

Advancing City Plan:

Systems and Networks

Recommendation

That the February 2, 2021, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_8176, be received for information.

Executive Summary

Administration is working to advance the goals of ConnectEdmonton and the direction of The City Plan. This report provides an overview on the initiatives supporting the three interconnected systems that shape Edmonton and are required for growth - Planning and Design, Mobility and Managing Growth.

These initiatives include developing 15 District Plans, a framework to review and manage the City's existing planning tools, prioritizing future transportation initiatives, advancing mass transit and exploring opportunities to manage Edmonton's growth. Administration will be advancing this work through 2021 and 2022.

Report

Between 2018 and 2020, Edmontonians and the City engaged in the significant effort to plan for Edmonton's future. These plans became ConnectEdmonton and The City Plan, and they contain a shared and hopeful vision for what Edmonton can become. This vision will guide planning for years to come. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has had to adjust to new challenges in pursuit of its goals.

To make these adjustments, Administration is reimagining City Building and focusing planning efforts on implementing the Big City Moves of The City Plan as part of the strategic response to recover from the pandemic and the economic recession.

As part of this work, Administration is advancing initiatives that will update the City's tools and practices for the three systems described in The City Plan: Planning and Design, Mobility and Managing Growth. These initiatives will:

- Prepare district plans for each of the City's 15 districts;
- Modernize Edmonton's City Planning Framework and repeal planning tools that have served their purpose;
- Prioritize Edmonton's future transportation investments in alignment with

Council's Goals and The City Plan;

- Develop guidelines and strategies that help plan future mass transit extensions and new routes that build on the bus network redesign; and
- Create a Growth Management Framework that will support financially efficient, compact city building in priority growth areas using policy, growth prioritization, infrastructure investment, incentives and targeted revenue generation tools to finance growth

This report and its attachments provide an overview of these initiatives and their alignment with The City Plan and ConnectEdmonton.

Planning and Design

District Planning in Edmonton

As Edmonton's population doubles to two million within its existing boundary, the planning and design of communities will become increasingly important. Under The City Plan, a network of 15 districts are identified for further planning to manage growth, create new opportunities for development and deliver great places that add to our city's liveability and vibrancy.

Districts are diverse, accessible collections of neighbourhoods that contain most of the services and amenities Edmontonians rely on to meet their daily needs. They connect residential and employment opportunities, and enhance the ability for Edmontonians to live locally. District planning will help Edmonton become a "Community of Communities" - one of the five "Big City Moves" identified in The City Plan.

Administration has prepared an approach to create the 15 district plans. This work builds on public engagement input and work completed by The City Plan. The approach:

- Defines the purpose and role of district plans;
- Defines district plan content and functional requirements;
- Describes the relationship of district plans to other planning tools (e.g. strategies, geographic plans, guidelines, standards and bylaws) within a modernized City Planning Framework; and
- Describes how Administration will implement district planning in Edmonton.

In addition to district planning, the implementation of the City Plan's green and blue network will include the launch of the River Valley Planning Modernization. This initiative will see harmonization of policies and a fresh approach to how the City plans River Valley for the enjoyment of residents. The work will align with district plans to ensure the river valley and ravine system connects appropriately in each community.

Additional information regarding the approach for district planning and its project timeline is provided in Attachment 1.

City Planning Framework - Implementation

The City Planning Framework was created as an essential part of The City Plan. In order for The City Plan to succeed, other planning documents need to align with it and translate its direction to the specific areas or issues they address. This requires a logical system to simplify and manage both existing and future plans and guidelines.

The City Planning Framework will:

- Reduce the total number of planning tools (e.g. geographic plans, strategies, guidelines) by repealing those that have served their purpose;
- Provide Council, residents, and industry with a simplified planning landscape on which they can base their decisions and achieve City Building goals;
- Create a clear link between planning tools, corporate business planning and budget cycles;
- Define clear roles and accountability so Administration is able to manage workload and priorities related to planning tool maintenance; and
- Develop a clear and simple approach for how planning tools are administered, which can be communicated to all stakeholders.

The City Planning Framework and its project timeline is further described in Attachment 2.

Mobility

In addition to Planning and Design initiatives, a number of different mobility planning projects are underway to advance The City Plan. These include:

- A Mobility Network Assessment that prioritizes the City's future transportation investments;
- Defining strategies required to advance mass transit planning; and
- The Bike Plan Implementation Approach.

Mobility Network Assessment

Administration is undertaking a review of the City's mobility network operations and possible improvements city-wide. The Mobility Network Assessment will analyze the operational performance of both active and non-active modes of travel for the city now and when it grows to 1.25 million residents. Improvement scenarios to enhance network performance in alignment with City Plan targets will be developed and tested as part of this work.

A prioritized list of mobility network improvements will focus on efficiency and implementing City Plan outcomes. The Mobility Network Assessment will result in the development of a prioritization framework that will reflect priorities with The City Plan. Project outcomes will be used to inform Capital Budget processes.

Mass Transit Planning

The City Plan defines the mass transit network necessary to support development and the travel needs of two million Edmontonians. Mass transit planning work will help to further refine details of this network and establish an implementation plan for future mass transit priorities.

An outcome of mass transit planning will be recommendations for mass transit options for a population of 1.25 and 1.5 million residents. Scenarios to enhance network performance in alignment with City Plan will be developed and tested.

The second component of mass transit planning is preparation for preliminary route selection and the development of planning and design guidelines. This will provide unified guidance on route selection processes and design guidance for mass transit technologies, including high-floor LRT, BRT, Trams, and potential future technologies.

Integration of Mobility Options: Intermodal Hubs

Creating intermodal hubs that serve as critical origin, destination and transfer points within the mobility system is an element of City Plan implementation that combines mobility and land use. A summary of this work is presented in the February 2, 2021, Urban Planning Committee report CR_4887, Intermodal Hubs - Next Steps.

Bike Plan Implementation

The Bike Plan provides guidance for how the bike network will grow and identifies actions to better support biking in Edmonton. The Bike Plan Implementation Approach (a supplemental document to the Bike Plan) prioritizes projects and initiatives, and identifies resources associated with each priority. The Bike Plan Implementation Approach will be presented to Urban Planning Committee through a subsequent report in 2021.

Managing Growth

Along with planning and design, and mobility systems, managing growth is essential in achieving The City Plan's city building outcomes and realizing the Big City Moves. In response to anticipated growth and the need to adapt the City's activation approach, Administration is scoping the growth management program. This scoping project, and the larger growth management program, is described in the February 1, 2021, Urban

Form and Corporate Strategic Development report UFCSD00098, *Growth Management Framework*. Other work on growth management is presented in the February 1, 2021, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_8034, *Growth Investment Strategy*.

The results of this growth management work will inform future budgets and other implementation initiatives of The City Plan.

Implementation Integration

The initiatives highlighted in this report will build upon the foundation of The City Plan and advance the goals of ConnectEdmonton. Additional City Plan implementation work is described in the February 2, 2021, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report UFCSD00140, *City Plan Implementation - Moving Forward with Focus*. Together, these reports describe how Administration is aligning initiatives and business planning to make the goals of The City Plan a reality.

The City Plan provides both a new Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan. This offers both a challenge and an opportunity to reorient the City’s work towards a shared vision for these domains. This will require both a change in how the City operates internally and in how the City works with partners, businesses, post-secondary institutions and residents. Together, these efforts will transform the way the city grows, how residents travel, and further improve the quality of life Edmontonians enjoy.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

| Corporate Outcome(s): Edmonton is attractive and compact; Edmontonians use public transit and active modes of transportation; Goods and Services move efficiently | | | |
|--|---|------------------|--|
| Outcome(s) | Measure(s) | Result(s) | Target(s) |
| Edmontonians have the ability to live locally, with access to diverse and affordable housing options in communities that support their daily needs | See Community of Communities in the City Plan | To be determined | 15 minute districts that allow people to easily complete their daily needs |
| Edmontonians live closer to what they need and are supported by walkable communities, active transportation networks and greater connectivity across all travel modes | See Community of Communities in the City Plan | To be determined | 50 percent of trips are made by transit and active transportation |
| Edmonton’s growth and development mutually benefit the city and region | See A Rebuildable City in the City Plan | To be determined | 50 percent of new units added through infill city-wide |

Attachments

1. District Planning Approach in Edmonton
2. City Planning Framework Implementation

Others Reviewing this Report

- M. Persson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor