



## Final Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan

On December 12, 2019, the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board unanimously approved the Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan and submitted it to the Province for approval.

### Background

- In October 2017, the Government of Alberta passed the *Modernization Municipal Government Act* which resulted in a new regulation of the Board reducing its membership from 24 to 13 members and expanding its mandate to include the development of a metropolitan region servicing plan (MRSP) and to submit it to the Province within two years of the Regulation coming into force.
- On February 8, 2018, The Board approved the *Project Charter*, Task Force *Terms of Reference* and the appointment of a seven-member Task Force. The work of the MRSP Task Force was further supported by an MRSP Advisory Group comprised of senior municipal administration, and by four MRSP Technical Working Groups consisting of subject matter experts from four service areas.
- The first major deliverable was the development of an *MRSP Environmental Scan* of seven service areas identified in the regulation including transportation - roads, transportation - transit, water, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste, and emergency services. The MRSP Environmental Scan provides a concise, region-wide understanding of the current state of these municipal service areas at a point in time to inform the focus and future work of the MRSP.
- On February 14, 2019, the Board received the *MRSP Environmental Scan* for information. The *MRSP Environmental Scan* identified three service areas – *stormwater, solid waste, and emergency services* as having the greatest potential for achieving greater efficiency and optimization of resources through a collaborative regional approach. Through subsequent collaboration and discussion, emergency services were further divided into two service areas, fire/EMS and emergency management, based on unique stakeholders and legislation.
- For the four remaining service areas *water, wastewater, roads and transit*, the Task Force recognized current mechanisms, existing entities and regional partnerships already exist to effectively plan for future growth and, therefore, do not require a regional level servicing plan at this time.



- The inaugural MRSP is now complete and assembled in the attached report. The inaugural MRSP, in effect, provides a go-forward strategy in alignment to the regional Growth Plan. The report outlines a proposed strategic and operational direction and the enabling structures necessary to achieve enhanced municipal collaboration and service coordination in four regionally significant municipal service areas.
- The major recommendation from this work is to stand up Regional Collaboratives for each of the four service areas – stormwater, solid waste, fire/EMS, and emergency management to advance regional level collaboration with strategic oversight being provided through a governance structure reporting through to the Board.
- The remaining municipal service areas (i.e., water, wastewater, and roads and transit) will continue to be planned and services delivered based on current mechanisms and entities, at this time.
- All eight service areas will continue to be reviewed and monitored against the Growth Plan to ensure the municipalities and stakeholders in the Region are working together to optimize planning and service delivery to meet the needs and expectation of all regional citizens in the most cost-effective manner.
- The implementation of the inaugural MRSP through the work of the Collaboratives, will leverage the unique and collective strengths and experiences of municipalities to realize efficiencies in planning for regionally significant services, identifying and prioritizing regional infrastructure investments and identifying opportunities to coordinate delivery of services.
- Through continued regional collaboration, the MRSP will help the Region make evidence-based decisions that support efficient and cost-effective investments to reduce duplication and redundancy, optimize services between municipalities, and maximize the value and benefits of those investments.
- On December 12, 2019, the Board unanimously approved the MRSP and also advanced a motion to create an MRSP Standing Committee by February 2020. The motion to implement a MRSP Standing Committee was amended and carried unanimously to allow for the MRSP Standing Committee to be subject to change based on the current governance review.
  - *The amended motion was passed in recognition by the Board that such direction and oversight, as specifically proposed for the MRSP Standing Committee, can instead be broadened to serve and support the overall Board governance structure by providing a holistic oversight mechanism to be applied across the suite of EMRB Strategic Initiatives arising from the implementation of the Growth Plan and MRSP.*



- Upon further discussion at the February 13, 2020 meeting, Board members voted to approve the establishment of a Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Standing Committee to focus solely on MRSP Implementation.
- The MRSP is being provided to each member Council for information.
- As part of the EMRB's commitment to stakeholder engagement, the Task Force supported by EMRB Administration will make a brief presentation at a scheduled Council meeting and respond to questions. Any comments received will be considered as part of the implementation of the Collaboratives.

## **Attachments:**

1. Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan, Final Report