

Planning & Development Services Report to
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
2025 June 19

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IGA2025-0514

Trilateral Joint Planning Area 1 and 2 Committee Dissolution

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request Council rescind the Trilateral Joint Planning Area 1 and 2 (JPA1 and JPA2) Terms of Reference and acknowledge that by rescinding the Terms of Reference the Trilateral Committees will be dissolved. Additionally, this report summarizes the Joint Planning Area Context Study work completed to date and recommends that Council direct Administration to incorporate the work into a trilateral approach for Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The City of Calgary is a participant in two of four Joint Planning Areas (JPA) required by the former Calgary Metropolitan Region Board's Growth Plan. JPA1 with Rocky View County and the City of Airdrie and JPA2 with Rocky View County and the City of Chestermere. The Trilateral Committees were established by the participant municipalities, as directed by the terms of reference, to provide overall direction on the development of JPA1 and JPA2 Context Studies. The formation of the committees and the draft Terms of References were approved, and Council member representatives were appointed by Council on 2023 April 25 (IGA2023-0251) (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

1. Rescind the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 1 and the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 2;
2. Acknowledge that by rescinding the terms of reference that the supporting Joint Planning Area 1 and 2 Trilateral Committees are dissolved, and thank the members for their service; and
3. Direct Administration to use the work completed on the Context Study for JPA 1 (Attachment 2) and Context Study for JPA 2 (Attachment 3) in a trilateral approach to the Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with The City's municipal neighbours.

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2025 JUNE 19:

That Council:

1. Rescind the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 1 and the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 2;
2. Acknowledge that by rescinding the terms of reference that the supporting Joint Planning Area 1 and 2 Trilateral Committees are dissolved, and thank the members for their service; and
3. Direct Administration to use the work completed on the Context Study for JPA 1 (Attachment 2) and Context Study for JPA 2 (Attachment 3) in a trilateral approach to the Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with The City's municipal neighbours.

Excerpt from the Minutes of the 2025 June 19 Regular Meeting of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee:

“Moved by Councillor Demong

That with respect to Report IGA2025-0514, the following be approved:

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

1. Rescind the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 1 and the Terms of Reference: Context Study Joint Planning Area 2;
2. Acknowledge that by rescinding the terms of reference that the supporting Joint Planning Area 1 and 2 Trilateral Committees are dissolved, and thank the members for their service; and

For: (5) Councillor Demong, Councillor Sharp, Councillor Walcott, Councillor McLean, and Councillor Chabot

Against: (1) Councillor Carra

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Demong

That with respect to Report IGA2025-0514, the following be approved:

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

3. Direct Administration to use the work completed on the Context Study for JPA 1 (Attachment 2) and Context Study for JPA 2 (Attachment 3) in a trilateral approach to the Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with The City's municipal neighbours.

For: (6) Councillor Carra, Councillor Demong, Councillor Sharp, Councillor Walcott, Councillor McLean, and Councillor Chabot

MOTION CARRIED”

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Debra Hamilton concurs with the recommendations in this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 2024 November 22, the Minister of Municipal Affairs announced the Government of Alberta will no longer provide annual funding for the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) and membership in the CMRB will become voluntary.
- A series of Trilateral Committee meetings followed where the members discussed the value of continuing this work in light of the ongoing changes with the CMRB.
- On 2025 February 18 the Minister repealed the Regional Growth Plan by Ministerial Order MSD: 017/25 which rescinded the CMRB Growth and Servicing Plans. Subsequently the Government of Alberta repealed the legislation on 2025 April 30.
- On 2025 April 30 and 2025 May 2 the JPA 1 and JPA2 Trilateral Committees (respectively) directed Administration to work with their respective Councils to dissolve the Trilateral Committees as per each municipality's process (prior to the municipal election) and in doing so, communicate the value of the JPA Context Study work and a trilateral approach in the development of Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks.
- A trilateral approach can foster better outcomes and understanding of municipal interests and challenges related to servicing and planning matters.
- Concluding the JPA work will free up resources to focus on developing Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks.
- 2027 November 30 is the deadline for municipalities to enter Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaborative Frameworks with one another where there are common boundaries.

DISCUSSION

The City participated in the development of the CMRB Growth and Servicing Plans which required four context study areas be developed to address development where higher growth levels are anticipated. The City is a participant in the joint planning work for two areas including: lands to the north of Calgary to The City of Airdrie (JPA 1) and lands to the east of Calgary to Chestermere (JPA 2).

The multi-jurisdictional administrative teams, under the direction of the Trilateral JPA 1 and 2 Committees, developed a gap analysis for each JPA to identify areas of common interest and highlight planning and data gaps. Subsequently, the Committees developed a vision statement for each JPA (Attachments 2 and 3).

Both Trilateral Committees have recommended that the JPA work completed inform the development of Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks and that municipalities explore the opportunity for a trilateral approach for each. All parties agree that a trilateral approach fosters better servicing and planning outcomes for residents and business of the participating municipalities.

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Given the recent changes to the CMRB and the desires of the Trilateral Committees, Administration agrees that the committees should be disbanded. Administration will continue to work with JPA regional partners and strive to obtain agreements to progress to Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks trilaterally.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

IMPLICATIONS

Disbanding the Trilateral Committee will prematurely conclude the JPA context study work that will limit the coordinated planning of these high growth potential areas. The expectation is that a coordinated approach will continue through the Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks that has been mandated through Ministerial Order 025/25.

A positive outcome includes reallocating resourcing to focus on Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks that are statutory and a stronger tool that could coordinate planning and servicing in high growth areas.

Social

A lack of coordinated planning may impact the livability of communities by ensuring that essential services such as transportation, recreation, fire, water and waste management, are effectively provided.

Environmental

A lack of coordinated planning and development may impact preservation of natural resources that reduce environmental impacts, and the ability to provide contiguous green spaces and wildlife corridors. It may also impact the development of communities that are resilient to challenges of climate change, natural disasters, and economic fluctuations.

Economic

A lack of coordinated planning and infrastructure development that supports businesses and facilitates efficient goods movement may impact economic development and continuity/certainty expected for business investment in the region.

Service and Financial Implications

By stopping work on the context studies administrative resources can be directed to Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks. City and Regional Planning is considering additional resource requirements to complete this work.

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RISK

If the recommendations are not adopted, and other municipalities decide to disband, the Trilateral Committees will no longer exist, and The City would be the only member remaining on the Committee.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. JPA 1 Vision Statement Summary Report
3. JPA 2 Vision Statement Summary Report
4. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Debra Hamilton	City and Regional Planning	Approve
Kathy Davies Murphy	City and Regional Planning	Approve

Author: Quincy Brown, Regional Planning

City Clerks: A. Adegunwa / A. Lennox