



Media Release

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

November 5, 2020 – We’ve heard from people across the region about what is important to them about planning for the next million residents in the Calgary Metro Region. “The Town of High River appreciates everyone who took the opportunity to share their views on how this region can grow to meet future needs during the first round of engagement,” says High River Mayor Craig Snodgrass. “It is vitally important that all stakeholders – residents, business owners and developers – share their opinions. I encourage everyone in the High River area to take part and contribute to the plan to make this a thriving, world class area.”

The next round of engagement on the regional growth plan is happening from November 5 – 27, 2020. “I’m grateful for the rigorous community engagement process that’s been developed for the CMRB Regional Growth Plan. As this next phase begins and our residents learn more about the proposed scenario, we’ll be encouraging our communities to share their input once again. I know that by welcoming feedback at many points in the process we’re developing a plan that truly reflects the needs of our region,” said Town of Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule.

Public input helped to shape the proposed approach for managing growth in the Region and now we’re asking the public to share their views on how the proposed approach may be implemented. “The idea of all regional communities working together, strongly, with a shared vision to make our region the most robust, most prosperous, and economically viable, is long overdue. Working with our neighbours, whether over a fence or across municipal boundaries, is critical to building healthy communities and prosperous regions. The proposed regional growth scenario is one step towards a solid plan for the Calgary region and we invite residents to share their feedback on this scenario. Together, we can create a plan that will ensure the long term success of all 10 communities in the Calgary region,” said Mayor Marshall Chalmers of Chestermere.

The CMRB wants to hear from Albertans living and working in the Calgary Metro Region to share their thoughts on the proposed approach for the region. Help to shape the plan for implementation and policy development. “As we continue to work on developing a regional growth plan for the Calgary Metro Region, we need to ensure that the voices of Cochrane residents and business owners are heard,” said Mayor Genung, Town of Cochrane. “The growth plan will support the long-term economic, environmental and social-well being of the region. The updated draft suggests where infrastructure investments will be made and where further residential, commercial and industrial development will occur. This plan impacts us all. Ensure your voice is heard.”

The CMRB invites Albertans to visit calgarymetroregion.ca to join the conversation online, and register to attend a virtual open house on November 17.

“Good planning and infrastructure investment is required to effectively and efficiently accommodate another one million people in the Calgary region over the next 50 years. The well thought out decisions



we make today will ensure that the Calgary region continues to be a location of choice well into the future," said Airdrie Mayor Peter Brown.

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

--

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:

Jordon Copping

CMRB, Chief Officer

403.213.6886

jcopping@calgarymetroregion.ca



Background Information

How is the Regional Growth Plan being developed?

Over the last year, 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 has 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, vibrant, sustainable, 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 Metropolitan Region.

The Regional Growth Plan process revolves around three main stages:

- Stage 1: Information Gathering
- Stage 2: Regional Scenarios
- Stage 3: Policy and Plan Development

We are currently in the middle of Stage 3. Between July 24 and September 4, 2020, we received public input on three potential scenarios for managing growth in the region.

Based on what we heard from the public, input from municipal staff, and best practices for regional planning, HDR|Calthorpe is recommending a proposed approach for managing growth in the Calgary Metro Region. The proposed approach will inform policy development for the final Regional Growth Plan that will be presented to the CMRB for approval in early 2021.

How was public input used in the development of the proposed approach?

In the first phase of public engagement, we offered a number of ways for community members to tell us what matters to you in planning for the next million residents to come to the Calgary Metro Region. A full "What We Heard" report will be available at the end of November, but the key themes that we heard from the public that informed the proposed approach are listed below:

- Create more density and decrease sprawl
- Work with what we have
- Maintain choice and diversity of options for residents
- Transit that is well-planned and affordable
- Stronger collaboration while maintaining autonomy
- Consider environmental implications of development
- Provide guidelines for developers
- Leverage regional scope to promote economic development

In the Discussion Forum topics on the engagement website, we describe how different elements of the proposed approach reflect key themes from the first phase of public engagement.



Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

How will public input be used in the development of the final Regional Growth Plan?

This phase of public engagement is less about “what” should be included in the growth plan, and more about “how” community members would like to see the proposed approach implemented. What we hear through the Discussion Forum topics and Survey will help guide what’s included in the policies for managing growth in the region.

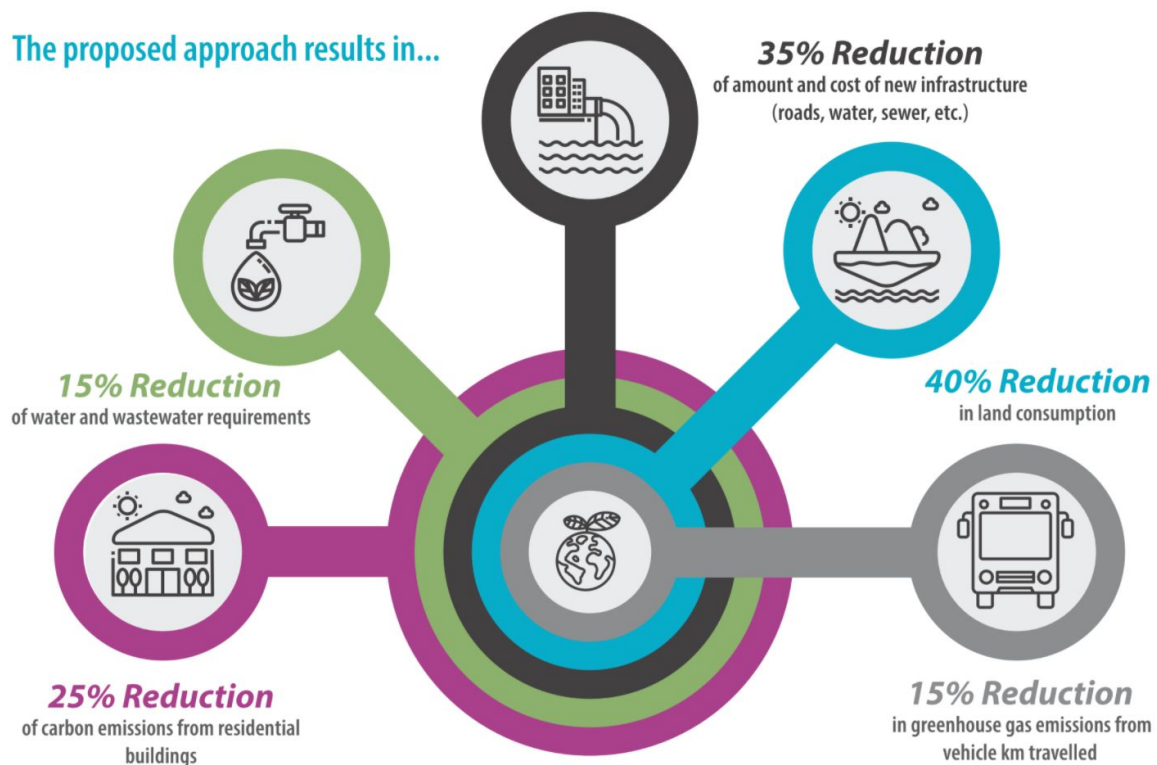
Why should we approach growth differently than we have in the past?

In the first phase of public engagement, we heard that members of the Calgary Metro Region community want us to manage growth differently than we have in the past. Citizens want to see us grow differently to decrease environmental impact, decrease costs associated with urban sprawl, support vibrant communities, and be generally more efficient with our resources.

The proposed approach included in this phase of public engagement combines elements of the scenarios that were shared in phase 1, with the most contribution from what was Scenario 3 (Transit-Oriented Development). Based on the analysis of the proposed approach (Scenario 3 - Transit-Oriented Development) against growing the way we always have (Scenario 1 - Business As Usual), we expect to see a number of economic and environmental benefits for our region, shown below.

This summer, you told us you want less land consumption, more public transit, less water use, higher density communities, and less money spent on new infrastructure.

The proposed approach results in...





What is the proposed approach for managing growth in the Calgary Metro Region?

Leading regional planning expert Peter Calthorpe and the team at HDR|Calthorpe recommends the proposed approach, which applies a core belief that successful places – whether neighborhoods, counties, towns, urban districts, rural 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 proposed approach that has three key characteristics: Place Type Allocation, Transit-Ready Corridors, and Joint Planning Areas