

BILD Calgary's Response to KCB's Recommendations

1. The City should not amend the city-wide first-response target time requirements in the SLRTT in any way that would expand the current response time target in serviced areas.
BILD CR supports this statement
2. Encourage growth in areas currently serviced by Calgary Fire that already meet the responsetime requirements of the SLRTT.
BILD CR believes that all decisions related to growth must be considered on their own merit, and assumes that this condition has been applied in the past, and will continue in the future. We would not wish to see this statement applied in such a way that 'encourages' growth in particular areas by denying growth in another.
3. Development in presently un-serviced areas must be contiguous with areas presently serviced by Calgary Fire.
BILD CR supports this statement as it matches a (previously agreed to) growth framework principle, provided the definition and interpretation of "contiguous" remains consistent with the definition already established and agreed to between BILD and the Growth Strategies team.
4. New development must only be permitted in areas where future Fire Department servicing is planned in the foreseeable future.
BILD CR does not support this statement. Fire is a lagging infrastructure need, and future servicing should be directed by the Growth Framework, not the Fire Department in isolation, and not with wording that is set out as rigidly as this statement ('must only be permitted in areas...').
5. When approving growth in an area where the SLRTT cannot be met, establish firm points that trigger new, staffed fire stations. The trigger points will be area specific and will be based on number of factors such as occupied buildings (tax base), road networks in place, availability of fire response from adjacent areas and distribution and concentration of buildings.
BILD CR does not support this statement as written, but is willing to further discuss this principle. Trigger points can be determined, but without further discussion it is presumptive to state absolutely that the points "will" be area specific or that they "will" be based on the points listed. An interpretation of what constitutes 'firm points' also require discussion and agreement.
6. If growth is permitted in areas where the SLRTT cannot be met, sprinklers must be required in all buildings, not just homes, which fall outside of a 10-minute first response time, in accordance with the Alberta Building Code.
BILD CR does not support this statement as presented. BILD agrees that we need to look at how growth might occur in areas where the SLRTT cannot be met, however more discussion on how and where sprinklers are used and mandated is critical. There is also a need to discuss how sprinklers would be phased out as these areas begin to fall within the SLRTT over time – this need is temporary.

BILD Calgary's Response to KCB's Recommendations

7. The pace of growth within new areas should be considered prior to issuing approvals for development. A rapidly growing area will acquire the tax base necessary to support emergency services more quickly.
BILD CR does not support this statement. The pace of growth is determined by the market and should not be tied to the issuing of various development approvals or permits.
8. Distribution of growth should be considered when issuing permits. Concentrated growth is easier to service than growth allowed to progress in a "patchwork" fashion.
BILD CR does not support this statement. What is the definition of 'patchwork'? This statement is poorly worded and is disconnected from how development occurs in Calgary, especially as tied to permit approvals. BILD supports growth in a manner that delivers choice and affordability to consumers. "Distribution of growth" should not be the purpose of a DP.
9. The City of Calgary may wish to propose an amendment to the Alberta Building Code to mandate residential sprinklers for all new construction for developments where fire department response time is less than 10 minutes.
BILD CR opposes this statement. No changes to the Building code should be made, as this begins to impact building requirements in the region, in rural areas and across the Province into other municipal jurisdictions. Further, the wording to state "where fire department response time is less than 10 minutes" is poorly worded – that could mean sprinklers are required if the response time is 1 minute.
10. The City should encourage builders and developers in growth areas, where response times fall between the SLRTT and the 10-minute threshold covered under the ABC, to install sprinklers in all buildings.
BILD CR does not support this statement. See 6.
11. The City should undergo a new Fire Underwriters Survey. Any potential costs to the residents and businesses as a result of amending the SLRTT in growth areas, in the form of increased insurance premiums, will be identified in the resultant report.
BILD CR questions the clarity of this statement: is this in the context of growth occurring beyond the SLRTT without any mitigation? If sprinklers are introduced, would this not reduce insurance premiums?
12. The Calgary Fire Department and the City of Calgary 911 Centre must enter into a service level agreement to ensure all time benchmarks are accurately captured for the Calgary Fire Department.
Does this statement require a definitive 'must'? BILD CR can support this statement, provided that benchmarks are captured across the City, with regular reporting back to Council and available to public. The reporting should be publicly available if growth decisions are to be tied to benchmark performance.
13. The current SLRTT call handling time should be increased from 60 seconds to 64 seconds to

BILD Calgary's Response to KCB's Recommendations

align with the latest revision to NFPA 1221.

BILD CR has no comment on this statement, but questions whether this additional 4 seconds will impact the overall SLRTT response time.