

CMRB Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the role of the CMRB?

The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board supports the long-term economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the region by facilitating collaborative regional planning practices, optimizing shared services and land use, and fostering sustainable growth. The Growth Plan provides a roadmap for accommodating the next million people in our region over approximately the next thirty years. The CMRB may also undertake other initiatives that benefit the region. To date, the Board has discussed regional economic development and an Indigenous relations strategy.

2. I've heard that Calgary has a veto vote at the Board, is this true?

The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Regulation states that for a Board motion to pass, 2/3 of the members representing 2/3 of the regional population must support a motion. Due to Calgary's population, it is correct that Calgary must vote in favour of a motion for it to pass. It is important to note that no single member is able to pass a motion, including Calgary. There must be another six Board members supporting the motion in order for it to pass.

3. I've heard that the Board is dysfunctional and can't get work done.

The CMRB Regulation highlights the desire for consensus decision making in the mandate of the Board. Of the 358 motions voted on by the Board since inception, 262 motions have passed unanimously, and only 41 motions have failed to pass. This track record indicates a strong desire for the ten member municipalities to work together for the betterment of the residents of the Region.

4. I've heard there wasn't enough public consultation in developing the Growth Plan, is that true?

During the first round of engagement, between July 24 and September 4, 2020, nearly 1,600 contributions from the public were made to the development of a Growth Plan for the Calgary Metro Region through online engagement. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) and growth planning process through a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section and were given a variety of ways to provide their input to the planning process.

The goal of the second phase of public engagement was to inform the public about the proposed approach while gathering input about implementation that will contribute to policy development. There were nearly 1800 visits to the engagement site, and 83 registrants for the virtual open house, 44 of whom attended the session live.

The goal of the third phase of public engagement was to inform the public about the draft Growth Plan while gathering feedback to understand potential impacts, benefits, and levels of support in communities within the CMRB. Between March 18 and April 8, 2021, the Growth Plan engagement website was visited over 4,000 times by nearly 3,000 different visitors. Additionally, there were over 200

registrants and nearly 150 attendees at three virtual open houses during this engagement period

The Board unanimously approved the consultant's plan for public engagement at the February 21, 2020 meeting of the Board.

5. What are the benefits of a Regional Growth Plan?

The significant pace of growth over the past decade highlighted challenges facing our region, including water scarcity and uncoordinated growth patterns. As we welcome the next million people to the region we must use public funds more efficiently and minimize our impact on land, air and water. The Growth Plan acknowledges the important role of natural systems in the region.

Table 3: Benefits of Compact TOD, and Synthesis Scenarios Compared to Business as Usual Scenario

METRIC	PLACETYPE		
	COMPACT	TOD	SYNTHESIS
	% Reduction Compared to the Business as Usual Scenario		
Land Consumption per household	31%	47%	41%
Vehicle km traveled per household	35%	32%	31%
Road and Infrastructure Cost per household	40%	38%	36%
Water Consumption per household	25%	24%	23%
Energy Cost per household	20%	19%	19%
Total Carbon per household	29%	28%	27%

6. I've been told the CMRB will increase municipal taxes, is this true?

No. There is no imposition of a cost-sharing formula in the plan. The plan requires municipalities to discuss appropriate cost-sharing models for shared development of infrastructure and ensure that corridors are protected for potential future transit development. This is a more cost-effective way to develop, as outlined above, and will save money on future infrastructure investments in the region.

7. Will the CMRB stop me from building a home, barn or another structure on my land?

No. The CMRB was established to review and approve regionally significant developments that may impact the systems that connect us together as a region. Regionally significant developments are those that create 50 or more dwelling units or a new employment area. Home-based businesses are excluded from this requirement.

Regional Vision 2051

CMRB Regional Vision:

The Vision statement answers the “Why” question, an enduring cause or higher purpose for the region itself. It provides the strategic direction that guides regional development toward 2051.

Our Regional Vision is:

“Building on thousands of years of history,
we welcome everyone to join us in living happy, healthy and
prosperous lives in a spectacular natural environment.

We are a world leading region built on hard work, resilience, helping
others and a deep respect for nature.

We use our land wisely, share our services and care for our wildlife, air
and water.

We grow together.”

Elements of our Vision:

Our Vision is further described by the following seven elements which add greater clarity and direction:

- **Vibrant Inclusive Communities**
 - Our residents enjoy some of the best quality of life in the world. They are safe, supported and free to pursue their hopes and dreams.
 - People have the opportunity to live affordably close to where they work and play.
 - The Calgary Metropolitan Region is known for its strong, diverse, well run and united communities
- **An Amazing Quilt of Rural & Urban**
 - The Calgary Metropolitan Region is known globally for having the best of both urban and rural life successfully thriving side-by-side to everyone’s benefit.
 - Our residents are proud of each of the unique parts of the region and the opportunities this diversity provides. It is at the heart of our quality of life and prosperity.

- Our municipalities have well defined boundaries and planned transitions that provide a strong unique identity and a sense of arrival.
- **Blueprint for Growth**
 - We successfully use our commitment to preferred place-types and specified growth areas to accomplish our vision while reducing water consumption, vehicle mileage, carbon emissions, land consumption and the cost of infrastructure.
 - The region is built on a backbone of excellent integrated multi-modal transportation which ensures efficient and effective movement of people and goods.
- **Economic Wellbeing**
 - The Calgary Metropolitan Region is a globally recognized economy, attracting the best and brightest in a variety of economic sectors to support regional prosperity and a high quality of life.
 - The Calgary Metropolitan Region has a strong and coordinated approach to regional economic growth.
 - The members of the region support each other and embrace that members share in regional prosperity.
- **Protect and Enjoy the Environment**
 - We enjoy and protect our spectacular natural environment which has been a source of our quality of life and prosperity for thousands of years.
 - The Calgary Metropolitan Region is a global leader in minimizing the undesirable impacts of development on our natural environment including land, water, air and wildlife.
 - The members of the region work proactively with each other and our neighboring regions to ensure our vision is shared and achieved.
- **Water Stewardship**
 - We work together to ensure our scarce fresh water is shared in a way that meets the needs of our current and future residents and our ecosystem. Our strategy works even in times of drought and flood.
 - The members of the Calgary Metropolitan Region work together to manage fresh water, wastewater and stormwater in a way that minimizes waste and provides safe and healthy water for our growing region.
 - The members of the region work proactively with each other and our neighbors to ensure flood prone areas are understood and proactively managed.

▪ **Shared Services Optimization**

- Residents of the Calgary Metropolitan Region experience borderless delivery of essential services based on a fair cost-benefit model.
- The members of the region work proactively with each other and our neighboring regions to deliver services in a more efficient and sustainable way.
- The members of the Calgary Metropolitan Region are able to do more with less by finding ways to stretch every capital and operational dollar.

Taken together these elements describe our aspirations for the Region to 2051!