



EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

The three articulated principles contribute to achieving the over-arching principle of effective representation.

Existing Ward System – Evaluation

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	Partially Successful	All wards are within the acceptable population range using 2025 data; however, growth patterns create disparities that lead to five wards falling from the acceptable range of population variation by 2036.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Largely Successful	Roadways and waterways are largely utilized well as boundaries.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward; differentiation between north and south portions of the City occurs over two wards.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Effective representation is achieved with current population figures, but population growth will hinder the achievement of fair representation across the City.

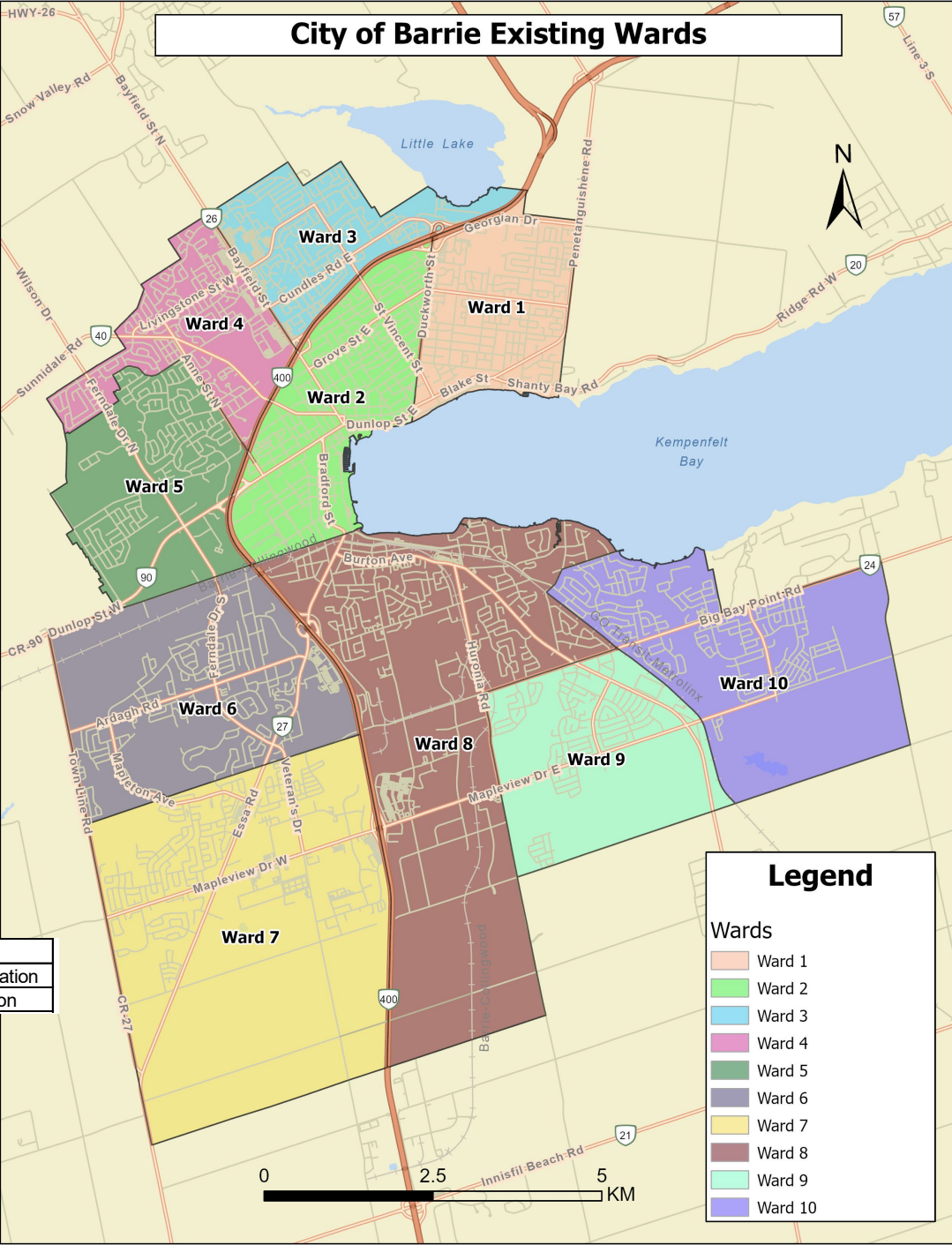
Ward Number	2025 Total Population ^[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	16,379	0.98	O	17,597	0.79	O-
Ward 2	18,450	1.10	O+	26,507	1.19	O+
Ward 3	12,996	0.78	O-	14,308	0.64	OR-
Ward 4	13,915	0.83	O-	15,110	0.68	OR-
Ward 5	13,501	0.81	O-	14,780	0.66	OR-
Ward 6	18,682	1.12	O+	22,044	0.99	O
Ward 7	19,009	1.14	O+	32,224	1.44	OR+
Ward 8	16,995	1.02	O	23,887	1.07	O+
Ward 9	16,700	1.00	O	25,464	1.14	O+
Ward 10	20,412	1.22	O+	31,638	1.42	OR+
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “**Yes**” (fully satisfied);
- “**Largely Successful**”;
- “**Partially Successful**”; or
- “**No**” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Preliminary Alternative Ward Boundary Options

Preliminary Option 1

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	Largely Successful	Except for Ward J, all wards are within the acceptable population range; parity improves towards 2036, with four wards in the optimal range.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Largely Successful	Roadways and waterways are utilized well as boundaries.
Communities of Interest	Yes	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Effective representation is largely achieved, and the guiding principles are well balanced. There is some familiarity with the existing system, but the boundary changes that have been made account well for future projected growth.

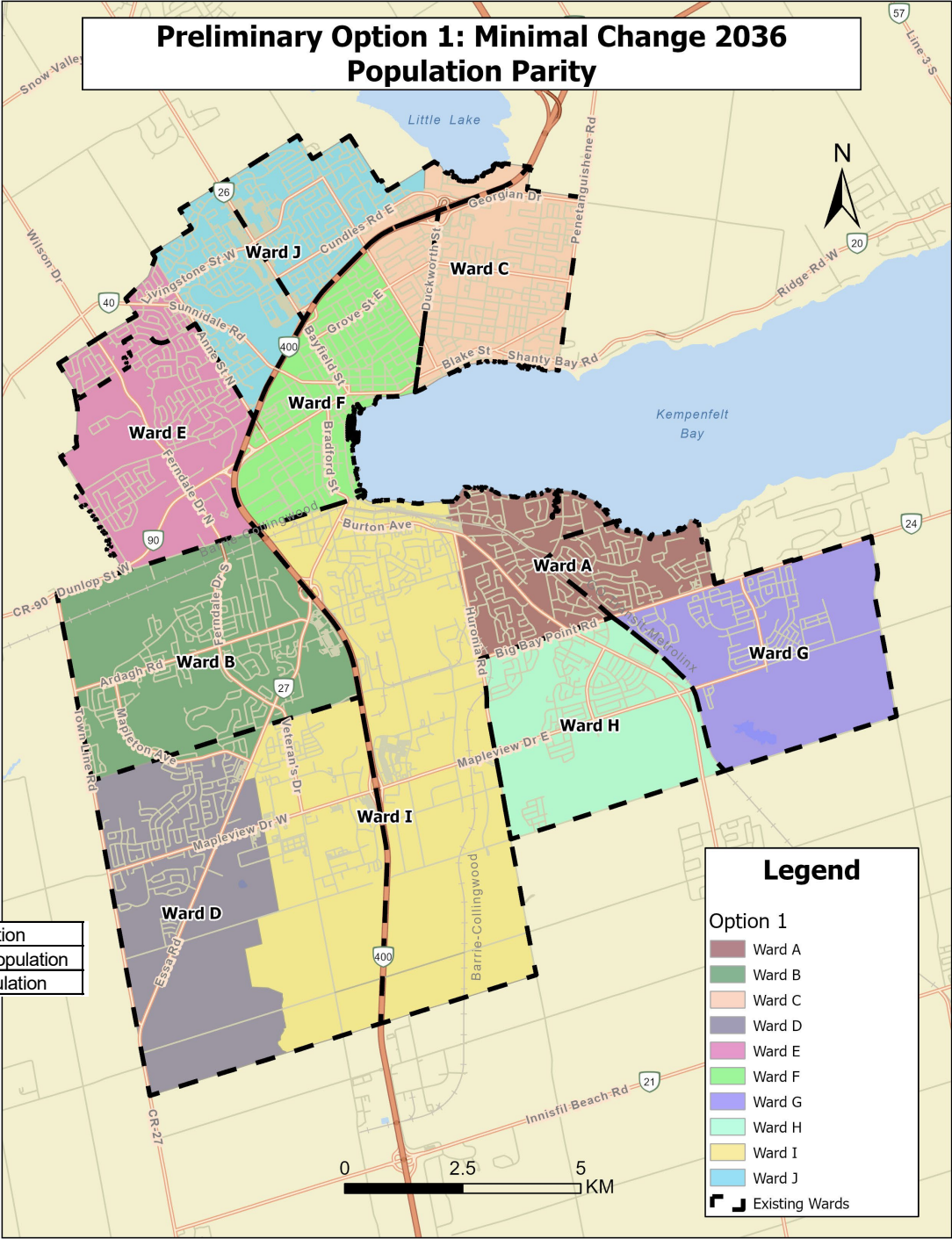
Ward	2025 Total Population ^[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward A	14,574	0.87	O-	18,438	0.82	O-
Ward B	19,891	1.19	O+	23,361	1.04	O
Ward C	19,390	1.16	O+	21,420	0.96	O
Ward D	13,233	0.79	O-	22,073	0.99	O
Ward E	18,145	1.09	O+	19,634	0.88	O-
Ward F	15,904	0.95	O	23,807	1.06	O+
Ward G	14,083	0.84	O-	24,981	1.12	O+
Ward H	16,700	1.00	O	25,464	1.14	O+
Ward I	13,318	0.80	O-	20,940	0.94	O-
Ward J	21,802	1.31	OR+	23,441	1.05	O
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Preliminary Option 2-A

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	Largely Successful	Most wards are within the acceptable population range; however, Ward I experiences a substantial disparity in 2025 but grows into parity by 2036.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Largely Successful	Roadways and waterways are utilized well as boundaries. All wards except one are not divided by Hwy. 400.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward. The downtown core is separated into two wards.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Effective representation is achieved with current population figures, with the exception of Ward I, which comes into parity by 2036 but has a sizable disparity currently.

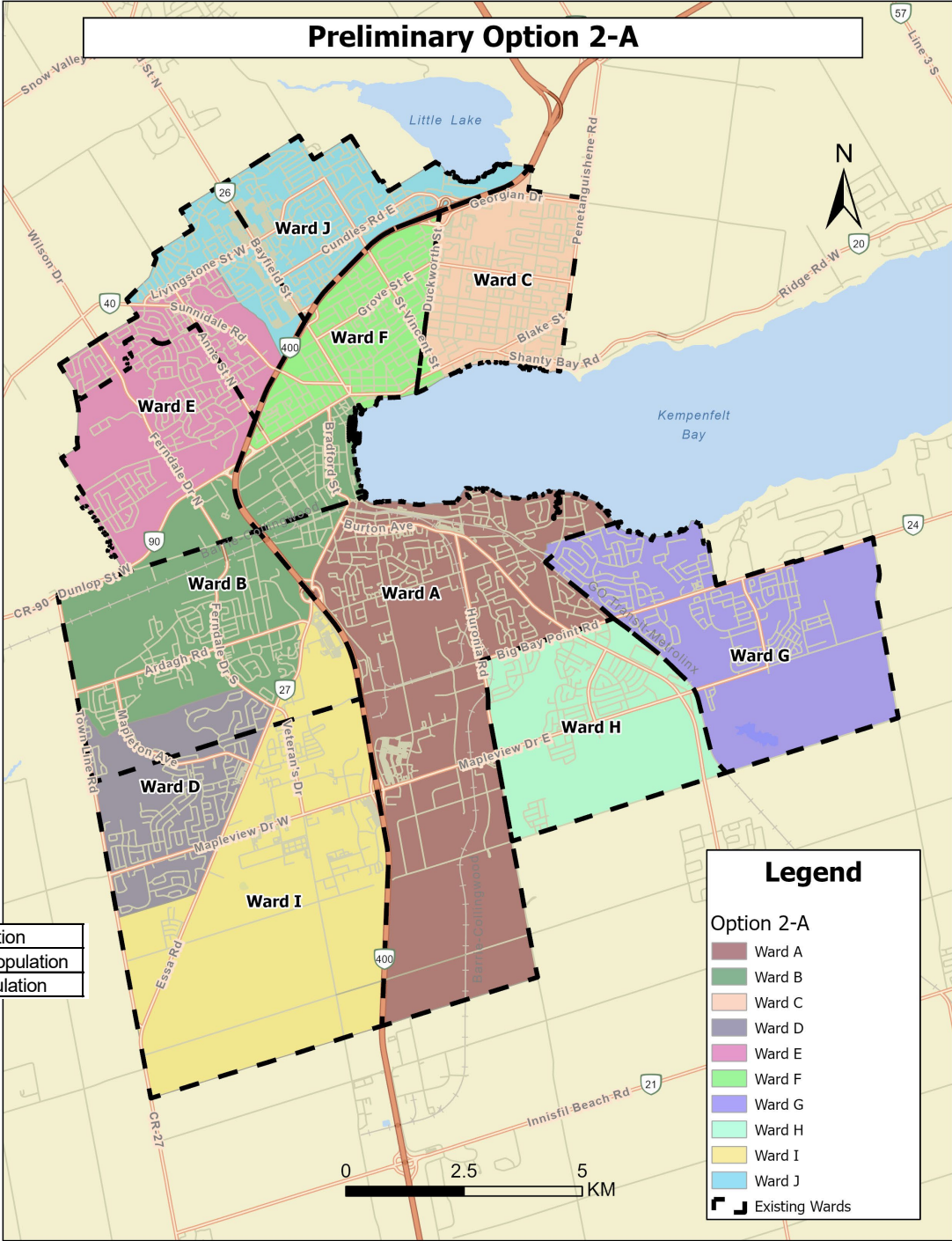
Ward	2025 Total Population ^[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward A	16,207	0.97	O	21,133	0.95	O-
Ward B	18,909	1.13	O+	24,961	1.12	O+
Ward C	15,790	0.95	O-	16,964	0.76	O-
Ward D	16,506	0.99	O	17,189	0.77	O-
Ward E	20,582	1.23	O+	22,439	1.00	O
Ward F	14,813	0.89	O-	20,485	0.92	O-
Ward G	20,464	1.23	O+	31,692	1.42	OR+
Ward H	16,700	1.00	O	25,464	1.14	O+
Ward I	7,263	0.43	OR-	21,498	0.96	O
Ward J	19,805	1.19	O+	21,733	0.97	O
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Preliminary Option 2-B

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	Largely Successful	Most wards are within the acceptable population range; however, Ward I experiences a substantial disparity in 2025 but grows into parity by 2036.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Largely Successful	Roadways and waterways are utilized well as boundaries.
Communities of Interest	Largely Successful	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward. The downtown core is separated into two wards.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Effective representation is largely achieved with current population figures, except for Ward I, which comes into parity by 2036 but has a sizable disparity currently.

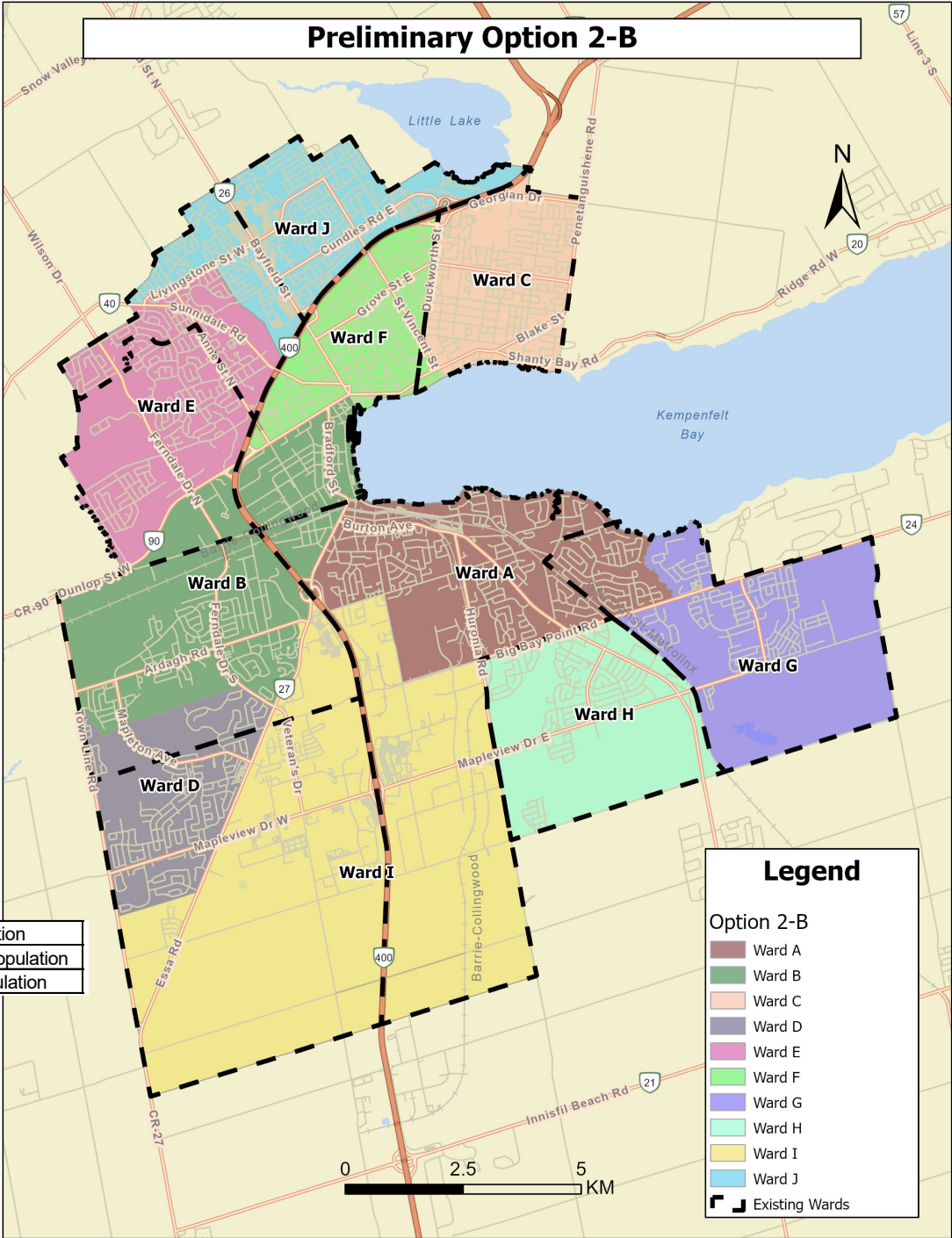
Ward	2025 Total Population ^[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward A	20,786	1.24	O+	25,707	1.15	O+
Ward B	18,909	1.13	O+	24,961	1.12	O+
Ward C	15,790	0.95	O-	16,964	0.76	O-
Ward D	16,506	0.99	O	17,189	0.77	O-
Ward E	20,582	1.23	O+	22,439	1.00	O
Ward F	14,813	0.89	O-	20,485	0.92	O-
Ward G	15,365	0.92	O-	26,371	1.18	O+
Ward H	16,700	1.00	O	25,464	1.14	O+
Ward I	7,783	0.47	OR-	22,245	1.00	O
Ward J	19,805	1.19	O+	21,733	0.97	O
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Preliminary Option 3-A

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	No	Five wards in both 2025 and 2036 are outside the acceptable range of variation.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Yes	Boundary markers conform to natural and major infrastructure features.
Communities of Interest	Yes	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	While this option supports all communities of interest and uses natural marker lines, population disparities both now and in the future hold it back from fully providing for effective representation.

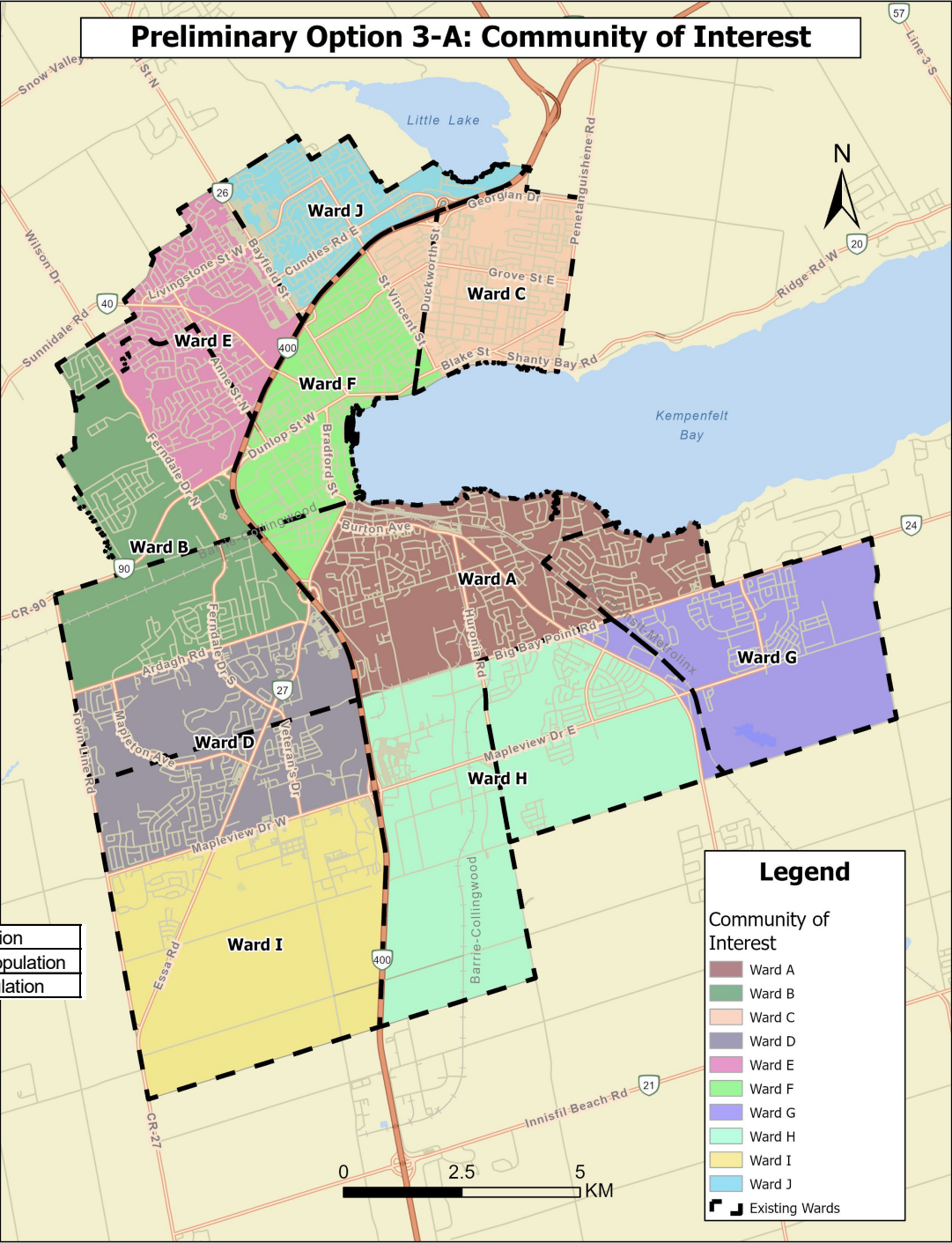
Ward	2025 Total Population ^[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward A	22,563	1.35	OR+	27,603	1.23	O+
Ward B	12,336	0.74	OR-	14,305	0.64	OR-
Ward C	18,336	1.10	O+	19,664	0.88	O-
Ward D	26,008	1.56	OR+	29,979	1.34	OR+
Ward E	21,809	1.31	OR+	23,663	1.06	O+
Ward F	17,229	1.03	O	27,140	1.21	O+
Ward G	15,667	0.94	O-	28,319	1.27	OR+
Ward H	15,141	0.91	O-	22,367	1.00	O
Ward I	4,954	0.30	OR-	16,210	0.73	OR-
Ward J	12,996	0.78	O-	14,308	0.64	OR-
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Preliminary Option 3-B

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle*	Comment
Representation by Population and Consideration of Current and Future Population Trends	Partially Successful	While four wards are outside the acceptable range of population variation in 2025, parity improves towards 2036 with only two wards out of range.
Consideration of Natural and Physical Boundaries	Yes	Boundary markers conform to natural and major infrastructure features.
Communities of Interest	Yes	Most neighbourhoods are intact and contained fully in one ward.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	While this option supports all communities of interest and uses natural marker lines, population disparities both now and in the future hold it back from achieving full effective representation. However, it is possible that a few boundaries could be adjusted to improve parity but with perhaps some slight deterioration of the community of interest principle.

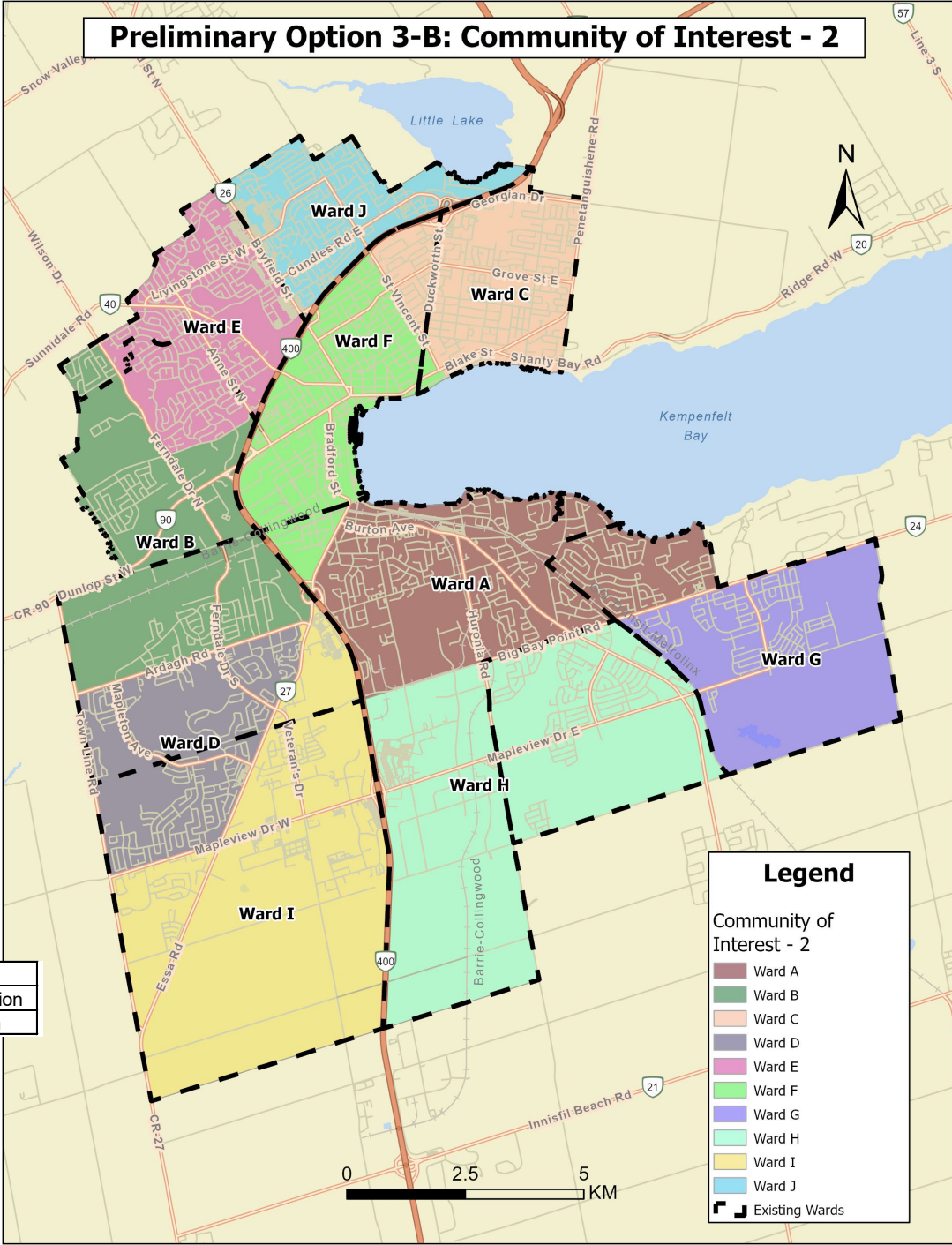
Ward	2025 Total Population ⁽¹⁾	Variance	Optimal Range	2036 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward A	22,563	1.35	OR+	27,603	1.23	O+
Ward B	12,920	0.77	O-	15,012	0.67	OR-
Ward C	18,336	1.10	O+	19,664	0.88	O-
Ward D	21,122	1.26	OR+	21,946	0.98	O
Ward E	21,226	1.27	OR+	22,956	1.03	O
Ward F	17,229	1.03	O	27,140	1.21	O+
Ward G	14,083	0.84	O-	24,981	1.12	O+
Ward H	16,725	1.00	O	25,705	1.15	O+
Ward I	9,840	0.59	OR-	24,243	1.08	O+
Ward J	12,996	0.78	O-	14,308	0.64	OR-
Total	167,040	-	-	223,559	-	-
Average	16,704	-	-	22,356	-	-

Population includes a net Census undercount of approximately 3.0% and the post-secondary student population.
Source: Derived from the Update to Population, Housing and Employment Forecast by Traffic Zone and Small Geographic Unit, March 8, 2024.
Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

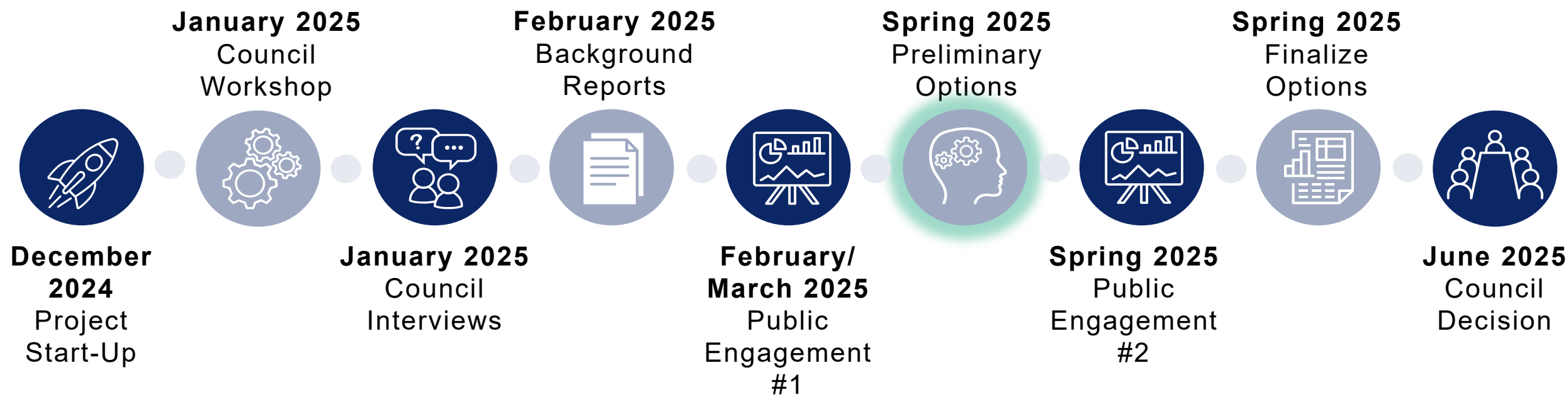
The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population



Review Process





Questions?