



The City of Calgary
PO Box 2100, Station M
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April 26, 2019

Attention: Members of Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Development

Dear Member,

Re: PUD2019-0305: Update Report on the Established Area Growth and Change Strategy

BILD Calgary Region is pleased to be actively involved in the Established Areas Growth and Change Strategy (EAGCS) work – at both the Advisory and working group levels. We agree with current efforts to support growth in established areas in a strategic, comprehensive way, and look forward to advancing an overall growth strategy.

As work progresses on this initiative, BILD would like to emphasize 3 key points related to this report:

1. The significance of the EAGCS work, and the need for an overall growth strategy

The work on EAGCS is critical to support sustained progress towards the growth goals set for established areas within the MDP. Currently these goals are not, and may not, be achieved without the focus, alignment and funding that can be delivered through a comprehensive Established Areas Growth and Change Strategy. Beyond this immediate work, BILD supports continued efforts towards the upcoming Industrial Growth Strategy, which will enable a city-wide approach that can align efforts to support and sustain growth across Calgary in all sectors.

2. The complexity of the EAGCS work

The existing physical and social environment, combined with a diverse group of stakeholders adds complexity to this strategy that requires extensive resources of time, effort, funding and focus to manage successfully. The current system includes a number of ongoing City initiatives, such as the multi-district community plans, updates to the MDP/CTP, an active Main Streets program, ongoing ARP's, and other related efforts that require joint coordination with the EAGCS work. The number of moving parts associated with this work accentuates the need for a comprehensive growth strategy to guide and align the other related initiatives.

3. Understanding the resourcing needs and funding limitations

BILD remains mindful of the difficulties posed by the current economic constraints. We realize that Council and Administration will be challenged to source additional investment funds to support growth in Established Areas in 2020. This challenge may be exacerbated by the prospect that no additional, 'new' funding tools are likely to be put in place and implemented prior to a March 2020 report.

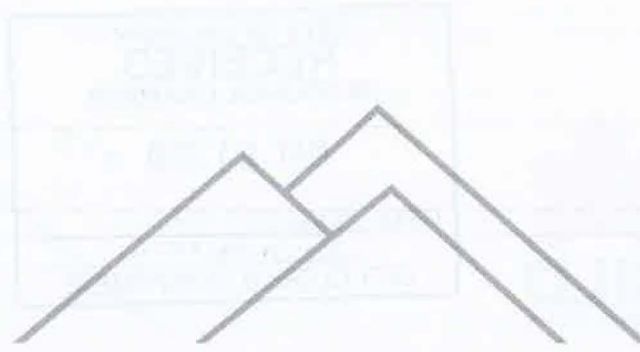


BILD believes the final scope of this work will require significant support and commitment from Council, Administration, community members and our industry in order for it to be successful. Some ongoing work may consider different ways to engage with communities during planning stages, with integrated and potentially dedicated funding tools in place. Administration is exploring a variety of funding tools with stakeholders, however it appears the funding sources will likely remain the same. Decisions brought before Council on these tools will continue to require trade-offs and prioritization.

BILD believes the best path forward is to continue with the work of the EAGCS, to be realized and developed through 2 stages. To this end, BILD offers 3 suggestions for Committee's consideration:

That the SPC on PUD:

1. Provide clear indication of Committee's support and priority assigned to the EAGCS work and support Administration's recommendation to accept the 2-stage approach of this strategy, recognizing the complexity of the work and the limits to what can be provided in 2020 for Stage 1.
2. Direct Administration to bring forward recommendations on related, key City initiatives in a way that includes or references the EAGCS as the implementation strategy. Examples of related, key initiatives might include active and emerging multi-community planning and local plan updates (Bridgeland-Riverside ARP, Inglewood-Ramsay: Historic East Calgary ARP, North Hill Communities Local Growth Planning), which, if formally adopted prior to the EAGCS, would intentionally include the EAGCS in their development, and specifically reference the EAGCS as their implementation strategy.
3. Direct that the final reports for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the EAGCS go through a formal public process prior to Council review and decision. We understand that this could occur either through a committee review by PUD and PFC, or approval at PFC to open the agenda item for public input.

BILD applauds the City for undertaking a comprehensive growth strategy approach that integrates planning decisions, policy work and investment decisions on a comprehensive scale. In closing, BILD Calgary Region wish to thank and acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Administration and public stakeholders currently engaged on this very critical piece of work.

Yours respectfully,

Grace G. Lui

Director, Strategic Initiatives and Government Relations

BILD Calgary Region

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