



Sept 2016: Crucial Growth Plan vote culmination of 30 months' work

Following a journey that represents a master class in regional collaboration, the Capital Region Board is poised to make a decision on its transformational Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan at its meeting October 13, 2016

If approved, it will be delivered as promised by October 31 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for provincial sanction and authorization.

While there is much to say, and that will be said, about the Plan's thorough research, its adherence to the principle of regionalism where everyone can win, and its remarkable update of the current plan, which is itself a tribute to this Board's commitment to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, I am most struck by what it will deliver in the course of just 30 years.

In contrast to current density targets, this plan's bold vision will save the Region \$5 billion dollars in land and infrastructure costs. That is the equivalent of 300 schools, or five years worth of roads and bridges.*

It will save 160 km² or 250 quarter sections of land. That that is the equivalent of the size of Spruce Grove, St. Albert, Sherwood Park and Bruderheim today - combined!

Conceived in context of a clear 50 year vision for a thriving, sustainable and prosperous Region, these are measurable targets that make this Plan more than a collection of hopes and dreams.

It is a real plan for real results for a really great region.

**based on the 2016 Alberta Budget investment over the next five years.*

Malcolm Bruce, MSM
CRB CEO

Quick & Noteworthy

Board tackles energy issues: It's our coastline too!

At the September 8, 2016 Board meeting, two resolutions were passed to emphasize the need for pipelines to revitalize the Albertan and Canadian economies. One directed the Chair to send a letter to the National Energy Board to express regional support for the Energy East pipeline. A second motion called for the expression of regional concern for the consultation process now underway on a tanker ban on the BC coast. To that end, a letter from the Board Chair was published in the Globe & Mail September 27, noting first the truncated six-week window and lack of notification that define this consultation process, and secondly underscoring that the need to ensure Alberta oil gets to tidewater is a national issue:

While we do not live on the coast, the potential impact of this ban to our way of life is just as profound. In his mandate letter, Mr. Trudeau said "it is important that we acknowledge mistakes when we make them. Canadians do not expect us to be perfect – they expect us to be honest, open and sincere in our efforts to serve the public interest. For that reason, the Capital Region Board, on behalf of the 1.2 million Canadians we serve, invite Ottawa to speak with us."

Emergent motions on the Tanker Ban issue are expected to be raised at AUMA Annual Convention Oct 5-7.

Complete Communities Symposium another success

A sellout crowd of regional stakeholders tackled the question of 'What makes a neighbourhood a true community?' at the 5th Capital Region Board ReEnvision Complete Communities Symposium September 15 in Morinville. Held at the Morinville Cultural Centre, the event explored the issue of housing in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region from the perspective of Complete Communities, a concept developed in the upcoming Edmonton Metropolitan Growth Plan. This year the Symposium also featured the announcement of the winners of the Our Affordable Future Challenge, the Board initiative to select pilot projects focused on innovative, sustainable, and livable housing that integrates into the community.

Municipal regional collaboration

The CEOs of the province's key municipal organizations have decided to meet quarterly to informally discuss issues of mutual interest and determine common objectives where relevant. Among these topics identified by the Association of Alberta Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMDC), the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and CRB were: City Charters, the MGA review, responsible growth, and sustainable funding. The group has now met twice and will look to gather again before the end of the year.

Important engagement with Federal Minister

Following the September Board meeting a group of about 15 Board members met for lunch and a Q&A with the Hon. Navdeep Singh Bains, federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. The discussion focused on municipal innovation re: economic

development and broadband, amongst other topics. The Minister hosted the session as part of his cross-country consultation tour.

Growth Plan information and advocacy top AMC agenda

With the consideration of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan scheduled for the October 13 Board meeting, the Advocacy & Monitoring Committee has undertaken an information sharing initiative to bring the details of the Plan's goals and outcomes to the key members of the Alberta Cabinet. If the Plan passes at the Board, AMC will book meetings over the next six weeks to share relevant and mutual wins: responsible regional growth with \$5 billion in land and infrastructure savings over 30 years, and the preservation of 250 quarter sections, which translates to an area the size of Spruce Grove, St; Albert, Sherwood Park and Bruderheim combined.