

Update: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)

Initiative Title: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)

City Council Lead(s):

- **City Council Lead(s): Mayor D. Iveson (Councillor M. Walters, Councillor T. Cartmell)**
 - **Department Lead(s): Deputy City Manager Catrin Owen, Chief Advisor Y.Oke, Senior Policy Advisor A. McCalla**
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Objective:

The primary objective of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) is to plan for and manage the growth of the region in a strategic, coordinated and integrated way to ensure long term economic prosperity and quality of life for the citizens of the region.

Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of February 2020:

- **Governance Review**
 - The EMRB is currently undergoing a strategic planning process and governance review. This work includes input from the Board, EMRB Administration, and regional City Managers.
 - Board Administration has stated that outcomes of this work will be presented at the April Board meeting, with further consideration at the June Board meeting. Changes to the governance structure of the Board are expected - including a new committee structure.
 - In addition, in response to Notices of Motion introduced at the February Board meeting, the Board is expected to consider the current voting structure, secretariat responsibilities, dispute resolution and appeal process.

- **Implementation of the Growth Plan “Re-imagine. Plan. Build. Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Growth Plan”**
 - Implementation of the Growth Plan is ongoing, through the Regional Evaluation Framework (REF) process; and through projects such as the Metro Region Servicing Plan and the Regional Agriculture Master Plan, both discussed below.
 - A triparty group consisting of municipal representatives, EMRB Administration, and the Urban Development Institute (UDI) continue to work toward the finalization of a draft amended Regional Evaluation Framework (REF). All regional municipalities are being engaged through the REF Working Group, the CAO Standing Committee, and the Board. A draft REF is expected to advance to the Board in April 2020.

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- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Accountabilities Committee**
 - The Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Task Force, on which Mayor Iveson was the City representative, has now completed their work and the Servicing Plan was submitted to the province, as was legislatively required.
 - A Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Accountabilities Committee was established at the February 13 Board Meeting to oversee implementation of the Plan.
 - Work of this Committee will begin with the development of work plans to guide implementation of the Collaboratives on solid waste, stormwater, fire and emergency services. Members have not yet been appointed, though the City of Edmonton will have a committee seat.

- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Agriculture Master Plan**
 - In support of the Growth Plan, the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) will seek to conserve an adequate supply of agriculture land, minimize fragmentation of land, and promote diversification and value-added production within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.
 - The Task Force, on which Councillor Walters is the City representative, has recommended that work continue to refine the draft policies.
 - In the coming months, an engagement process will be launched, which will include stakeholder, public and Council touchpoints over five phases of work.
 - RAMP is expected to return to the Board for discussion in December 2020, following engagement.

- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Task Force**
 - The goal of the Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Project, as identified in the Task Force Charter passed at the December 2018 Board, is as follows: “to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region and its member municipalities through investments in projects that provide benefits throughout the Region.”
 - The Task Force, on which Mayor Iveson is the City’s representative, continues to work toward building a framework for how the members collectively envision Shared Investment for Shared Benefit in our region.
 - The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 2020; the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2021.

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- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Update**
 - As defined in the Charter, the project will have two deliverables: an update to the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan to align with the new regional Growth Plan; and a re-evaluation and reconsideration of the Regional Transportation Priorities Evaluation Process.
 - The Task Force, on which Councillor Cartmell is the City's representative, is expected to receive the completed Environmental Scan at its next meeting, scheduled for March 13.
 - This project is expected to be completed in mid-2021, including an updated Regional Transportation Priorities Evaluation Process.

Evaluation and Recommendation:

- The City will continue to work with the EMRB to advance the work of the Board.