Ontario Science Centre (OSC) Evaluation Step Two: Height and Massing Alternatives

Note: More than 2 alternatives are being evaluated so another preference of "least preferred" was added.

Category	Low (up to 2 storeys; P1 site coverage up to 80%)	Medium (3 to 6 storeys; P1 site coverage up to 55%)	Tall (7 plus storeys; P1 site coverage up to 25%)
Natural Environment	Preferred The site is currently occupied by a surface parking lot with limited environmental value. All three alternatives provide the opportunity to improve the existing condition through plantings, green roofs, habitat improvements etc.		
Preference	Preferred Provides opportunity to improve the existing condition.	Preferred Provides opportunity to improve the existing condition.	Preferred Provides opportunity to improve the existing condition.
Cultural Environment	Least Preferred This alternative has the largest footprint, which in turn presents the greatest potential obstruction to views of Ontario Place and Lake Ontario beyond.	Preferred While taller than the low alternative, this alternative has a smaller footprint which could reduce the impact on views to the pods and Cinesphere.	Preferred While this is the tallest alternative, it also has the smallest footprint, which could reduce the impact on views to the pods and Cinesphere.
Preference	Least Preferred	Preferred Reduces impact on views to the pods and Cinesphere.	Preferred Reduces impact on views to the pods and Cinesphere.
Social Environment	Least Preferred The large footprint removes the available area for public plaza and the transit hub.	Preferred This alternative balances the space allocated for the building footprint, adjacent public plaza and the transit hub.	Preferred While a tall building would have a smaller footprint than the medium alternative, both provide an opportunity to create a generous public plaza and space for the transit hub.
Preference	Least Preferred	Preferred Provides opportunity for a public plaza and transit hub.	Preferred Provides opportunity for a public plaza and transit hub.

Technical Environment	A maximum 2 storey building can likely accommodate the large, obstruction free spaces required for proposed exhibit/demonstration halls, but this configuration introduces potential challenges relating to adjacency and circulation between spaces.	This configuration provides the floor space necessary for large, obstruction free exhibit and demonstration spaces while also maximizing efficiency through adjacency and circulation between spaces meaning this configuration would best enable OSC to deliver their operational mandate.	A taller building with narrower floorplates may not provide the necessary exhibit space and will create additional challenges relating to adjacency and circulation between spaces.
Preference	Less Preferred	Preferred	Least Preferred
		Provides necessary space, adjacency and circulation.	
Economic Environment	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
	 No known difference in capital or 	 No known difference in capital or 	 No known difference in capital or
	operation and maintenance costs between alternatives.	operation and maintenance costs between alternatives.	operation and maintenance costs between alternatives.
Preference	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
	No difference between alternatives.	No difference between alternatives.	No difference between alternatives.
OVERALL PREFERENCE	Least Preferred	Preferred The medium alternative is preferred as it can accommodate all OSC program requirements in an efficient configuration, while maintaining sufficient space on site for a public plaza, transit hub and other gateway/entrance features.	Less Preferred

Green shading represents preferred.

Yellow shading represents less preferred.

Red shading represents least preferred.