

How Does This Benefit Us? Regional Collaboration and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board

CPAA Conference 2024

May 1st, 2024



Learning Outcomes

- Developing a work plan focused on benefits
- Defining “regional” and building common understanding
- Identifying a role for datasets and background reports
- Scenario planning to build consensus
- Importance of measurable and continual improvement to create change
- Results!

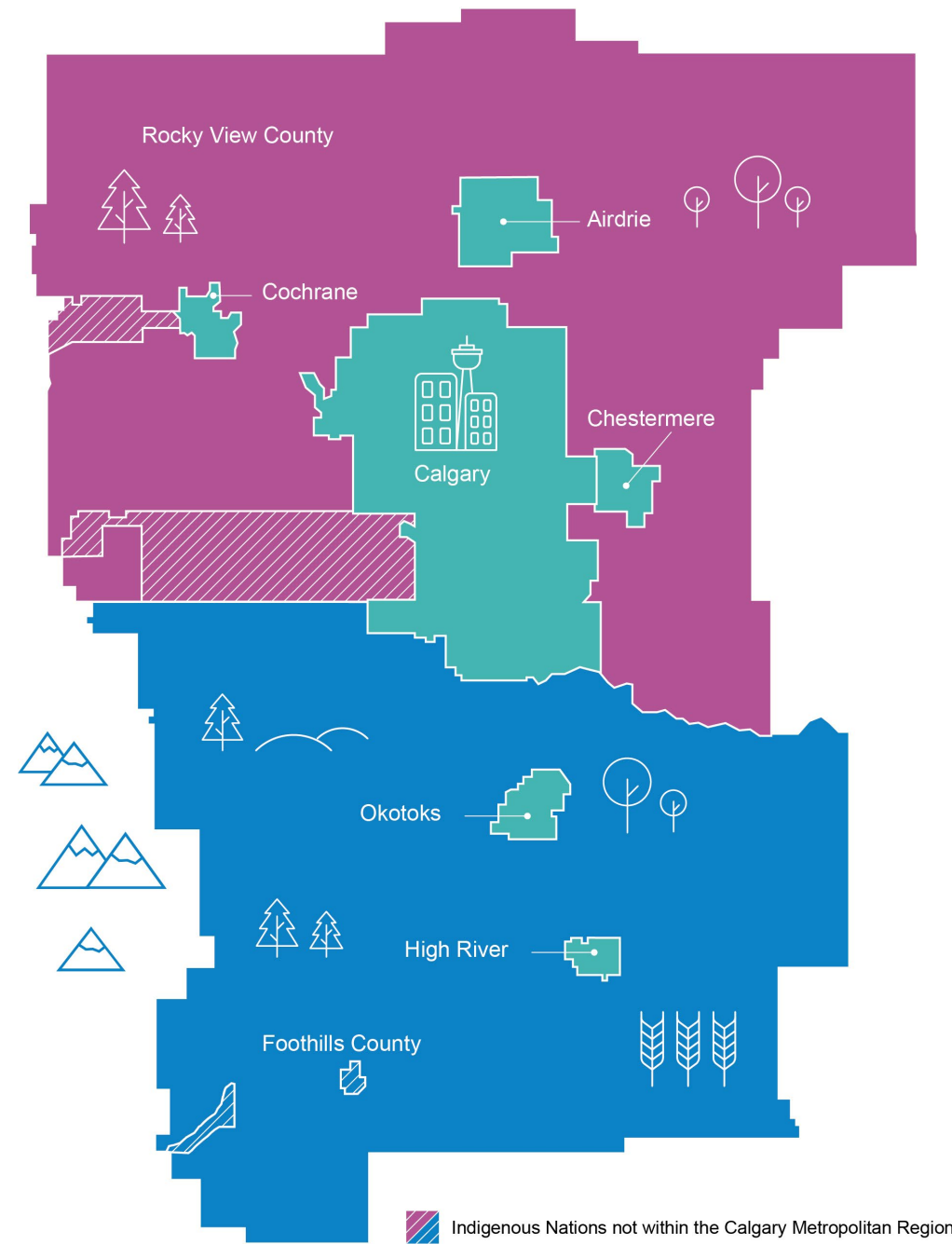
The Calgary Metropolitan Region

MORE THAN
8,500
SQUARE KM


1.643
MILLION PEOPLE

8 
MUNICIPALITIES

- CMR expected to add an additional ~1 million people by 2053



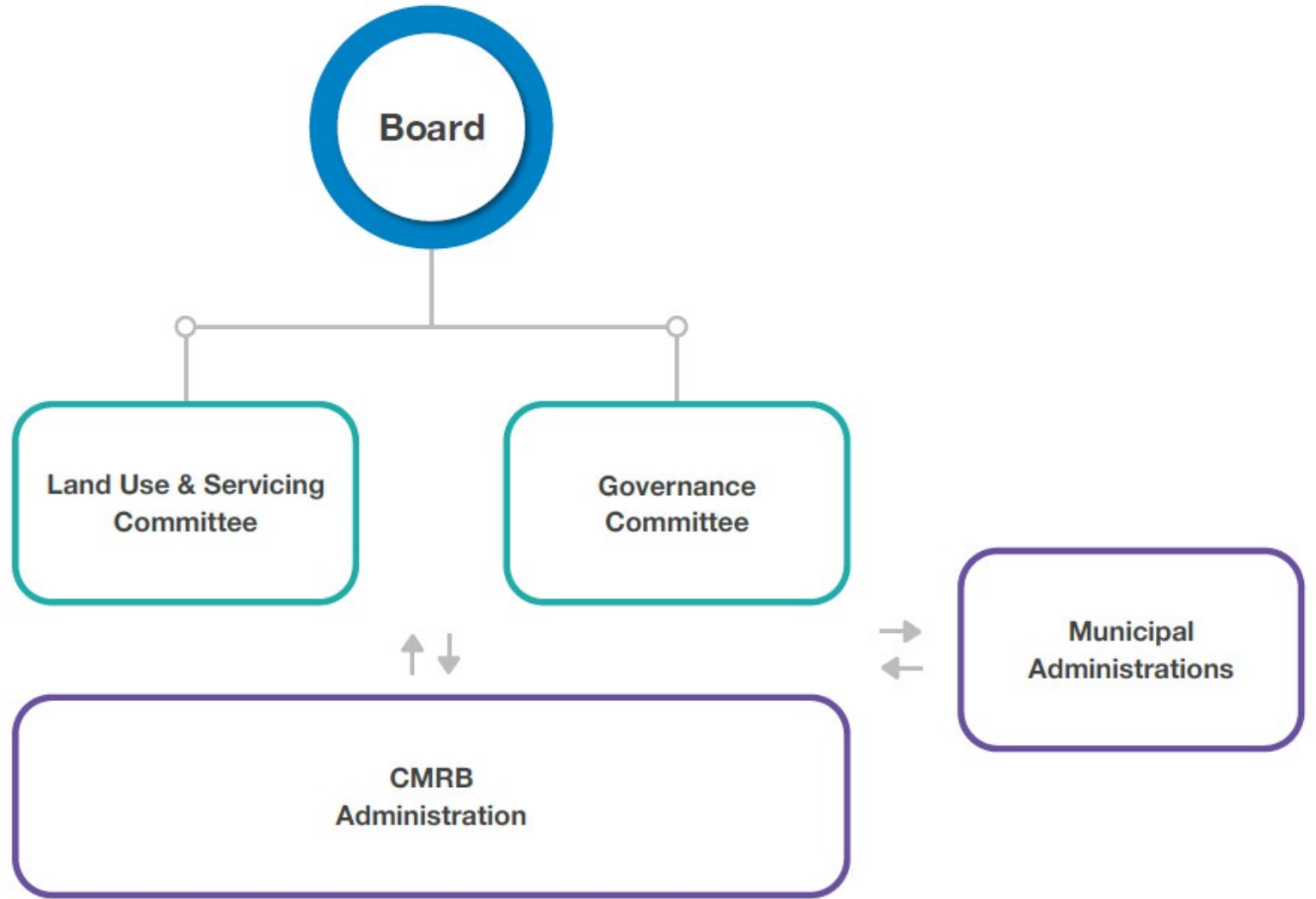
Board Mandate

**As per the *Calgary
Metropolitan Region Board
Regulation***

The Board shall

- (a) strive towards consensus regarding matters before the Board,
- (b) promote the long term sustainability of the Calgary Metropolitan Region,
- (c) ensure environmentally responsible land-use planning, growth management and efficient use of land,
- (d) develop policies regarding the coordination of regional infrastructure investment and service delivery,
- (e) promote the economic well-being and competitiveness of the Calgary Metropolitan Region,
- (f) develop policies outlining how the Board shall engage the public on the Growth Plan and Servicing Plan, and
- (g) be limited in its mandate and role to those powers given to the Board under the Act and this Regulation.

CMRB Structure



Noteworthy Items

- Participation by members in the CMRB is mandatory
- Absent members vote 'yes' to motions at the Board level
- Voting structure is provided by the *Regulation*
- There was a mandated deadline for Growth Plan and Servicing Plan completion

But what IS the Calgary Metro Region?

Wearing Hats

- CMRB members wear two “hats,” a municipal hat and a regional hat
- Adding up municipal approaches to planning matters does not build a regional hat
- The concept of “regional significance” facilitates discussions of common goals and areas of focus
- Focuses on relationship between regional and existing municipal processes – important for good governance and preventing red tape
- Allows for planning of each community while honouring and maintaining unique identities and community contexts

Board Vision



VISION STATEMENT

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.

Role of Data

- CMRB Admin began data development in advance of the planning process given scarcity of regional-scale data in the CMR
- Data can be controversial!
- Municipal administrations have opportunity to review and challenge assumptions in the data
- CMRB Admin continues to pursue the development of data and open data to inform planning processes

Background Reports

- [Population Projections](#)
- [Water Use and Conservation in the CMR Study](#)
- [Natural and Managed Capacity of Regional Water Supply in the CMR Report](#)
- [Natural and Managed Capacity of Regional Water Supply in the CMR Annotated Bibliography](#)
- [CMR Existing Water and Wastewater Servicing and Regional Potential Report](#)
- [Regional Employment Forecasts - Status Quo Scenario](#)
- [Environmentally Sensitive Areas Background Study](#)
- [CMR Stormwater Background Report](#)
- [Regional Employment Forecasts - Final Report](#)
- [Options for Enhancing Regional Recreation](#)
- [Agriculture Background Report](#)
- [North Calgary Regional Transportation Study - Executive Summary](#)
- [South and East Calgary Regional Transportation Study](#)
- [Integration Memo of Regional Transportation Studies](#)
- [Transit Background Report](#)

How does this benefit us?

The Concept of Benefits

- A core of CMRB's process has been to ask, "what is the benefit of working together?"
- Growth Plan presented as a type of a contract where member municipalities should expect to see benefit for their role in implementing the plan
- Concept intentionally established in 2018 to support the planning and region-building processes
- Discussion of benefits is a foundation of ongoing discussions at the CMRB

Scenario Planning

- Board requested a data-driven more objective planning process
- Scenario planning offers an opportunity to discuss the benefits and trade-offs of different futures
- Supported consensus-building about direction

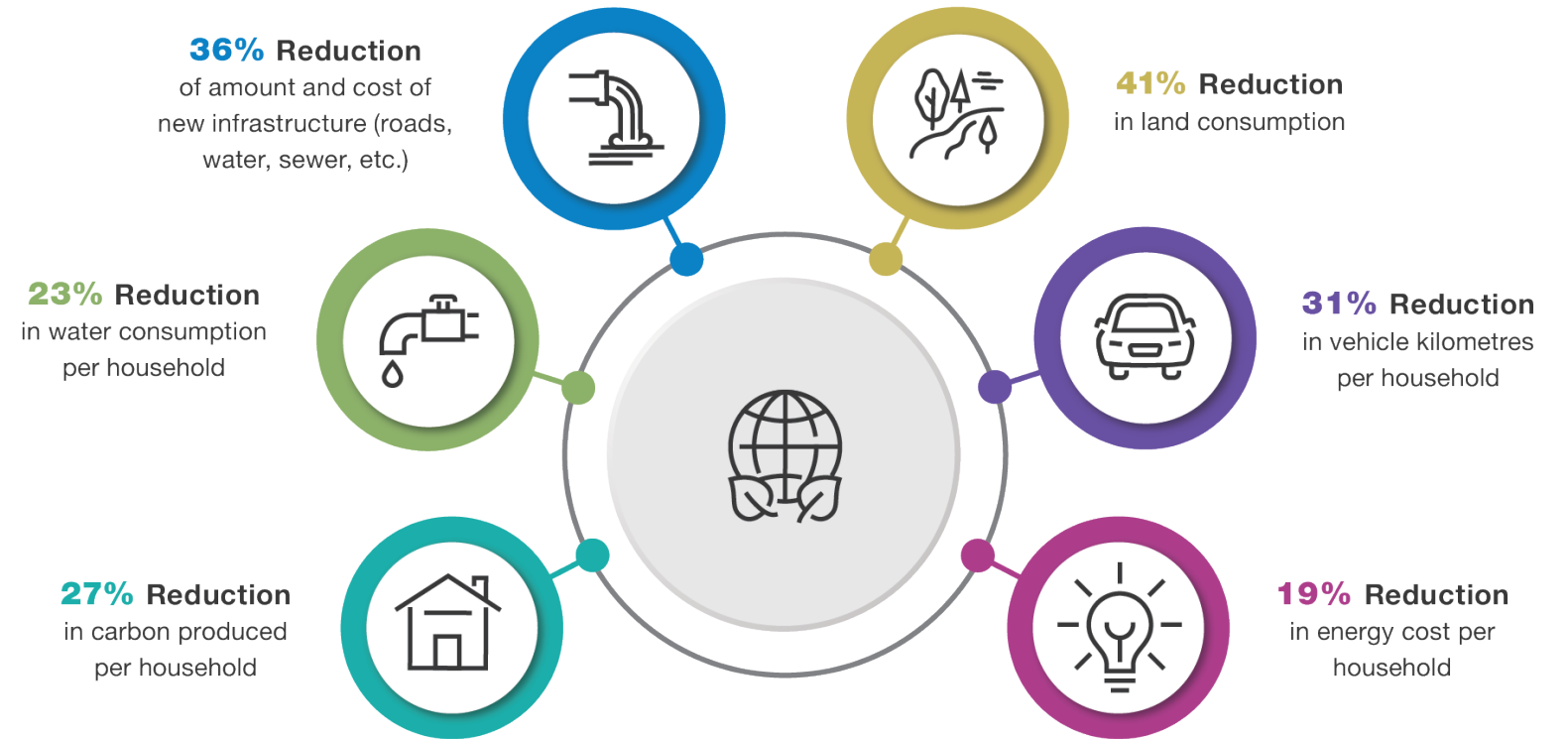
Growth Plan Summary



- Blueprint for Growth
 - Growth management approach
 - Preferred Growth Areas
 - Preferred Placetypes
- Other policy areas
 - Economic Wellbeing
 - Environmentally Responsible Land Use
 - Water Stewardship
 - Shared Services Optimization
 - Embracing Urban-Rural Differences
 - Truth and Reconciliation
- In Servicing Plan, Preferred Growth Areas are Priority Servicing Areas

Benefits of Growth Plan

SYNTHESIS SCENARIO REGIONAL BENEFITS (Compared to Business-as-Usual)

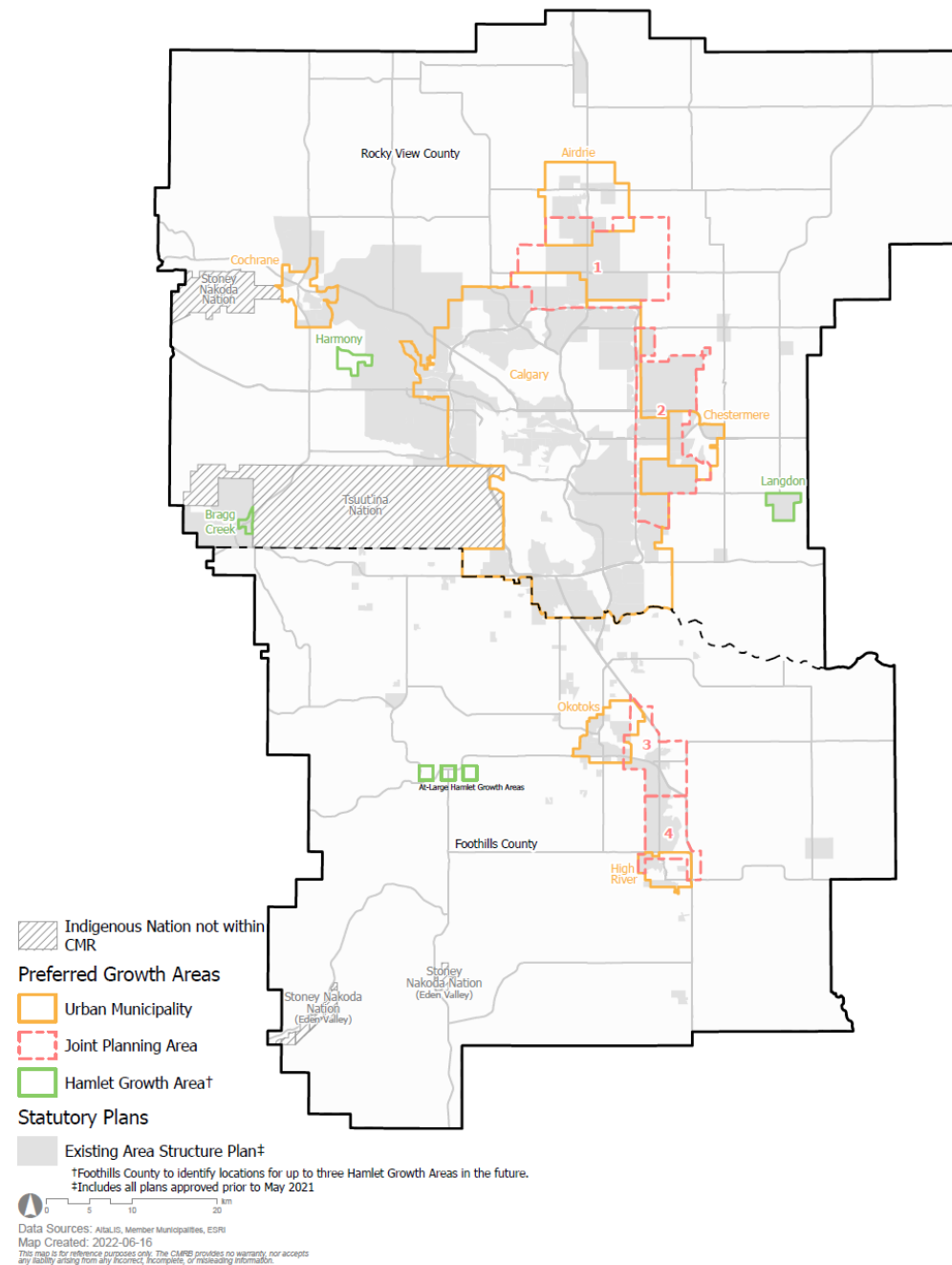


Growth Plan Growth Management Strategies

- Compact, mixed-use Preferred Placetypes along with greater infill and redevelopment to improve environmental, social, and economic outcomes.
- Joint Planning Areas improve multi-jurisdictional cooperation, efficient service delivery, and equitable distribution of shared obligations in focused geographies.
- Traditional rural areas can be reinforced with clustered development, agricultural land conservation, appropriately located employment areas, and growth hamlet.

Regional Growth Structure

- Identifies Preferred Growth Areas
 - Urban Municipality
 - Joint Planning Areas
 - Hamlet Growth Areas
- Existing ASPs can be updated to align with Growth Plan but cannot increase overall projected population (3.1.10.3)



Regional Placetypes



Infill and Redevelopment



Mixed Use Centre /
Transit Oriented Development



Masterplan Community



Employment Area



Residential Community



Rural and Country Cluster



Rural Employment Area

Placetypes and Growth Areas

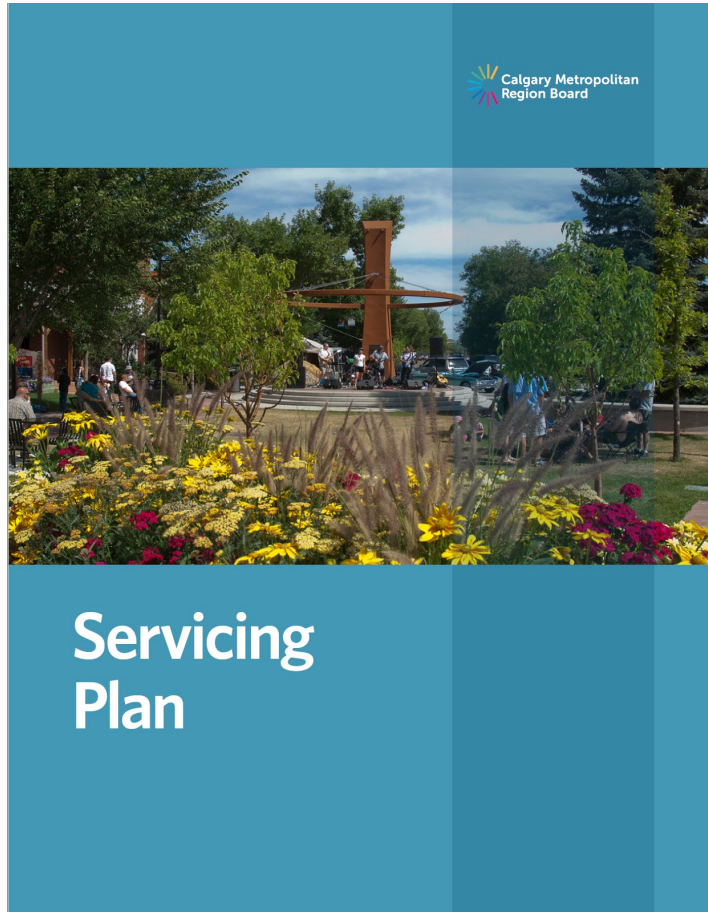
- Proportion of Preferred Placetypes must be identified in Municipal Development Plans:
 - 90% in City of Calgary
 - 75% in other Urban Municipalities
 - 60% in Hamlet Growth Areas
- Densities are calculated across the Preferred Growth Area
- Employment Areas **may** be located outside preferred growth areas if approved by the Board (example: Springbank Airport)
- Rural Employment Areas must be located outside Preferred Growth Areas

Implementation

Approval Timeline

- In May 2021, the CMR Board approved the first Growth and Servicing Plans for the CMR- sent to Minister of Municipal Affairs for review and approval
- The Minister sought Board input on potential changes in March 2022
- The Minister accepted feedback from the Board members on proposed changes until June 2022
- In July 2022, Minister approved an updated Growth Plan
- Plans came into effect August 2022

Servicing Plan



- An implementation plan for the Growth Plan to find cost-effective and efficient servicing solutions together that align with the Growth Plan
- Focus on:
 - Transportation and Transit
 - Long Term Water Strategy
 - Water and Wastewater Utilities
 - Stormwater Management
- Links Preferred Growth Areas to Priority Servicing Areas

Board Initiatives Overview

- 2024-2025 Board priorities include:
 - 1) Continued relationship-building with Indigenous Nations and communities
 - 2) Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan RFP and consultant selection
 - 3) Updating population and employment Projections
 - 4) Implementation of updated Water Road Map
 - 5) Environmentally Sensitive Areas public data
 - 6) Regional economic development with CED regional group
 - 7) Implementation and monitoring framework (KPIs)

RESULTS!

Growth Plan Benefits Coming to Life

- Increasing competitiveness on a global stage
- Saving taxpayers dollars through more efficient service delivery
- Reducing land consumption
- Reducing intermunicipal conflicts and numbers of costly dispute resolution processes
- Creating greater market certainty by identifying preferred locations and joint plans for growth
- Establishing creative and collaborative approaches to industrial development

Collaboration Pays Off

- No expensive 690 challenges in 6 years
- New joint servicing opportunities developing in region
- Regional economic development group formed
- Joint economic development projects underway
- GoA allocating funding to road infrastructure improvements using regional studies
- Enhanced mitigation of flood damage risk for residents and businesses in greenfield areas
- Platform for advocacy on issues of regional significance (water, EMS and health care, transportation, etc.)
- Potential to access a regional stream for federal Permanent Public Transit Fund



Thank You

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