

Calgary Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Calgary Plan to Council for approval. The Calgary Plan will replace the Municipal Development Plan and Calgary Transportation Plan as Calgary's highest-level statutory plan for land use and mobility. This report also includes recommendations for actions necessary to support the implementation of the Calgary Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2022 February 15, Council approved the City Planning and Policy Roadmap (IP2022-0053) which included a description and schedule for the Calgary Plan. Additional information is found in Previous Council Direction and Background (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Infrastructure and Planning Committee forward this report to the 2025 February 4 Public Hearing Meeting of Council.
2. That the Infrastructure and Planning Committee recommends that Council:
 - a. Give FIRST READING to the proposed bylaw 1P2025, the proposed Calgary Plan (Attachment 2);
 - b. WITHHOLD second and third readings of the proposed bylaw 1P2025 until the Calgary Plan has been approved by the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, if such approval is required;
 - c. Direct that, upon third reading of proposed Bylaw 1P2025, the policies as set out in Attachment 3 are therefore REPEALED;
 - d. Direct Administration to return to Council with recommended amendments to the Area Redevelopment Plans identified in Attachment 3, when proposed Bylaw 1P2025 is ready for second and third reading.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Stuart Dalglish and General Manager Debra Hamilton concur with this report. The Calgary Plan reinforces Calgary's long-term vision for land use and mobility, simplifies our policy landscape and provides practical approaches to addressing Calgarians' priorities for an affordable, resilient and well-connected city.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Addresses the needs of a growing city** - The Calgary Plan addresses the challenges and opportunities we face as Calgary becomes a city of two million people: to be affordable, to have a strong economy and to continue to be the most livable city in North America.
- **Provides long-range vision** - The Calgary Plan provides the future vision of our city, specifically for how we will use land and get around the city over the next thirty years.
- **Creates simple to use policy** - The Calgary Plan provides a clear and consolidated policy framework to guide and enable growth, which will create increased certainty for developers, builders, businesses and Calgarians. It will support streamlined approvals, a healthy and diverse housing supply and a business-friendly approach to growth and development.

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- **Incorporates public feedback** - We engaged more than 21,000 people over the last year, from all walks of life, to understand what was most important to Calgarians. That feedback has helped shape the Calgary Plan.
- **Up-to-date policy** - The Calgary Plan incorporates Council's strategic priorities, as well as recently approved plans and strategies, into one central decision-making platform.
- **Complies provincial and regional requirements** - The Calgary Plan meets the requirements outlined in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board's (CMRB) Growth Plan.
- **Drives implementation** - This report outlines a summary of next steps in Attachment 3 to ensure seamless transition for Calgarians, industry members and planning staff to quickly adopt any adjusted or new policies.

DISCUSSION

Why the Calgary Plan is Important

The Calgary Plan is a shared roadmap to navigate from the Calgary of today to the Calgary of tomorrow. It is an important update to Calgary's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) and sets the vision that guides land use and mobility planning in Calgary for the next thirty years. While the Calgary Plan has been simplified and modernized, it carries forward the vision and many policies from the current Plans. The Calgary Plan directs growth strategically to help ensure Calgary maintains livability, affordability and competitiveness. The key directions, goals, outcomes and foundations are laid out in Calgary Today, Calgary Tomorrow (Attachment 4), which will live alongside the Calgary Plan.

What's new in the Calgary Plan?

The Calgary Plan has reaffirmed the future vision of Calgary through public engagement and has three simplified goals: People, Economy and Environment. The Calgary Plan is more user friendly, uses plain language and provides a simpler policy framework. It drives certainty and enables better outcomes through fewer and clearer policies. It also now fully integrates the CTP, providing a holistic decision-making approach for growth, land use, mobility, servicing and investment. The Plan aligns with the CMRB Growth Plan, including alignment with preferred Placetypes, minimum densities and key policy themes. Finally, Calgary Plan aligns with Council's Strategic Direction. Attachment 5 outlines more details on Calgary Plan policy inputs.

Additional Policy Actions

Subject to Council's approval, several actions will need to be taken following third reading of the bylaw to ensure outdated policies are repealed and other policies and plans are updated to align with the newly adopted Calgary Plan. A Calgary Plan implementation guide will also be created. Details on these next steps can be found in Attachment 3.

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EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Over the last year, more than 21,000 Calgarians were engaged on the Calgary Plan, including equity-deserving groups and Indigenous peoples. Engagement was rooted in best practices, and was accessible, convenient, equitable and adaptable. Approaches included pop-up events held in shopping malls and recreation centres to meet Calgarians where they were at. It also included conversations held at Fair Entry and transit pass locations, as well as with youth and persons with limited mobility, in order to reach Calgarians who are historically underrepresented in engagement. The program included traditional online and in-person open houses across Calgary, coordinated with other engagement occurring at the same time to reduce engagement fatigue. Engagement was continually updated to improve reach and accessibility.

From these sessions, we heard what was most important to Calgarians: A passion for parks and natural spaces, the importance of building housing and commerce closer to transit, and a focus on accessible, reliable supporting infrastructure. This feedback was directly incorporated into the Calgary Plan. More details about this can be found in Attachment 6, which summarizes engagement tactics including a What We Did report that links community input to actions taken by the project team. Attachment 7 outlines engagement with Indigenous peoples on the Calgary Plan and how it supports The City's advancement of Truth and Reconciliation.

IMPLICATIONS

The Calgary Plan's three goals emphasize what the Calgary Plan will mean for Calgarians.

Social

This goal emphasizes a Calgary that creates safe, healthy and vibrant places for people of all backgrounds and abilities. This means Calgary will be a city where people have access to resources and opportunities, including housing affordability, essential services, public amenities and mobility options. This goal ensures Calgary will continue to be a city where all can thrive.

Environment

This goal calls for a Calgary that respects and protects natural systems. This means a future Calgary that will have a healthy and integrated natural system, sustainable water resource management and access to nature throughout the city. It also means that Calgary will continue to make progress on climate mitigation and adaptation, reducing costs for Calgarians and The City from extreme weather events, and the protection of our natural environment.

Economy

This goal aims for a robust, competitive and diverse economy supporting innovation and opportunity for all. This means a Calgary that continues to be the economic engine of the region, with new businesses across different industries adding new jobs and opportunities that respond to changing markets. This includes traditional business and industry sectors, new and emerging industries, as well as the arts, culture and recreation sectors.

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Service and Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

RISK

Legal

The CMRB established a Growth Plan in 2022, requiring municipalities to align their Municipal Development Plans to the Growth Plan by 2025 August. The Calgary Plan fulfills this requirement. However, The Government of Alberta has made statements indicating that it will no longer fund the CMRB and may make further changes. It is not clear at this time if this will result in a change to the statutory Growth Plan or Calgary's obligations. Administration will monitor this situation and update Council as needed.

Strategic

The Calgary Plan has been updated to align with Council approved policies and has been streamlined to reduce the number of policies. It has also coordinated with upcoming plans, including Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan, to ensure coordination and to reduce planning complexities. Delays to the Calgary Plan would risk policy misalignment with parallel projects.

Reputational

Meeting the expectations of all interested parties in a comprehensive policy like the Calgary Plan is a challenge. The Calgary Plan aims to address as many needs and expectations as possible from industry, community members, Indigenous peoples, partners and other orders of government. Administration has worked hard to balance feedback from all sources, while adhering to Council direction, and to explain why certain points of feedback either did or did not result in policy changes. These efforts will continue into implementation, monitoring and sustainment work.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction and Background
2. The Calgary Plan
3. Calgary Plan Next Steps
4. Calgary Today, Calgary Tomorrow
5. Policy Inputs into the Calgary Plan
6. Engagement Summary
7. Indigenous Policy and Engagement
8. Presentation
9. Public Submissions

**Planning & Development Services Report to
Infrastructure and Planning Committee
2024 December 11**

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Department Circulation

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