



Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

Media Release

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) Launches Final Phase of Public Engagement

March 17, 2021 - The third and final phase of public engagement for the Calgary Metro Region's growth plan is set to launch on Thursday. The regional growth plan will lay out how the 10 municipalities in the Region will work together to plan for their next million residents. Two previous phases of public engagement in 2020 supported the development of the current draft plan, which describes where and how new development will take place in the Region.

This third phase of public engagement is happening from March 18 - April 8, 2021 and includes online engagement and virtual open houses. "We're looking forward to sharing the draft plan with the public through this last phase of engagement," said Greg Clark, Chair of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB). "This plan is about approaching growth and new development differently than we have in the past, so we want to be sure that people in our communities know what's being proposed and have the chance to tell us if they're comfortable with the direction we're heading."

The key features of the draft plan are having "Preferred Growth Areas" and "Preferred Placetypes", which essentially say that new development will only happen in prescribed areas of the Region rather than happening anywhere a municipality or developer chooses, with a few exceptions.

"We see so many benefits from working across municipalities to find ways to share services and make the best use of the natural resources in the Region," said Clark. "Less land consumed for development, fewer cars on the road meaning lower GHG emissions, and lower costs for roads and other infrastructure are just some of the outcomes we expect to see from this plan, not to mention more vibrant and diverse communities."

Following this phase of public engagement, the Board will finalize the growth and servicing plans. These final plans must be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs by June 1, 2021.

The CMRB invites Albertans to visit calgarymetroregion.ca to join the conversation online, and register to attend one of a few virtual open houses between now and April 8.

For more details about the regional growth plan and the public engagement process or to learn more about the CMRB, please visit calgarymetroregion.ca.

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The CMRB's mandate is to support the long-term sustainability of the Calgary Metropolitan Region. The Calgary Metropolitan Region includes the following ten municipalities: City of Airdrie, City of Calgary, City of Chestermere, Town of Cochrane, Foothills County, Town of High River, Town of Okotoks, Rocky View County, Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County (portion).

For further information:



Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

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Background Information

What's included in the draft Regional Growth Plan?

The draft plan is based on a core belief that successful places – whether neighbourhoods, towns, urban districts or metropolitan regions – must be diverse in uses and users, must be scaled to the pedestrian and human interaction, and must be environmentally sustainable. These values were matched with input from the public and municipal administration to arrive at a **draft Regional Growth Plan that includes these two key features:**

- **Preferred Placetypes** to increase density and mixed use development; and
- **Preferred Growth Areas** to focus development in specific parts of the region.

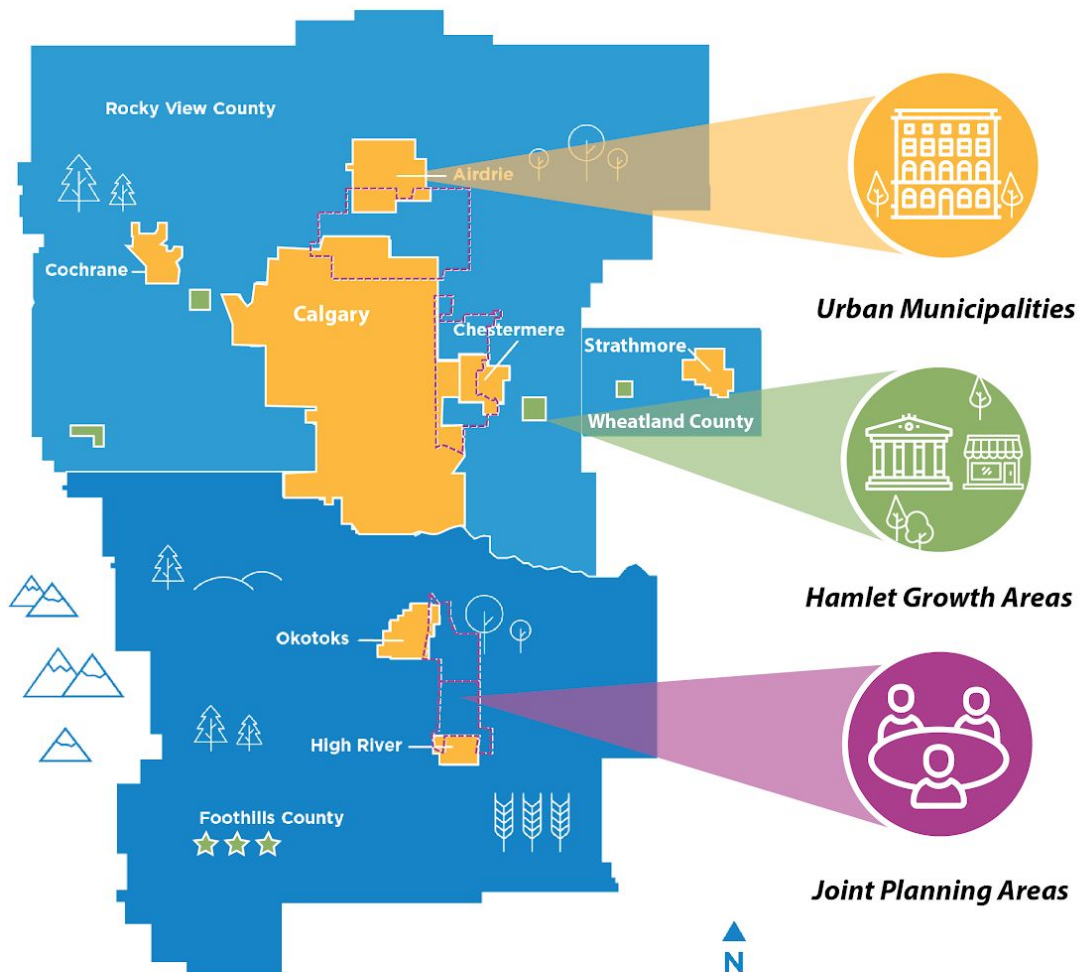
Visit calgarymetroregion.ca to see more detail about what's included in the draft plan and why it was included. Together, these features create a draft plan that prioritizes the following approach to growth for the Calgary Metro Region:

- Planned growth areas leads to more efficient and cost-effective servicing;
- Conserving agricultural land and resources; and
- Having fully serviced neighborhoods and employment areas where people will be able to walk to everyday needs or take transit for longer-distance trips.

The map below illustrates the Regional Growth Structure that's proposed in the draft plan.



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★ ★ ★ There will be three Hamlet Growth Areas in Foothills County yet to be determined.



How was the draft Regional Growth Plan developed?

Over the last year and half, representatives from the ten municipalities in the Calgary Metro Region have been working together to lay the foundation for the Regional Growth Plan.

The CMRB selected the internationally-recognized regional planning firm HDR|Calthorpe to develop the Growth Plan in consultation with member municipalities under the leadership of the Board.

HDR|Calthorpe is a pioneer in the development and implementation of regional plans that support diverse, walkable, sustainable, vibrant, environmentally responsible, mixed-use communities across the world. The firm's long history of high-quality urban design and regional planning give their designers, planners and engineers the skills and vision to build the Growth Plan for the Calgary Metro Region.

The Regional Growth Plan process revolves around three main stages:

- Stage 1: Information Gathering and Visioning
- Stage 2: Regional Scenarios
- Stage 3: Policy Draft and Adoption

We are currently at the end of Stage 3. A draft Regional Growth Plan has been developed and we're looking to hear from the public about the choices that have been made in the draft plan. Public engagement was an important part of the development of the draft plan throughout Stages 2 and 3. [Click here](#) for the What We Heard Reports from [Phase 1](#) and [Phase 2](#) of public engagement

How has public input been used in the development of the draft plan and how will public input be used in decisions about the final Regional Growth Plan?

The first phase of public engagement in the summer of 2020 helped us determine "what" should be included in the Regional Growth Plan because we learned about which outcomes of regional planning were most important to our communities. [Click here](#) to read the What We Heard Report from Phase 1.

The second phase of public engagement in November of 2020 helped us refine "how" the desired outcomes could be achieved through policies and implementation that reflects the unique interests of communities in the Calgary Metro Region. [Click here](#) to read the What We Heard Report from Phase 2.

This third phase of public engagement is for the Board to gather input on the ideas and choices that have been made in the draft plan. This phase of engagement offers the opportunity for the public and all stakeholders to share their thoughts on the plan to manage growth differently than we have in the past.

The Board will use what is heard through this process as one of a few considerations in its decision-making process about the final Regional Growth Plan. Along with public input, the CMRB will also consider input from municipal administration, regional planning best practices, and its own vision for the future of the Calgary Metro Region to arrive at a final Regional Growth Plan that will be submitted to the province by June 1, 2021.