

Edmonton

CITY PLANNING

CURRENT
PUBLIC POLICY
DEVELOPMENT
PRIORITIES

2018–2020





CITY PLANNING BRANCH

CURRENT PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES (2018–2020)

City Planning Branch is engaged in number of public policy projects and programs supported and led by roughly 20% (52) of available full-time staff. These projects range in topics from urban planning and design, research and analytics, to open space planning and transportation. Projects initiated by Administration serve to implement City Council approved plans, strategies or direction in response to identified policy gaps, special issues or questions. A number of policy projects are expected to be completed in 2018 while others will require additional capacity, resources and time to complete by 2020.

In order to effectively support and implement a new City Plan, the City Planning Branch has reprioritized its entire policy work program to focus on key projects. This is based on City Planning Branch's existing capacity, sequencing of existing and future work and priority to complete, which includes consideration of other Branch or cross-Departmental collaborations. Policy projects not selected will be reassigned, paused or integrated with future work.

For example, some projects not prioritized for completion over the next two years may be reassigned to other City partners within Administration better positioned to deliver them (e.g. administration of the Percent for Art program). Other policy work may be paused prior to completing other necessary projects first (e.g. Complete Streets Implementation should proceed before initiating Complete Streets Assessments). Finally, some policy projects may be more effectively restructured and integrated with planned work (e.g. integration of Rapid Transit Network Evaluation with Mass Transit Study being prepared to inform the City Plan).

The following table summarizes a number of projects that City Planning Branch is committed to finalizing in the short-term and, upon completion, reallocating resources to currently-strategic work. These previous priority projects may have been initiated in response to a particular City Council direction, implementation of The Ways strategic plans, or previous Department work programs prior to corporate reorganization.

PRACTICE AREA	PROJECT, PROGRAM or INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ORIGIN
COMPLETING PREVIOUS PRIORITY PROJECTS			
URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN	101 Avenue Corridor Study Implementation	Action plan to implement recommendations identified in the 101 Avenue Corridor Study.	Council Directed
	124 Street Corridor Study	Land use, mobility and public realm plan for 124 Street between 111 Avenue and 118 Avenue.	Council Directed
	City-Owned Historic Resources Management Strategy	Sets strategic direction for City-Owned Historic Resources as a key input for the Facility Renewal Strategy.	Council Directed
	Development Investment Framework	Exploring how Administration responds to requests for large investments, such as land transfers or infrastructure provisions or partnerships, e.g. Muttart and Strathearn sites.	Administration
	Downtown Design Manual	Supporting the development of guidelines for roadway and public realm design throughout the Downtown.	Administration
	Downtown Public Places Plan	Providing direction for downtown open spaces, parks and plazas, focussing on the quality, functionality, connectivity and supply of open space. This includes connectivity improvements between the downtown and the River Valley.	Administration
	Edmonton Design Committee Work Program	Advancing an integrated planning and design toolkit and implementing the 2018 Edmonton Design Committee Work Program.	Administration
	Envision 109 Corridor Plan	Leading the development of a corridor plan integrating land use, mobility and public realm design.	Council Directed
	Heritage Valley NBHD 14 NASP	Creating a Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan (NASP) which integrates land use, health campus and LRT planning for the Heritage Valley Special Study Area. This project is co-sponsored by the City and Province.	Administration
	Industrial Servicing Fund Implementation	Implementing the Industrial Infrastructure Cost Sharing Program, which is designed to assist in financing large municipal infrastructure in industrial areas, and to ultimately encourage the servicing and development of industrial land which provides an increased tax assessment base, employment, and other economic spinoffs. The program allows front end developers to recover over-expenditures and affects both arterial roadways and drainage infrastructure.	Administration
	Plan Whyte Land Use Study	Completing a land use study and providing recommendations to amend Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) to preserve and strengthen heritage preservation, and explore potential development opportunities for long-term evolution of Whyte Avenue Commercial Corridor.	Council Directed
	Rossdale, River Crossing Plan	Advancing a long-term city-building initiative that will work to transform the western area of the Rossdale neighbourhood. The Heritage Interpretive Plan is now complete and the Business Plan, which will provide an actionable guide for investment, implementation and decision-making is underway.	Council Directed
	Westmount Rezoning	Undertaking formal Westmount Architectural Heritage Area DC1 rezoning and amendment to ARP.	Administration

PRACTICE AREA	PROJECT, PROGRAM or INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ORIGIN
COMPLETING PREVIOUS PRIORITY PROJECTS			
TRANSPORTATION POLICY	Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards	Implementing Complete Streets Guidelines with the Volume 2 Roadways Design and Construction Standards. This operationalizes City Council's Complete Streets policy.	Administration
	Complete Streets Implementation	Integrating Complete Streets into all projects and ensure that public and private sector implementors understand how to apply Complete Streets. Activities include the roll-out of standards and integration with the LDA process.	Administration
	Comprehensive Parking Review	Supporting the review and development of new parking requirements for the Zoning Bylaw that reflect a new approach to off-street parking and supports our city-building goals. The project will consist of three parts: collecting and analyzing parking data; storytelling and engagement with Edmontonians; and introducing new parking regulations into Bylaw 12800.	Council Directed
	Integrated Parking Framework	Developing a unified parking strategy that will rationalize, coordinate, and clarify the principles and priorities that guide the City's parking initiatives and implementation of existing City policies related to parking. The Framework will help coordinate ongoing efforts among different business areas.	Administration
	Park and Ride Guidelines	Providing long term guidance for the provision and operation of Park and Rides.	Council Directed
OPEN SPACE PLANNING	Development of Policy for Repurposing Open Space – Council Report	Developing a city-wide policy and procedure, providing a framework to guide Administration on how tradeoffs shall be evaluated and communications and engagement shall occur when City-owned open space is repurposed.	Administration
	Emerald Crescent Implementation (Decoteau)	Testing and implementing the green network approach in new neighbourhoods, geodesign workshops will be used to collaborate with key stakeholders of the Decoteau Area Structure Plan. This project will evaluate alternatives and select a preferred concept to design an integrated system of public open spaces, connections and functions that provide value to humans and the environment.	Administration Private sector driven
	River Access Project	Preparing guidelines for river access, including boat docks and launches, and identifying partnerships and regulatory requirements.	Administration
	Ten- and Four-Year Capital Budget Preparation	Partnering with other city departments in the preparation of the capital investment outlook and four year capital budgets; using a systematic process to make informed decisions on land and infrastructure investments.	Council Directed

The following table summarizes projects that will provide the foundational support necessary for future day-to-day and long-term strategic policy development and decision-making. This work is focused on Edmonton's systems and networks that through their creation, will come to serve the internal

needs of the corporation. This includes data and analytics support, modelling, performance measurement, evaluation and monitoring. Upon completion, these projects will require ongoing support as foundational policy programmes.

PRACTICE AREA	PROJECT, PROGRAM or INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ORIGIN
FOUNDATIONAL POLICY PROGRAMS			
URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN	Sanitary Sewer Servicing Fund Management	The Sanitary Servicing Strategy is a 75-year plan to implement a long-range plan and funding strategy to provide sanitary servicing for land development and to meet the growing demands of the City. The plan was initiated in 1998 and the fund was established through Council Bylaw. Relatively unchanged since its inception, Administration initiated a governance review in 2017 to establish improved oversight, accountability and transparency of the program.	Administration
	River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan Implementation	Pilots the delivery of short-term tactical heritage interpretation and events, leveraging community involvement, partnerships and existing programs to activate the River Crossing area and celebrate its cultural and historical significance.	Administration
OPEN SPACE PLANNING	Shared Parks Development Program	This is a capital-funded program that enables Administration to effectively and efficiently provide needed park space in new neighbourhoods by partnering with the development industry. This initiative currently captures 27 park developments that have resulted in substantial cost avoidance for the city and communities with the development of amenities such as sports fields, playgrounds, and spray parks.	Administration
RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS	Performance Measures Program	Development, coordination and reporting of Branch, Department and Corporate level Performance Measures. Monitor and evaluate targets and policies to inform evidence-based decision making in the review and development of City policy.	Council Directed
	Projects / Strategic Initiatives – Analytics Support	Analytics support on numerous inquiries regarding future land use growth, roadway concept plans, transit network changes and construction detour planning studies.	Administration

Reprioritization of the City Planning Branch's policy work program also identified a number of projects that will be important to development of the City Plan. Over the next two years, this ongoing and emerging work will provide the policy

"building blocks" necessary to inform, guide and support City Plan as it develops. The following table summarizes the City Plan and related building block policy projects key to shaping it.

PRACTICE AREA	PROJECT, PROGRAM or INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ORIGIN
CITY PLAN AND RELATED BUILDING BLOCKS			
CITY PLAN	City Plan: Combined Municipal Development Plan & Transportation Master Plan	In alignment with City Vision 2050, renew and integrate the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) into one modernized document and approach to comprehensively replace the Ways plans. The City Plan will be a physical depiction of the goals for change articulated in Council's Strategic Plan, and will set city-wide growth strategies to accommodate up to 2 million people. It will also be used to inform the Zoning Bylaw Renewal project that will comprehensively review existing development regulations	Administration
	City Plan: City-wide Planning Framework	Modernize and simplify the City's hierarchy of planning instruments and its policy approach to create a new, more holistic planning and implementation framework that bridges corporate strategy with more detailed planning tools for neighbourhoods, infrastructure investment, public services and engagement opportunities.	Administration
	City Plan: City-Building Narrative and Activation	In collaboration with the Communications and Engagement department – and in support of key integrated initiatives such as LRT, infill, nodes and corridors and the development of the new City Plan – establish a robust and well-aligned city-building narrative that will provide structure and consistency to future growth and change. This will leverage both internal and external storytelling with the aim of cutting through inconvenience and dissonance to a more cohesive, engaging and clear picture of Edmonton at two million people.	Administration
URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN	Evolving Infill Implementation	Priority actions to support more and better infill with a focus on medium and high scale infill and laneway housing. Implementation to be carried out primarily by Development Services Branch, with City Planning Branch leading select actions.	Council Directed
	Nodes & Corridors Spatial Definition & Policy Development	Identify nodes and corridors as an integrated network to focus growth in the existing built up city at the metropolitan, district and local scales. Nodes are places intended for concentrated development and corridors are linear places for redevelopment. The previous process to analyze and prioritize focus opportunities for planning and investment in alignment with transit investments has evolved into a component of the City Plan.	Administration
	Urban Design Manual	A set of integrated guidelines and/or standards comprising the fundamentals of urban design at different scales, ranging from city-wide down to the site.	Administration

PRACTICE AREA	PROJECT, PROGRAM or INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ORIGIN
CITY PLAN AND RELATED BUILDING BLOCKS			
TRANSPORTATION POLICY	Bike Plan	Develop a strategic approach to bike planning and design that will guide and support the development of Edmonton's bike network over the next 10 years. This update to the 2009 Bicycle Transportation Plan is based on Council direction regarding bicycle facilities and will reflect recent changes in the planning and design for bikes. This includes planning the bike grid and network for the remaining core area outside downtown.	Council Directed
	Centre LRT Study	Centre LRT route selection.	Administration
	Infrastructure Network Assessment: Network Plans	Network Plans will identify infrastructure needs (utilization and functionality) and gaps based on current policy and strategic direction. This will result in either an adjustment to policy direction, a prioritized action plan for growth infrastructure investment or changes in an operational approach.	Administration
OPEN SPACE PLANNING	Parks Standards	In collaboration with City partners and industry, updated open space provisions and standards will be developed, replacing those currently referenced in the Urban Parks Management Plan. Following Council approval of a new Open Space Policy C-594 and Breathe, develop new open space management directives to support a new city-wide vision for open space, replacing the Urban Parks Management Plan.	Administration
	Ribbon of Green Phase 1	Strategic level policy direction for river valley planning, outlining a high level trail network and programming for key amenity nodes, and connectivity with adjacent neighbourhoods. The first phase of completing the Ribbon of Green (southwest and northeast portions of the river valley system) will guide the preservation, conservation, and use of the North Saskatchewan river valley and ravines.	Council Directed
RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS	Growth Monitoring	Monitoring growth, land use change, population, density, connectivity etc as required by the MDP and the Growth Coordination Strategy. Monitor growth and development to inform evidence-based decision making.	Council Directed
	Metro Edmonton Spatial Economic and Transportation Model Development	In collaboration with Alberta Transportation, an integrated land use and infrastructure investment scenarios for the Edmonton Region. This new integrated modeling system is a living platform for analytics and to evaluate the interaction between the Edmonton Metro Region's economic, land use, and transportation system jointly. It is the primary platform to evaluate network and growth scenarios, and assess the fiscal impacts of growth.	Administration
	Off-site Levies and Fiscal Impacts of Growth	Off-site Levies: Planning for the off-site levies enabled by the October 26, 2017 Municipal Government Act (MGA) update. Fiscal Impacts of Growth: Analyzing the fiscal impacts of urban growth, particularly in new suburban areas. The identification of cost drivers, costs sharing mechanisms and impacts on downstream infrastructure will determine an equitable funding formula. Components of the Fiscal Impacts of Growth project shall be addressed within the off-site levies project.	Council Directed
	TOD Infrastructure Capacity and Market Study	Analyze the market conditions to understand market supply, demand and absorption at identified TOD locations followed by the analysis of storm, sanitary, combined (storm and sanitary) and water infrastructure. This information will be an input to future iterations of the nodes and corridors analysis through the City Plan, as well as future TOD work.	Administration

This is the first step in reprioritization of Branch work that will enable the completion of previous priority projects, deliver on foundational policy programmes and leverage work that

provides essential building blocks for the City Plan throughout 2018 into 2020. The following table provides an overview of the target completion date for each of the projects identified.

- **Previous Priority Projects**
- **Foundational Policy Programmes**
- **City Plan and Related Building Blocks**
- **Council Directed**

101 Avenue Corridor Study – Implementation •																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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In summary, the City Planning branch is engaged in many different types of transformational public policy projects that are in various states of completion and will influence development of the City Plan differently. As policy projects are completed, the preparation of a new City Plan will evolve into a position where it will then lead future public policy development and implement this through a new city-wide planning framework.

