

**ALBERTA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC INITIATIVES GRANT APPLICATION -
INTERIM GROWTH PLAN AND REGIONAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE
CALGARY METROPOLITAN REGION BOARD**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Calgary has been asked by our regional partners to support a grant application to the Government of Alberta for an interim growth plan and regional evaluation framework for the new Calgary Metropolitan Board. The managing partner in the application is The City of Airdrie. The City of Calgary, along with most members of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, will be program partners.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council direct Administration to support an Alberta Community Partnership Strategic Initiatives Grant Application for an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and Regional Evaluation Framework for the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, DATED
2017 JUNE 08:**

That Council approve the Administration Recommendation contained in Report IGA2017-0537.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

2017 January 23, in-camera report IGA2017-0030, Council approved The City of Calgary submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs – Response to the Growth Management Board Regulation Discussion Guide.

2016 March 7, in-camera report IGA2026-0160, Council approved the City of Calgary submission to Minister of Municipal Affairs – Growth Management Board (Metropolitan Board) for the Calgary Region;

BACKGROUND

In 2015 September, the Minister of Municipal Affairs announced that the Province would move forward with a mandatory Growth Management Board for the Calgary region. From 2017 January – 2017 March, The City participated in five engagement sessions hosted by Municipal Affairs and focused on the regulations for the forthcoming Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB). These engagement sessions uncovered an issue of significant concern for The City of Calgary and other future members of the board.

The regulations will require a mandatory metropolitan region growth plan to be developed by 2020. However, during the interim, between the establishment of the CMRB (this Fall) and the adoption of the new plan in 2020, there will be no metropolitan scaled planning guidance. This gap in planning and policy guidance will negatively impact The City's interests in developing a well planned and sustainable region. In order to address this three year planning gap, it is proposed that The City of Calgary, in partnership with other municipal members of the CMRB, apply for Alberta Municipal Affairs grant that will fund the development of an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and Interim Regional Evaluation Framework.

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The City's previous submission to Municipal Affairs in January 2017 raised the issue regarding a potential gap and identified the need for either a municipal or provincial response.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Alberta Municipal Affairs is responsible for administering the Alberta Community Partnership Program (ACP). The Strategic Initiatives component of the program provides funding for initiatives that align with provincial priorities and address intermunicipal needs of strategic significance. A requirement to apply for the ACP grant is that all partner municipalities pass a Council resolution in support of the application. Municipal Affairs has encouraged member municipalities to make the grant application and the City of Airdrie has offered to be the Managing Partner for the grant application.

It is envisioned that the Interim Plan will be grounded in the principles contained in the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. The CMRB and the Minister of Municipal Affairs will need to adopt the Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan once completed. The grant funding will be used to develop the plan, facilitate member municipalities, and develop the objective criteria that will be used by the CMRB when local plans are reviewed for alignment (Interim Regional Evaluation Framework).

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

At the meeting of Municipal Affairs with future CMRB elected officials (April 26, 2017) there was agreement between the Mayors, Reeves and Minister that an Interim Metropolitan Growth Plan was important and that the existing Calgary Metropolitan Plan would be an appropriate starting point for discussion.

The City of Airdrie invited CAOs and representatives of the CMRB member municipalities to a meeting to discuss mutual interest in applying for grant funding to develop an Interim Metropolitan Growth Plan and Interim Regional Evaluation Framework. The City of Calgary expressed support as did the majority of future municipal members. It was discussed that the grant application should proceed and the project be supported with the establishment of a technical committee and steering committee to guide the plan making efforts.

Strategic Alignment

The Municipal Development Plan states in Policy 1.3.2 and Policy 5.C.5 that The City is aligned with the aspirations of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

The Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework (October 2011) under the heading of Smart Growth Framework states that "*The City works with its regional partners to ensure that growth is managed effectively to achieve the goal of long-term urban sustainability.*"

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Regional planning supported by a metropolitan scaled plan will help protect key environments, provide the basis of a competitive region, and protect citizen quality of life over the long term.

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Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no known operating budget impacts associated with this report. At the time of writing this report the application has not been fully completed. It is anticipated that The City will rely upon existing staff capacity to support the plan preparation and that there are no matching funds required.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no implications to the capital budget associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

Without an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and Regional Evaluation Framework there is a significant risk of the establishment of inefficient and unsustainable development patterns within the broader metropolitan region.

Without an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan there will be significant uncertainty created for landowners and developers. The interim plan will allow statutory plans to move forward where they are aligned and will also signal that the Calgary region continues to be receptive to investment.

With an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and Regional Evaluation Framework certain City of Calgary statutory plans will be required to be reviewed for alignment to the interim plan by the CMRB. There is a degree of risk to The City's statutory plans as some of them will require additional steps in order to be considered by Calgary Council.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The City of Calgary has significant concerns that the time frame for developing the Calgary Metropolitan Region Growth Plan is too long. In the three year period, by the time this plan is adopted by the CMRB and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, many critical decisions will have already been made and established. In order to achieve more efficient and sustainable development patterns for the Calgary metropolitan region an Interim Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and Regional Evaluation Framework is necessary.

Alberta Municipal Affairs requires Council direction from all participating Councils confirming support for the project as part of the grant application process.