

## The City Plan Phase III Report - Q&A

*September 5, 2019*

### **How is The City Plan tied to ConnectEdmonton?**

ConnectEdmonton, Edmonton's strategic plan, envisions Edmonton ten years from now as:

- A healthy city
- A place with vibrant urban places where we all thrive.
- A city that is climate resilient
- A community that is the centre of a prosperous region.

The City Plan helps bring this vision to life by setting out what choices we will make to reach those four goals as Edmonton grows to two million people over the coming decades. The City Plan is:

- A statutory document required by the Province that includes the Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan.
- A people-centred plan that charts how Edmonton will get to a future city of two million people that maintains the benefits residents enjoy today while expanding new opportunities for the future.
- A plan about animating spaces, building places and creating more options for how residents move around the city. It brings together the City's systems and networks in new ways to create a community where residents can grow, invest, evolve and succeed in the future.
- A plan that will be adaptable, continuously updated, outcome-oriented, evidence-based, and will be used to inform a range of integrated decisions.

### **How does The City Plan impact other planning documents?**

When it is approved in mid-2020, The City Plan will replace "The Ways" plans. The City Plan will not replace other existing plans and strategies developed over the past years but will create a framework to create new tools and a process to review and evaluate current and future plans to ensure long-term consistency.

The City Plan will be the leading policy document in our city so that all existing plans will need to be reviewed to ensure they match up to the vision and policies of The City Plan. This is likely to be a process that takes several years and progress will be evaluated annually.

### **What does The City Plan see for mass transit?**

Land use and transportation are connected. Our studies show that the future distribution of people and jobs in city nodes and along key corridors will help determine how transit lines are planned and built.

The City Plan team did an analysis of Edmonton's existing transit networks then created three evaluation scenarios to test alternatives for how the mass transit network could be developed to support two million residents in the long term.

### **What are nodes and corridors?**

Nodes are destination areas in a city where people like to gather, work and live. They are usually mixed-use areas with significant transit services and diverse amenities. Corridors are important people places and also provide routes that connect the different city nodes and provide services for local neighbourhoods. For example, Bonnie Doon is well-positioned to be a district-level node because of its proximity to transit services, shopping, amenities and residential development potential.

Nodes and corridors help create a compact but vibrant city that supports increased density, diversity and well-designed communities. By providing more services at locations that are closer to where people live, Edmonton can become a more environmentally and economically sustainable city. Nodes and corridors also encourage alternative methods of transportation and promote the ability to live, work and recreate more locally.

The city centre is the major node of activity in any city, and the proposed land use concept for The City Plan recognises and supports this in Edmonton. The concept also includes major and district-level nodes, that accommodate different scales of activity and development across all areas of the city.

### **How is district planning different from what we do now?**

The City Plan proposes that future planning efforts are focused on 15 districts. At this scale, district-level planning and implementation efforts will help residents of each district feel more connected to their home place. These districts are often created or connected by geographic areas with features or functions in common or by shared services like transportation routes or economic activities. Districts will include clusters of neighbourhoods in different areas of the city.

The creation of districts echoes what often happens in other large cities where residents live in boroughs or precincts that provide most of the services and needs within that area while still being part of the greater city. This supports a "community of communities" and enables all areas of the Edmonton to grow, change and thrive.

**How does The City Plan align to the City's environmental goals?**

The City Plan will propose a new vision for land use, mobility and growth that will support greater density, housing options and job opportunities in key nodes. There will be greater emphasis on active transportation and mass transit. Technical modelling has shown that changes to land use and transportation can have an important impact on reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions.

A well planned, well-connected city will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help Edmonton reduce overall, per person, emissions.

The City Plan expects that changes to land use patterns and transportation will reduce total per person emissions by 6 per cent. This contributes to a suite of efforts underway to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout our community. As the City works to update the targets in the Energy Transition Strategy, The City Plan will look to see what updates may be needed to achieve the new targets and update the plan accordingly.

**What does The City Plan mean for current projects?**

The City Plan focuses on the choices we will make in the future as we grow and develop to a city of two million people. Current projects to make our services more efficient and effective will continue; however, once The City Plan is approved, City departments will review their current work to ensure it matches up to the policies in The City Plan. This is a process that will be continuously implemented and updated over the life of the Plan.