

## Update: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

**Initiative Title: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board**

**City Council Lead(s): Mayor D. Iveson, Councillor M. Walters**

**Department Lead(s): Deputy City Manager Catrin Owen, Chief Advisor Y.Oke,  
Senior Policy Advisor A. McCalla**

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**Objective:** The overarching objective of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board 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 January 2019

- **Implementation of the new growth plan “Re-imagine. Plan. Build. Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Growth Plan”**
  - Implementation of the Growth Plan is ongoing, including 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 in more detail below.
  - The Regional Evaluation Framework (REF) Working Group continues its work to address the June 14, 2018 EMR Board motion which sought more comprehensive guidelines for implementation to help create certainty in regards to amendments to grandfathered plans. The Working Group also seeks to address challenges facing municipalities as a result of the REF process as they advance development within their jurisdictions.
- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Servicing Plan**
  - The EMRB Regulation requires the development of a Regional Servicing Plan to identify the services required to support the goals of, and to implement, the Growth Plan; to support the optimization of responsible growth; to facilitate orderly, economical and environmentally responsible growth; and to coordinate planning and decisions regarding services among member municipalities to ensure the optimization of ratepayer dollars.
  - The Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan Task Force, on which Mayor Iveson is the City representative, has completed environmental scans of the current state in the region in the following subject areas:
    - Transportation, including regional transit
    - Waste, wastewater and stormwater
    - Solid waste
    - Emergency services (Fire)
  - Based on the results of the environmental scans, which were presented to the Task Force in October, the next steps will include closer examination of Solid Waste, Emergency Services - specifically Haz Mat and Emergency

Management, and Stormwater. The EMRB has proposed 5-7 person Technical Working Groups to focus on each of these areas and to make recommendations to the Task Force. This work will occur over the coming months.

- o The Environmental Scan Report is scheduled to be on the agenda for the February 14 Board Meeting following its deferral at the December Board. It is expected that the next steps noted above will be provided to the Board at that time.

- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Agriculture Master Plan**

- o In support of the Growth Plan, the Regional Agriculture Master Plan will seek to conserve an adequate land supply of agriculture land, minimize fragmentation of land, and promote diversification and value-added production within the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.
- o The EMRB has identified that the focus of work over the next four months by the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Working Group (Administration level) and the Task Force (on which Councillor Walters is the City's representative) will be regarding policy on fragmentation and conversion of agricultural land. They will be seeking to determine a region-wide policy framework to reduce the impacts of fragmentation and conversion on agriculture.
- o An update on the Regional Agriculture Master Plan is scheduled to go to the February Board Meeting following deferral at the December Board.

- **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Task Force**

- o At the December Board Meeting, the Board voted to establish a Shared Investment For Shared Benefit Task Force, consisting of the complete Board membership. The intent of this structure is to allow for input and involvement from all member municipalities, within a consensus-based voting structure.
- o The ultimate goal of the Shared Investment for Shared Benefit Project, as identified in the Task Force Charter passed at the December 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."