

Hamilton, Ontario's AI Zoning Pre-Screen for Building Permits — A 60% Time Cut With an Unresolved Attribution Question

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Canada

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Hamilton, Ontario uses an AI tool to pre-screen building-permit applications against zoning setback rules. The city reports a 60% cut in review time, though local reporting credits an identical figure to a parallel staffing pilot.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[City of Hamilton \(Ontario\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[The Public Record — Hamilton begins using AI tools for planning approvals](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[CHCH News — City of Hamilton using AI to reduce building permit approval times](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[Ontario Construction News — Kingston launching AI tool to speed up building permit reviews](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

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