



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**Subject: CRB Growth Plan Verbal Report**

1. That the CRB Growth Plan verbal report and presentation be accepted as information.

### **Attachments:**

1. Administrative Backgrounder
2. Executive Summary

Legislative Services

*S. Wywal, Legislative Officer*

City Manager Signature:

Date:

**Administrative Backgrounder  
CRB Growth Plan**

**BACKGROUND:**

On August 18, 2016 the Capital Region Board Growth Plan Task Force held their final meeting and reviewed the final draft of the updated Growth Plan. Attached is the Executive Summary. However, the full agenda package for the August 18 meeting can be viewed here: <http://capitalregionboard.ab.ca/-/media/AgendaPackage-GrowthPlanTaskForce-16Aug18.pdf>

Report Date	August 23, 2016
Committee/Department	City Manager's Office/Intergovernmental Relations
City Manager Review ( <i>Electronic Initials</i> )	CJ

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Re-imagine. Plan. Build.

Just three words, but they convey the spirit that underlies the Edmonton Metropolitan Region (the “Region”). With an economy based on the boom and bust cycles of the energy industry, the Region must continually Re-imagine, Plan and Build.

The Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Growth Plan adopts this spirit and sets an innovative path to plan growth across the Region in a responsible manner that sustains and advances regional prosperity and well-being. This Plan provides a substantive update to the 2010 Capital Region Board Growth Plan and builds on the Plan’s successes, while recognizing the Region’s diverse rural and urban context. This Plan focuses on the Region’s strengths and competitive advantages. It adopts a forward-looking approach to addressing challenges today to strongly position the Region over the next three decades, and to advancing the Region’s global economic competitiveness based on leveraging its key economic assets and competitive advantages. Addressing the challenges of the future means planning for and managing growth with different tools and strategies to maintain the Region’s high quality of life and economic prosperity.

By 2044, it is anticipated that the Region will be home to 2.2 million people and 1.2 million jobs. The doubling of the population is a significant transformation that will result in a complex metropolitan region requiring deliberate and determined collaboration and leadership.

This Growth Plan provides a compelling vision, guiding principles and six interrelated regional policy areas to guide growth and development over the next thirty years. It recognizes the symbiotic and integrated nature of growth.

Regional growth has many dimensions – including population, jobs, businesses, economic productivity, economic diversity and prosperity, culture and natural living systems – and has a distinct meaning when applied in the rural and urban context. Planning for and managing growth on a regional scale aims to increase the prosperity, vitality, livability and sustainability of the Region’s people, communities and economy.

This Plan places an emphasis on responsible growth through minimizing the expansion of the urban footprint, integrating land use and infrastructure decisions, building resilient, adaptable and complete communities, ensuring the Region’s transportation systems are interconnected and enable economic prosperity, protecting the environment and encouraging the growth of the agriculture sector.

### 50-Year Vision

**The Edmonton Metropolitan Region is the dominant hub for northern Alberta and is recognized globally for its economic diversity, entrepreneurialism, leadership in energy development, environmental stewardship and excellent quality of life.**

**The Region is anchored by a thriving core that is interconnected with diverse urban and rural communities.**

**The Region is committed to growing collaboratively through the efficient use of infrastructure, building compact communities, and fostering economic opportunities and healthy lifestyles.**

# A Framework for Responsible Growth

The Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Growth Plan (the “Plan”) provides a comprehensive and integrated policy framework for planning for growth that is tailored to the regional context. The Plan provides guidance on how to grow in a responsible manner through compact and contiguous development. Compact and contiguous development means planning for and developing lands in an adjacent, logical manner that minimizes the expansion of the Region’s development footprint. This type of development will help support viable multi-modal transportation options, facilitate a mode shift away from the private automobile, and also foster the creation of complete communities.

Responsible growth means using land and resources efficiently for the benefit of current and future generations. This means ensuring growth is financially sustainable, optimizes public investment and maximizes the use of existing and planned infrastructure and services over the long term. Responsible growth conserves the Region’s agricultural land base for farmland to ensure long-term viability and regional food security, and conserves the Region’s natural assets for future generations.

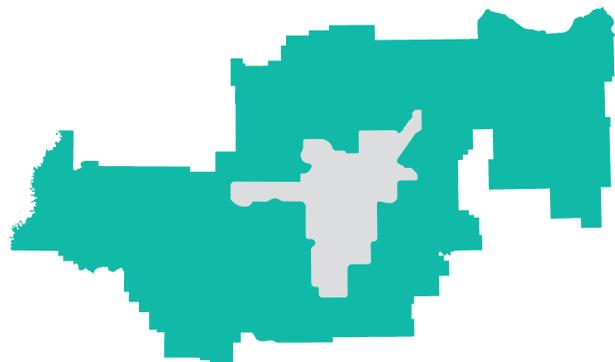
The **Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Structure to 2044 (Schedule 2)** on page 25 provides the foundation for managing employment and population growth in the Region. The regional structure consists of three policy

tiers: The **rural area, metropolitan area and metropolitan core**. These tiers reflect and respond to the diversity of communities within the Region. The policy tiers provide a mechanism for defining policies and targets that respond to different urban and rural contexts, addressing unique growth challenges in the Region.

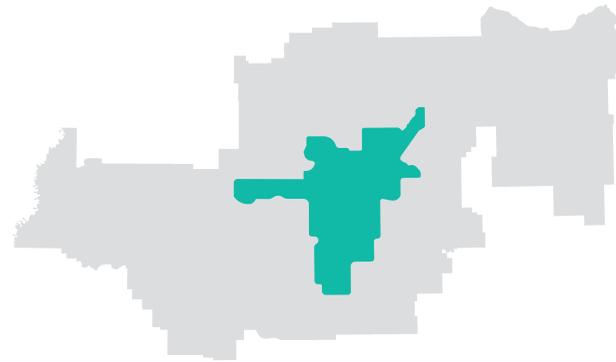
The **Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Structure to 2044** also identifies a series of other geographic components including **centres, major employment areas and infrastructure corridors**. These components and related policies help plan areas of regional significance and reflect differing roles, levels of service and places to accommodate growth.

## Policy Tiers

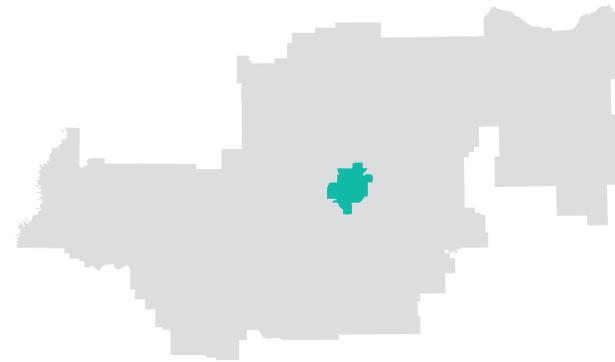
RURAL AREA



METROPOLITAN AREA



METROPOLITAN CORE



## Regional Policies

This Plan includes six interrelated regional policy areas. Each policy area aligns with a corresponding guiding principle and includes objectives and policies.



### ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT

#### Guiding Principle

**Promote global economic competitiveness and regional prosperity.**

We will foster a diverse and innovative economy that builds upon our existing infrastructure and employment areas to achieve sustained economic growth and prosperity.

#### Objectives

- 1.1 Promote global economic competitiveness and diversification of the regional economy
- 1.2 Promote job growth and the competitiveness of the Region's employment base
- 1.3 Enhance competitiveness through the efficient movement of people, goods and services to, from and within the Region
- 1.4 Promote the livability and prosperity of the Region and plan for the needs of a changing population and workforce



### NATURAL LIVING SYSTEMS

#### Guiding Principle

**Protect natural living systems and environmental assets.**

We will practice wise environmental stewardship and promote the health of the regional ecosystem, watersheds, airsheds, and environmentally sensitive areas.

#### Objectives

- 2.1 Conserve and restore natural living systems through an ecological network approach
- 2.2 Protect regional watershed health, water quality and quantity
- 2.3 Plan development to promote clean air, land and water and address climate change impacts
- 2.4 Minimize and mitigate the impacts of regional growth on natural living systems



### COMMUNITIES & HOUSING

#### Guiding Principle

**Recognize and celebrate the diversity of communities and promote an excellent quality of life across the Region.**

In planning for growth, we will recognize and respond to the different contexts and scales of communities and provide a variety of housing choices with easy access to transportation, employment, parks and open spaces, and community and cultural amenities.

#### Objectives

- 3.1 Plan and develop complete communities within each policy tier to accommodate people's daily needs for living at all ages
- 3.2 Plan for and promote a range of housing options
- 3.3 Plan for and promote market affordable and non-market housing to address core housing need



## INTEGRATION OF LAND USE & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Guiding Principle

#### Achieve compact growth that optimizes infrastructure investment.

We will make the most efficient use of our infrastructure investments by prioritizing growth around existing infrastructure and optimizing use of new and planned infrastructure.

### Objectives

- 4.1 Establish a compact and contiguous development pattern to accommodate employment and population growth
- 4.2 Enable growth within built-up urban areas to optimize existing infrastructure and minimize the expansion of the development footprint
- 4.3 Plan and develop greenfield areas in an orderly and phased manner to contribute to complete communities
- 4.4 Plan for and accommodate rural growth in appropriate locations with sustainable levels of local servicing
- 4.5 Plan for and develop mixed-use and higher density centres as areas to concentrate growth of people and jobs
- 4.6 Prioritize investment and funding of regional infrastructure to support planned growth
- 4.7 Ensure compatible land use patterns to minimize risks to public safety and health



## TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

### Guiding Principle

#### Ensure effective regional mobility.

A streamlined, efficient and affordable transportation system that moves people and goods seamlessly across the region will build cohesion within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region and strengthen our competitive position provincially, nationally and globally. We propose an integrated multi-modal regional transportation system to achieve these goals.

### Objectives

- 5.1 Develop a regional transportation system to support and enhance growth and regional and global connectivity
- 5.2 Encourage a mode shift to transit, high-occupancy vehicles and active transportation modes as viable and attractive alternatives to private automobile travel, appropriate to the scale of the community
- 5.3 Coordinate and integrate land use and transportation facilities and services to support the efficient and safe movement of people, goods and services in both urban and rural areas
- 5.4 Support the Edmonton International Airport as northern Alberta's primary air gateway to the world
- 5.5 Ensure effective coordination of regional transportation policies and initiatives between all jurisdictions



## AGRICULTURE

### Guiding Principle

#### Ensure the wise management of prime agricultural resources to continue a thriving agricultural sector as we grow.

In the context of metropolitan growth, we will ensure the wise management of prime agricultural resources to continue a thriving agricultural sector.

### Objectives

- 6.1 Identify and conserve an adequate supply of prime agricultural land to provide a secure local food source for future generations
- 6.2 Minimize the fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses
- 6.3 Promote diversification and value-added agriculture production and plan infrastructure to support the agricultural sector and regional food system

# Implementing the Plan

## **The success of this Growth Plan depends on regional collaboration on implementation between member municipalities, other orders of government and regional stakeholders.**

To transition to this Growth Plan, member municipalities will need to prepare regional context statements (RGS) within one year to define the local transition strategy. RGSs will identify how existing municipal development plans (MDP) conform or diverge from the new Growth Plan, and how municipalities will bring their MDPs into conformity. The Capital Region Board (CRB) also recommends to the Government of Alberta that member municipalities be required to update their MDPs to bring them into conformance within three years.

The Regional Evaluation Framework (REF) will continue to be the principal mechanism for evaluating the conformance of new statutory plans with the Growth Plan. The CRB will work with the Government of Alberta to update legislation and, in particular, the REF process and to identify implementation resources. A number of future studies will need to be completed to support the implementation of this Plan. These studies will be coordinated through the CRB business planning process as part of the implementation of this Plan. The CRB will work with member municipalities to monitor and track progress on an annual basis through key performance indicators and the use of Capital Region - Geographic Information Services (CR-GIS). Through monitoring, the CRB will be able to identify areas of on-the-ground success and areas to strengthen the Plan through the review and amendment process.

Through the adoption and implementation of this Growth Plan, the CRB member municipalities, other orders of government and regional stakeholders will work together, as one metropolitan region, to become globally competitive, sustainable and prosperous.