

QA – Halifax Forum project status

Last updated: Friday, Sept. 25, 2026

Q1: What is the status of the Halifax Forum project?

A1: Municipal staff recently received an updated cost estimate for the Halifax Forum project that incorporates extensive value engineering work. While the estimate still requires third-party validation, staff's review indicates that projected costs are now higher than the funding currently approved by Regional Council. As a result, staff are pausing the heritage demolition application process while they assess the updated cost information and prepare options for Council's consideration.

Q2: Is the Halifax Forum project being cancelled?

A2: No, the project is not being cancelled. Staff are pausing the heritage demolition application process to allow time to review updated project cost projections, complete further validation work and report back to Regional Council on potential next steps and go-forward options.

Q3: Why is the heritage demolition application being paused?

A3: The heritage demolition application is being paused because the updated project cost estimate suggests the project may exceed the budget currently approved by Regional Council. Staff will provide Council with updated information on costs and options before advancing further with the project.

Q4: What happens to the public information meeting that was scheduled for October 1, 2026?

A4: Staff have requested that the public information meeting scheduled for October 1, 2026, be cancelled. The meeting was originally scheduled as part of the standard heritage demolition application process.

Q5: How will residents be informed that the meeting has been cancelled?

A5: Planning & Development staff will complete the required notification process, including posting a cancellation notice on the municipal website and notifying residents by letter who live within 80 metres of the property.

Q6: What caused project costs to increase?

A6: Staff have received an updated cost estimate that reflects evolving project information and detailed value engineering efforts. The estimate indicates higher costs than those currently approved. Staff are continuing to review the estimate and will provide Regional Council with a detailed update on costs and their implications as part of a future report.

Q7: Has the updated cost estimate been finalized?

A7: No. The current estimate still requires third-party review as part of the process. Staff are working through that process and will provide Council with more detailed information once the review is complete.

Q8: How much higher are the updated project costs?

A8: Staff are still reviewing the updated estimate and completing validation work. Detailed cost information and analysis will be presented to Regional Council in a future report, date to be determined.

Q9: Will this delay the future of the Halifax Forum site?

A9: The pause in the heritage demolition application process will result in a delay to that aspect of the project. Staff are focused on providing Regional Council with updated cost projections and options so informed decisions can be made regarding the project's future direction, including an updated timeline

Q10: Does Council need to approve any changes before the project can move forward?

A10: Any significant changes related to project scope, budget or direction would require Regional Council's consideration and direction. Staff will return to Council with an updated report outlining the current situation and available options.

As the existing facility is a municipally registered property, Council will make the decision on the heritage status.

Q11: What does this mean for the existing Halifax Forum facilities?

A11: The existing facilities remain operational. This update relates specifically to the proposed project and associated heritage demolition application process.

Q12: What are the next steps?

A12: Staff will complete their review of the updated estimate, seek third-party validation and prepare a report to Regional Council outlining updated cost projections and potential options. Further decisions on the project will be informed by Regional Council's consideration of that report.