

Intergovernmental Associations Update

Recommendation

That the October 21, 2020, Communications and Engagement report CE00030 be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the City's recent activities with federal and provincial intergovernmental advocacy associations and the provincially mandated Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board.

Report

Council receives formal updates on the City's interactions with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Big City Mayors' Caucus, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board twice per year through the Council Member Appointment update process. Intergovernmental updates provided at the regular and non-regular Council meetings complement this process and highlight the City's activities, emerging issues and opportunities related to these organizations.

In addition to the brief initiative overviews in this report, Council will continue to receive regular and detailed updates on the City's involvement with the provincially mandated Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board through the Inter-municipal and Regional Development Committee.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' advocacy over the last six months has been focused on getting support for municipalities to cover operating revenue shortfalls and additional expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities launched a campaign in April 2020 seeking \$10 billion in funding for municipalities across the country. That campaign proved successful with a federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement that was announced in June and enhanced in July, with a portion of the \$19 billion total dedicated to municipal operating and transit shortfalls. The actual allocation for municipalities was made public in September 2020. Looking ahead, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is discussing with its members the likelihood that municipalities will need to advocate for another iteration of the Safe Restart Agreement to cover municipal operating losses expected by most cities and towns across the country well into 2021.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities also launched a campaign in September 2020 focused on addressing homelessness in Canadian cities, echoing Edmonton City Council's call for federal and provincial support to address the homelessness crisis in the city. The federal government responded to that call with a \$1 billion Rapid Housing Initiative to be used to purchase vacant or underused hotels, motels and apartment buildings to help community housing providers acquire, repair and retrofit available buildings for non-profit housing.

The FCM Annual Conference, originally planned for June 2020 in Toronto, was cancelled. A scaled back online version, composed of the essential business of the organization, the Annual General Meeting and election of Board of Directors, was held October 15, 2020. The Board of Directors met virtually as well from September 8-11, 2020. FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference is also being held online this year running from October 20-22, 2020.

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)

The City of Edmonton and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association have shared interest in promoting an effective relationship as it relates to interactions with the Government of Alberta. There is an expectation from the AUMA-City of Edmonton Protocol Agreement that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Executive Committee meet with the City of Edmonton's Executive Committee annually to provide updates. In recent years, the AUMA Executive Committee has provided its annual updates directly to City Council.

Some of the shared 2020 priorities of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the City of Edmonton include; Long-term Predictable Infrastructure Funding, Municipal Funding for COVID-19, Provincial Support for Addressing Affordable Housing and Homelessness, The *Police Act* review, changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) 2020*, and the *Municipal Government Act Part 17, Red Tape Reduction* initiative.

AUMA: Annual Convention, September 23-25, 2020.

This year's convention had approximately 740 members registered for the convention and there were over 950 unique logins distributed (including staff, partners, sponsors, MLAs etc) in a virtual online format. Nineteen resolutions and one emergent resolution were debated focusing on a range of topics - including but not limited to financial, social, environmental, and community development priorities - of which 16 were passed, including all four City of Edmonton sponsored resolutions. By adopting the 16 resolutions, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association will initiate a request for action by the other orders of government following the Convention. See Attachment 1 for the debated resolutions and the member voting results.

AUMA: Committee and Board Membership Appointments

The deadline for applying for Alberta Urban Municipalities Association committee and board membership for 2020-21 was September 25. Interested Council members submitted their applications for representation on all the relevant committees, with the exception of the Sustainability and Environment committee where senior administration representation will be explored. Committee membership provides opportunities for municipal elected official or senior administrators to help shape the direction of AUMA's policy and advocacy work.

Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB)

The significant initiatives currently underway through the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board are outlined below, with further detail on the initiatives and Council representation provided in Attachment 2. In addition to these initiatives, the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board has held several Special Board meetings to discuss a series of member motions, the development of a strategic planning framework and a new Board charter. Notably, the Board passed a motion to consider the creation of a dispute resolution/appeal mechanism. This work is currently being led by a Chief Administrative Officers' (CAO) Working Group and is expected to return to the Board for review in December 2020.

Regional Evaluation Framework

The Regional Evaluation Framework Working Group ("the Working Group") completed their review in response to the June 2018 Board motion which directed the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Administration to work with municipal and industry representatives from around the region to clarify the interpretation of the Regional Evaluation Framework (the implementation and enforcement mechanism for the Growth Plan).

Building on the progress made by the Working Group, the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board passed a motion in May 2020 to recommend a new Regional Evaluation Framework Ministerial Order to be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for consideration of approval. This document was co-created by the City of Edmonton with Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Administration, member municipality administrations and the Urban Development Institute Edmonton Region. Approval from the Minister has not yet been received.

Further work is being led by City Administration to achieve additional opportunities for the development industry to participate in the Regional Evaluation Framework process with discussions occurring at the Working Group and at the CAO Standing Committee in August, September and October 2020.

Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan

With the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board submission of the Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan (“the Plan”) to the Minister for consideration of approval, the project moves to its next phase of implementation. This includes the startup of the Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Standing Committee, with representatives from five member municipalities including the City of Edmonton.

Part of the implementation of this project also includes the creation of the Solid Waste Collaborative. This includes representatives from all 13 member municipalities of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, with a representative assigned from Edmonton’s Waste Services Branch.

On October 9, 2020, representatives from the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board presented the completed Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan to the Inter-municipal and Regional Development Committee as part of a regional update for all member municipal councils. Further collaboratives on stormwater, fire/EMS and emergency management are expected to follow.

Regional Agriculture Master Plan

Dialogue continues at the Working Group (administrative representatives) level, in alignment with direction from the Task Force (elected representatives), with a focus on the land use planning components of the plan. City representatives at both the elected and administration level continue to emphasize that economic opportunities should be a driver for this work. A clear economic rationale for the Regional Agriculture Master Plan has been developed and is expected to be included in draft materials.

Two key activities are anticipated to occur over the final months of 2020:

- Engagement: An EMRB-led engagement process is currently underway. This includes a variety of opportunities for participation by agricultural stakeholders across the region.
 - In person and virtual sessions will occur in five sub-regions (north, south, east, west, Edmonton) and there will be opportunities for written feedback.
 - Region-wide virtual sessions will also be held to seek feedback and also as a means to share a “What We Heard” report following stakeholder sessions.
 - Coordination with member municipalities is anticipated on developing stakeholder lists/invitations and to communicate various engagement opportunities.
- Policy development: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Administration along with Regional Agriculture Master Plan Working Group and consultant support continue to craft the draft policies.
 - This work will be informed by and advanced in tandem with the engagement activities.

- A draft Regional Agriculture Master Plan document will be available to the public in 2021 with project completion expected by June 2021.

Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Task Force

Shared Investment for Shared Benefit models are decision-making tools to identify initiatives that require a shared approach among partners, and quantify the required investment and benefits for those partners. As a major strategic initiative of the Board, work to develop an Shared Investment for Shared Benefit model for the Region will be advanced by the Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Task Force consisting of all thirteen member municipalities. The Task Force has met several times in 2020 to build a conceptual Shared Investment for Shared Benefit model and draft initiative selection framework. The model will be based on what is “regionally significant” and this definition will be developed by this Task Force. Completion of the preferred model and initiative selection framework is expected by December 2020.

Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan (IRTMP) Task Force

The Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan is a future-ready plan for effective regional mobility. It lays the groundwork for a regional transportation network that aligns systems, infrastructure and land use planning with the 2017 Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan. The Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force is supported by a Working Group of technical experts from EMRB member municipalities and strategic advisors in urban planning. The Task Force has reviewed and approved an environmental scan of the transportation systems in the region that serves as a starting point for the creation of a new Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan. The consultant team and the Task Force are currently in the process of reviewing four different modelling scenarios to inform the final plan and accompanying policies. The scenarios include:

- Road Focus/ Business-as-Planned
- Delayed Investment Scenario
- Transit Focused
- Transit and Transportation Demand Management Scenario.

Completion of the new Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan is anticipated in 2021 and will include new criteria for determining transportation priorities that are in alignment with the Growth Plan, along with the first set of transportation priorities.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Condition of Success			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)

A fully informed City Council.	Number of focused intergovernmental discussions at Non-Regular Council Meetings.	2 - Non-Regular Council Intergovernmental updates provided in January and October 2020.	No target
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Attachments

1. 2020 AUMA Annual Conference Resolution Voting Results
2. Reference - Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Initiative Information

Others Reviewing this Report

- M. Persson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Corporate Services
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- J. Meliefste, Acting Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- K. Armstrong, Deputy City Manager, Employee Services
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor