



Governance Committee

Subject:	Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Projects Update
Date:	June 18, 2024
Presenter:	Ben Manshanden, Intergovernmental Strategist
Department:	Intergovernmental Services and Regional Planning

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on recently approved Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) projects, ongoing activities, and anticipated future work at the regional level. This will inform Governance Committee and County residents about ongoing regional initiatives and how they may impact County residents and businesses.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Governance Committee receives the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board projects update for information.

BACKGROUND

The Calgary Metropolitan Region Board was established by the Government of Alberta in January 2018. There are currently eight member municipalities that are required to participate in the CMRB. The CMRB’s mandate is outlined in the *CMRB Regulation*, and the Board must create Regional Growth and Servicing Plans to ensure environmentally responsible land-use planning, growth management, and to coordinate regional infrastructure investment and service delivery. The governance structure of the CMRB consists of the Board, Land Use and Servicing Committee, and the Governance Committee, which are supported by Administrative Technical Advisory and Working Groups. Attachment ‘A’ provides an overview of each group and their primary responsibilities.

The CMRB approved a 5-year workplan of regional projects (Attachment ‘B’), which was determined by the requirements of the Regional Growth and Servicing Plans, as well as Board-identified priorities. Some items on the workplan, such as the Joint Planning Area Context Studies, are being prepared and supported by the affected member municipalities. However, they are included on the CMRB workplan as they are significant requirements of the Regional Growth Plan and must be completed within a certain timeframe.

This report will provide an overview of the projects on the 5-year workplan that have been completed, those that are underway, and the anticipated future work of the CMRB. Attachment ‘C’ contains a list of the projects assigned to each TAG or Working Group.

DISCUSSION

Approved Projects

Since July 2023, the Board has approved the following projects or project charters.

1. *Digitization of Existing and Approved Land Use (DEAL) – July 21, 2023*

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Projects Update

The DEAL data will be used to ‘stitch together’ individual member municipality land use data to monitor compliance with the Regional Growth Plan. The dataset will be used to support future projects and is intended to be used at a regional scale to provide a general overview of land use designations.

2. *Additions to Reserves Framework – November 24, 2023*

This non-binding document provides guidance to member municipalities if land within a municipality is being considered for conversion into a First Nation Reserve as part of a federal process. It is for information and guidance.

3. *Terms of Reference for Transit TAG – December 15, 2023*

The Terms of Reference supports the creation of a Canada Transit Fund TAG, which will be focused on completing an application to the Metro Region Agreements of the proposed federal Canada Transit Fund. The Metro Region Agreement Stream of the proposed Canada Transit Fund will provide \$2 billion in annual federal funding across the country to metropolitan regions to support the development of transit and active transportation systems that cross municipal boundaries. The program details are scheduled to be announced in Q2 of 2024, with funding beginning to flow in 2026/27.

4. *Environmentally Sensitive Areas Database – February 9, 2024*

This project is intended to maintain a regional database consolidating data on areas that may contain environmentally significant features to support planning work. The database contains data from many sources at various scales. It may be useful for enabling a common regional approach to identifying and mapping environmentally sensitive features, but it does not replace site-level analysis.

5. *Water Road Map – February 9, 2024*

A deliverable of the Regional Servicing Plan, the Water Road Map outlines the following action areas:

- Advocacy to the provincial government
- Convening local watershed management groups
- Promoting demand management
- Updating policies in the Regional Growth Plan
- Investigating the feasibility of implementing a regional water resource planning framework.

Next steps will entail the creation of individual workplans for each action area, to be approved by the Board before implementation.

6. *Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP) Scope – April 26, 2024*

The RTTMP is a major deliverable of the Regional Growth Plan. The approved scope is the Board’s direction to CMRB Administration to prepare an RFP to engage a consultant to prepare the RTTMP. This will entail a two-stage process, one of which focuses on regional policy development and the other is a modelling exercise to update regional transportation infrastructure priorities.

Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

The following projects are currently underway, supported by consultants, CMRB Administration, and the TAGs/Working groups, or combination thereof.

1. *Regional Growth Plan Updates*

Preliminary discussions are underway, and each municipality has identified areas for improvement. The Growth Plan is prescriptive in what should be included as part of the 5-year update as compared to a broader review for the 10-year update. As per Policy 4.1.2 of the Regional Growth Plan, the 5-year update is constrained to updating population and employment forecast and incorporating the Joint Planning Area Context Studies, whereas the 10-year review will be more comprehensive, requiring a terms of reference developed in consultation with the Government of Alberta.

2. *Canada Transit Fund Application*

The Transit TAG is tasked with researching and preparing for a potential application to the Metro Region Agreement Stream of the proposed Canada Transit Fund. CMRB Administration and Calgary Transit are playing a leading role in the project. County Administration is playing an active supporting role at this time and will evaluate further participation as more information becomes available. There may be benefits to continued participation for realizing or improving regional transit services in certain areas of the County, subject to fiscal considerations.

3. *Regional Economic Development*

The Purpose Statements and Objectives for the CMRB's Regional Economic Development Framework were approved by the Board on June 23, 2023. The approved framework included a few high-level objectives with a number of potential implementation actions under each area, several of which would require a CMRB project charter to begin implementation. The CMRB has requested assistance from Calgary Economic Development to implement the strategy, and a representative from Calgary Economic Development has met with individual member municipalities to establish clarity on a workplan. The working group has met on three occasions throughout 2024. A project charter for future individual initiatives will be approved by the Board before next steps can begin.

4. *Joint Planning Areas*

This is a requirement of the Regional Growth Plan, but these projects are being managed and funded by the member municipalities who are a party to each Joint Planning Area. CMRB Administration has included this work on the 5-year workplan, but there is minimal support. The parties for each Joint Planning Area have retained a consultant to complete gap analyses in both areas and are currently identifying areas for next steps based on the completed gap analysis. The Context Studies for each Joint Planning Area must be completed by August 15, 2025.

Anticipated Projects or Initiatives

The following projects are anticipated to begin within the next several months and will require input from each member municipality:

1. *Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP)*

The Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan will provide regional-level policy direction on all forms of transportation, and alignment with the Regional Growth and Servicing Plans. It will also produce a modelling exercise to identify regional transportation infrastructure priorities. This newly approved project is anticipated to require considerable resources and staff time through the Transportation and Transit Technical Advisory Groups. CMRB Administration is currently developing a Request for Proposals, which should provide further clarity around potential timelines in the near future.

2. *Implementation of the Water Road Map*

The Water Roadmap provides a number of potential priority areas for further work to improve regional water management. Significant work may be required to implement the Water Roadmap, subject to individual workplans that must be approved by the Board to clarify scope, resource requirements and anticipated timelines. CMRB Administration has committed to providing further clarity around potential timelines in Q3 2024.

3. *Indigenous Relations Charter*

At the April 26, 2024, Board meeting, CMRB Administration presented a Charter for a Phase 3 Indigenous Relations Plan. The Board approved the charter but directed CMRB Administration to have further discussions with the Indigenous TAG to prioritize the actions in the charter prior to returning to the Board.

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Projects Update

The projects and initiatives outlined in this report represent significant effort and resources for the CMRB, but also each member municipality. The County has elected officials and members of Administration actively participating in each Board, Committee, TAG, and Working Group. Many of the projects require significant implementation that will occur through additional work at the CMRB level. Attachment 'D' outlines each project further with an assessment of potential impacts, as understood at this time.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

No alternate direction has been identified for Governance Committee's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Overview of CMRB Governance Structure
- Attachment B: CMRB 5-Year Workplan
- Attachment C: CMRB Technical Advisory Group Project List
- Attachment D: PowerPoint Presentation of CMRB Projects

Attachment A: Overview of Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CRMB) Governance Structure

The CMRB's governance structure consists of the following:

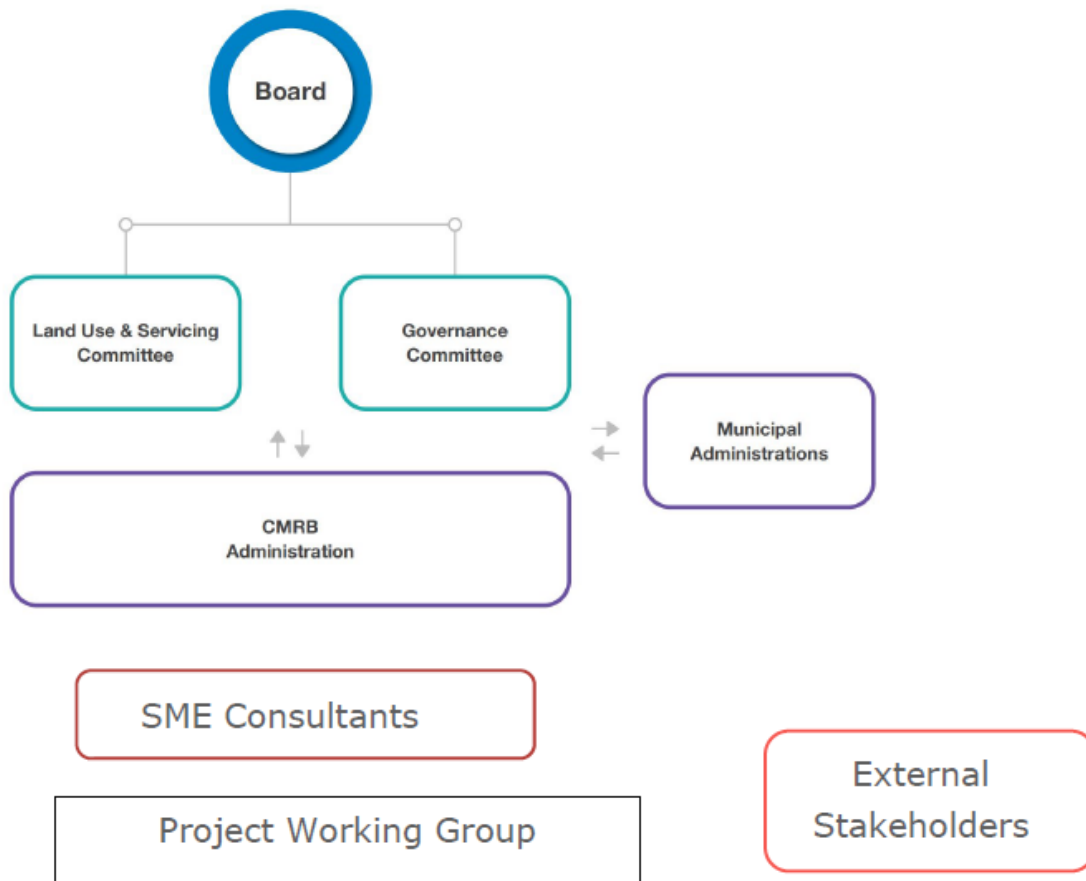
Calgary Metropolitan Region Board	Land Use and Servicing Committee	Governance Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of chief elected officials, or their designates, from each member municipality. Provides elected level direction to CMRB Administration and is the decision-maker at the regional level. Tasked with determining whether statutory plans are consistent with the Regional Growth Plan and directs regional level projects undertaken by the CMRB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides elected official oversight and detailed discussion on all CMRB work related to the implementation of the Regional Growth Plan and Regional Servicing Plan. Working committee that makes recommendations on projects and other issues to the Board for approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a focus on governance to enhance the Board's performance. Provides recommendations to the Board on governance, operations, finance, and human resources.
Meeting Frequency: monthly (with an August break)	Meeting Frequency: monthly (with an August break)	Meeting Frequency: 4-6 times annually

The CRMB Board and Committees are supported by Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) or working groups consisting of CMRB Administration and members of each Municipal Administration. The TAGs are determined by subject matter area and support various core Board activities, as well as several additional 'strategic initiatives' that were approved by the Board. The Technical Advisory Groups are as follows:

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) / Working Group	Purpose
Land Use TAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides technical input for planning-related work being undertaken by the CMRB Primary technical advisory group responsible for updating the Regional Growth Plan (due August 2027)
Water TAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the development and implementation of an updated Water Roadmap

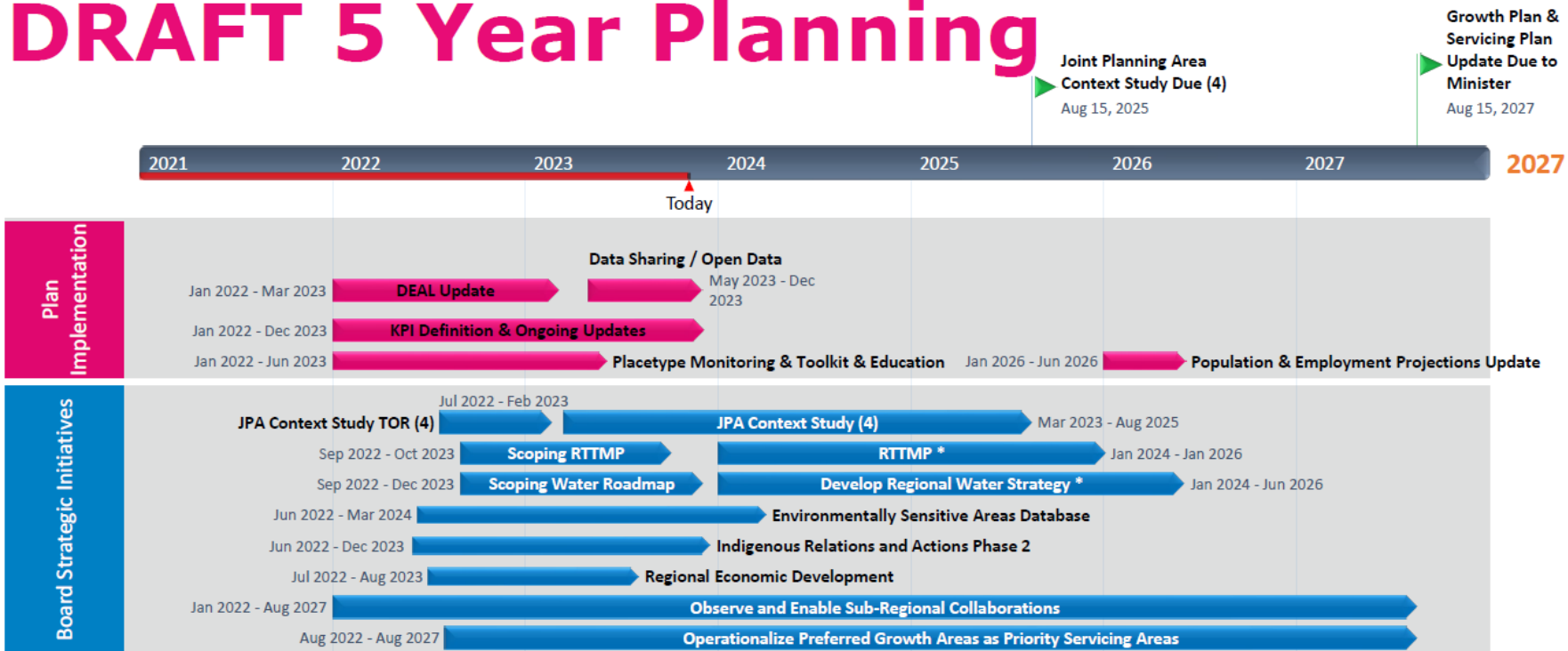
Transportation TAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the development of the Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP)
Transit TAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the development of a regional application to the federal Canada Transit Fund (CTF)
Calgary Region Economic Development Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the implementation of the regional economic development strategy
Indigenous Projects Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports strengthened relationships with nearby Indigenous communities

Project governance has varied depending on the project, but a typical example of the relationship between the Board, committees, technical advisory groups (or working groups), and project consultants for an individual project is as follows:



Attachment B: CMRB Workplan

DRAFT 5 Year Planning



* Indicates variability in scope. Cost & level of effort will vary.

Policing Background Report to be determined

JPA – Joint Planning Area

RTTMP – Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan

TOR – Terms of Reference



Attachment C: CMRB Technical Advisory Groups & Project List

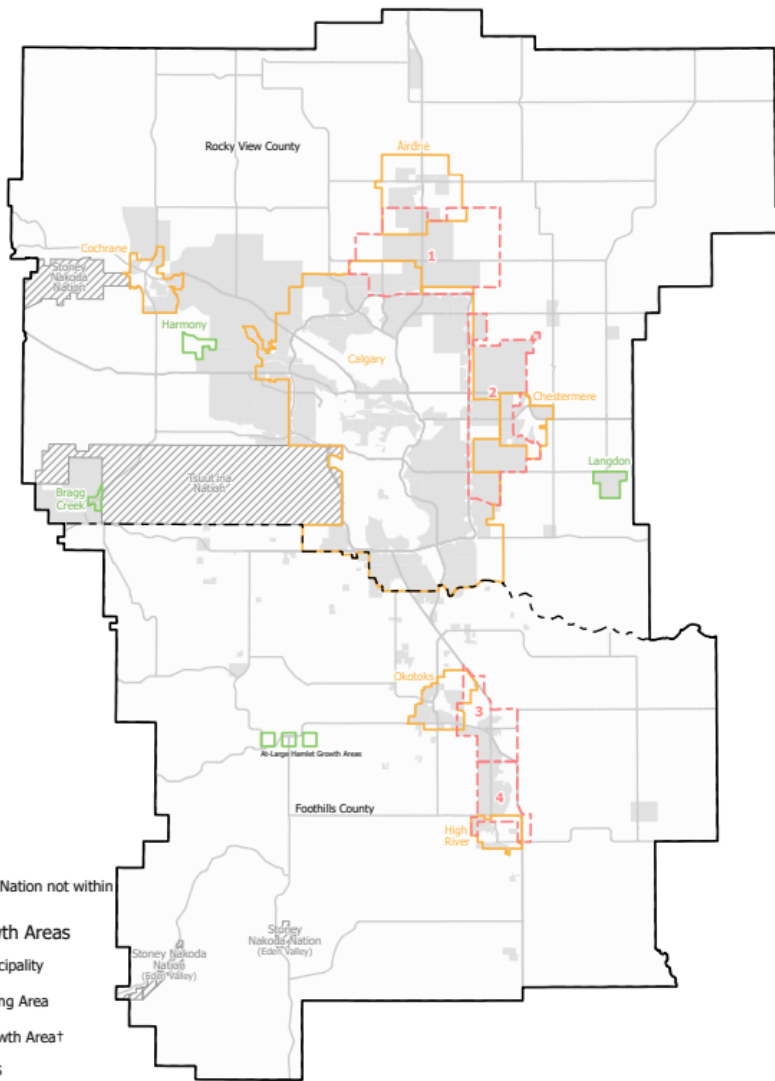
Project Name	Work Completed	Next Steps
Land Use Technical Advisory Group		
Environmentally Sensitive Areas Database	- Database approved by CMRB in February 2024	- Maintain database as necessary
Digitization of Existing and Approved Land Use Database v2	- Database approved by CMRB in July 2023	- Maintain database as necessary and update as part of CMRB Growth Plan update
Discussion on Growth Plan Update	- Initial discussions underway	- Determine scope of update - Anticipate significant effort to complete Growth Plan update (process unclear)
Transportation and Transit Technical Advisory Group		
Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP)	- Scoping exercise with two consultants completed - RTTMP objectives approved in June 2023	- Approve new project charter - Hire new consultants for next two phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Create regional strategic policy documents o Create/update regional model to prioritize infrastructure upgrades
Canada Transit Fund Technical Advisory Group		
Application to Metro Region Agreement Stream of proposed Canada Transit Fund	- Terms of Reference for new TAG approved by CMRB in December 2023 - Initial meeting with Infrastructure Canada completed	- Review Infrastructure Canada draft application guide - Apply for Canada Transit Fund grant when open, if feasible
Water Technical Advisory Group		
Water Roadmap	- Arup's Water Roadmap approved by CMRB in February 2024	- Implementation of 6 action areas identified in Water Roadmap (next steps unclear) - All subsequent Water TAG meetings have focused on drought response

Regional Economic Development Working Group		
Regional Economic Development Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purpose Statement and Objectives approved in June 2023 - Calgary Economic Development working with CMRB on next steps (3 meetings held to date) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There has been limited progress to date on implementation of the objectives approved by the Board in June 2023 - Administration recommends that a project charter should be completed for this working group to provide clarity on next steps
Indigenous Projects Working Groups		
Additions-to-Reserves Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-binding framework approved by CMRB in November 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project completed
Stories of the Land Pilot Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several TAG meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project delayed and team is re-assessing feasibility

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Projects Update

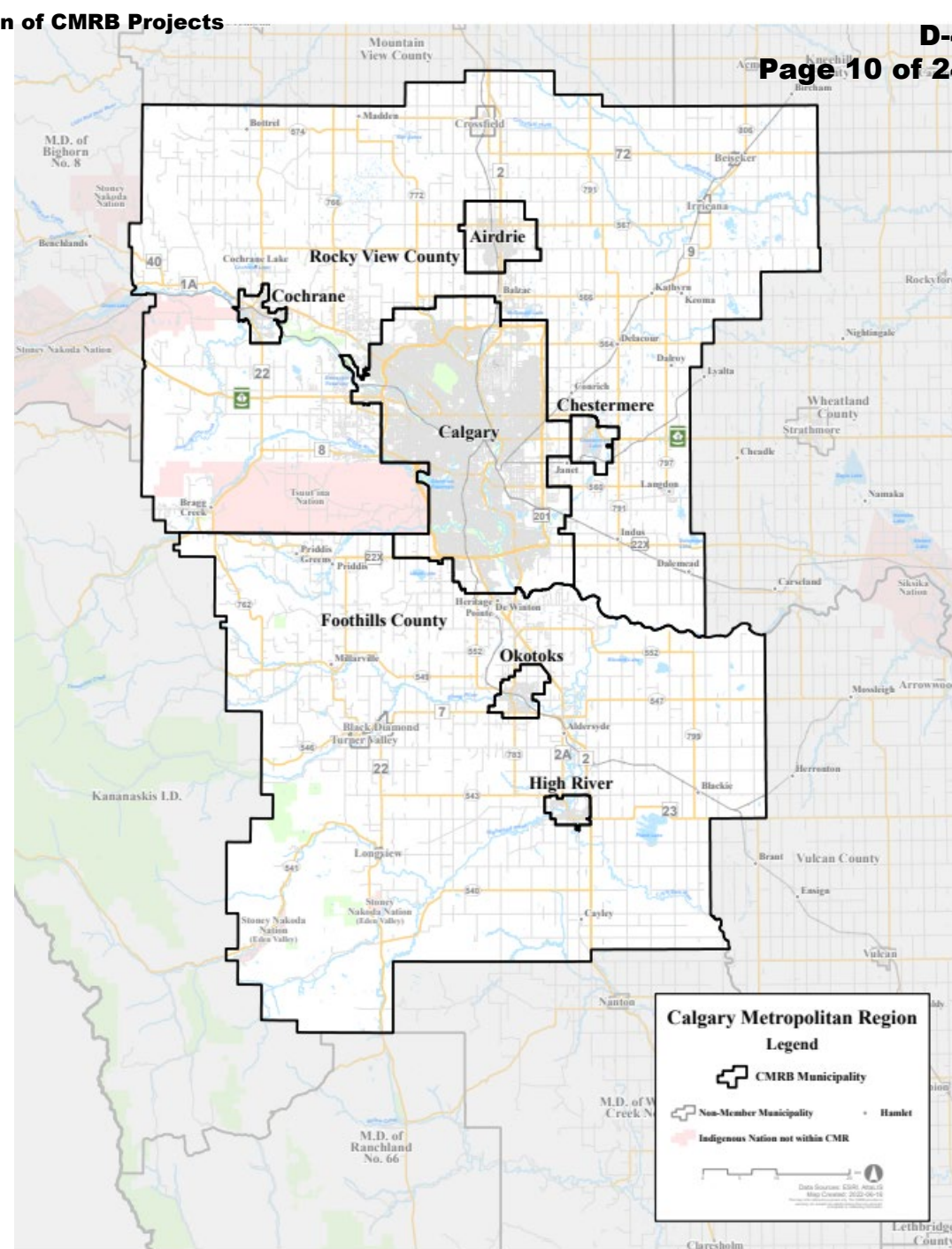
Rocky View County Governance Committee

June 18, 2024



- Indigenous Nation not within CMR
- Preferred Growth Areas**
- Urban Municipality
- Joint Planning Area
- Hamlet Growth Area†
- Statutory Plans**
- Existing Area Structure Plan‡

†Foothills County to identify locations for up to three Hamlet Growth Areas in the future.
 ‡Includes all plans approved prior to May 2021.



Calgary Metropolitan Region Legend

- CMRB Municipality
- Non-Member Municipality
- Indigenous Nation not within CMR
- Hamlet

Data Source: GIS, ArcGIS
Map Created: 2023-06-16



Presentation Outline

1. Completed CMRB Projects
 - a. Digitization of Existing and Approved Land Use
 - b. Additions to Reserves Framework
 - c. Environmentally Sensitive Area Database
 - d. Transit TAG Terms of Reference
2. Current CMRB Projects
 - a. Regional Growth Plan Update
 - b. Canada Transit Fund Application
 - c. Regional Economic Development Framework
 - d. Joint Planning Areas
3. Future CMRB Projects
 - a. Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan
 - b. Implementation of Water Roadmap
 - c. Indigenous Relations Charter





1. Completed CMRB Projects



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- 1) Digitization of Existing and Approved Land Use Data**
 - 2) Additions to Reserves Framework**
 - 3) Environmentally Sensitive Areas Database**
 - 4) Transit TAG Terms of Reference**



2. Current CMRB Projects



1) Regional Growth Plan (RGP) Update

- CMRB Growth Plan mandates a 5-year update and 10-year review of the Regional Growth Plan (approved Aug. 15, 2022)
 - Policy 4.1.2.1: Comprehensive review and update at 10-year mark (Aug. 2032)
 - Policy 4.1.2.2: Limited update (population/employment forecasts, placetype proportions, and incorporate Joint Planning Area Context Studies, as appropriate)
- Preliminary discussions for 5-year review at Land Use TAG underway:
 - All parties (large urban, small urban and rural) have identified certain policies which could be improved
 - The 5-year review is relatively constrained as per Policy 4.1.2.2

Potential Impacts:

- Rural municipalities face challenges with some policies in RGP – as do urban neighbours (different policies)
- Need to give some policies time to evaluate impacts before suggesting changes



2) Transit Technical Advisory Group – grant application awaiting final program details

- CMRB Administration is relying on Calgary Transit to lead this project
- Potential regional application to new federal grant program to support regional transit efforts
 - Metro Region Stream – \$2B/year for metropolitan regions across Canada
 - Program not finalized until federal Treasury Board approval in ~Q2 → Admin will update Council when details known

Potential Impacts:

- Support regional partners' efforts to secure transit funding → strengthened relationships
- May enable future County partnerships with urban neighbours to secure intermunicipal transit opportunities where appropriate
 - Would require Council direction/approval, and lengthy negotiation process if this is pursued
- Federal program → onerous information requirements and federal targets



3) Regional Economic Development

- Purpose Statement and Objectives for CMRB Regional Economic Development Framework approved June 23, 2023
 - CMRB Administration is relying on Calgary Economic Development and a consultant to lead this project
 - 2024: Working Group meetings in February, April, and May

Potential Impacts:

- Original report had many recommended actions → need to triage and select high-value, low-cost actions that do not duplicate efforts being undertaken elsewhere
- There is a need for project charters for individual Economic Development initiatives
 - Ensure that scope and resource requirements are clearly understood and endorsed by the Board



4) Joint Planning Areas (JPA) #1 & #2 – Context Studies

- Joint Planning Areas are a novel concept required by the Regional Growth Plan, and the County is required to participate in:
 - JPA #1: Airdrie, Calgary, and Rocky View County
 - JPA #2: Calgary, Chestermere, and Rocky View County

Potential Impacts:

- JPAs may be helpful in securing regional recognition of County development opportunities
- Limited support from CMRB – need to pick and choose which aspects to focus on



3. Future CMRB Projects



1) Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP)

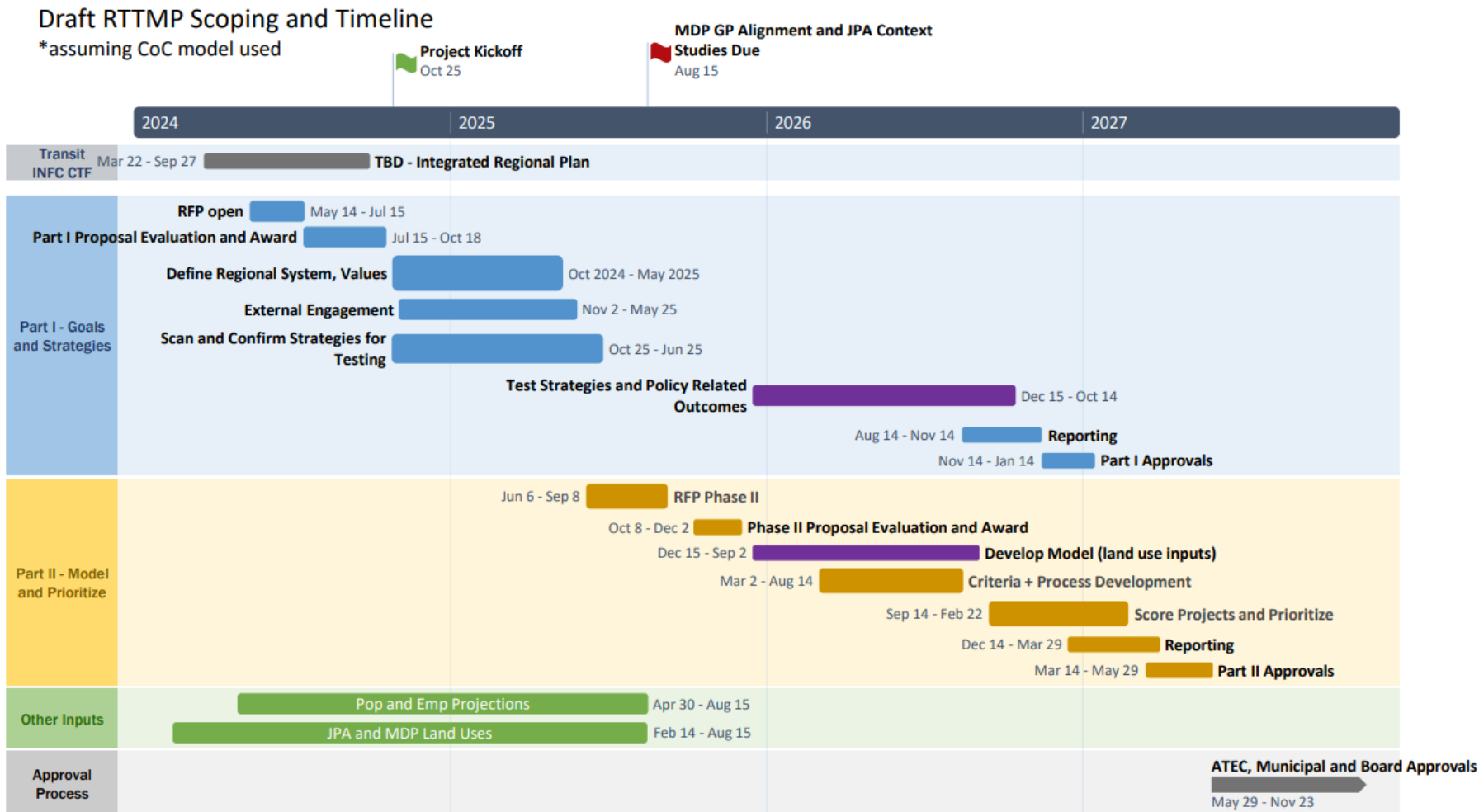
- Throughout 2023, CMRB Administration worked with Transportation TAG and two consultants on a scope of work exercise, and the scope of work was approved by the Board on April 26, 2024. It will entail two phases:
 1. Regional Policy Exercise
 2. Modelling Exercise (Regional Infrastructure Priorities)
- CMRB Administration will be posting the RFP soon – anticipated to be a very costly project (est. completion Q3 2027)

Potential Impacts:

- Regional coordination of transportation planning may avoid duplication and assist with addressing intermunicipal transportation impacts
- County priorities include:
 - Goods movement and agricultural corridors
 - Acknowledging diversity of transportation needs across region
 - Intermunicipal and highway transportation interface
 - Alignment with provincial funding models



1) Regional Transportation and Transit Master Plan (RTTMP) Timeline



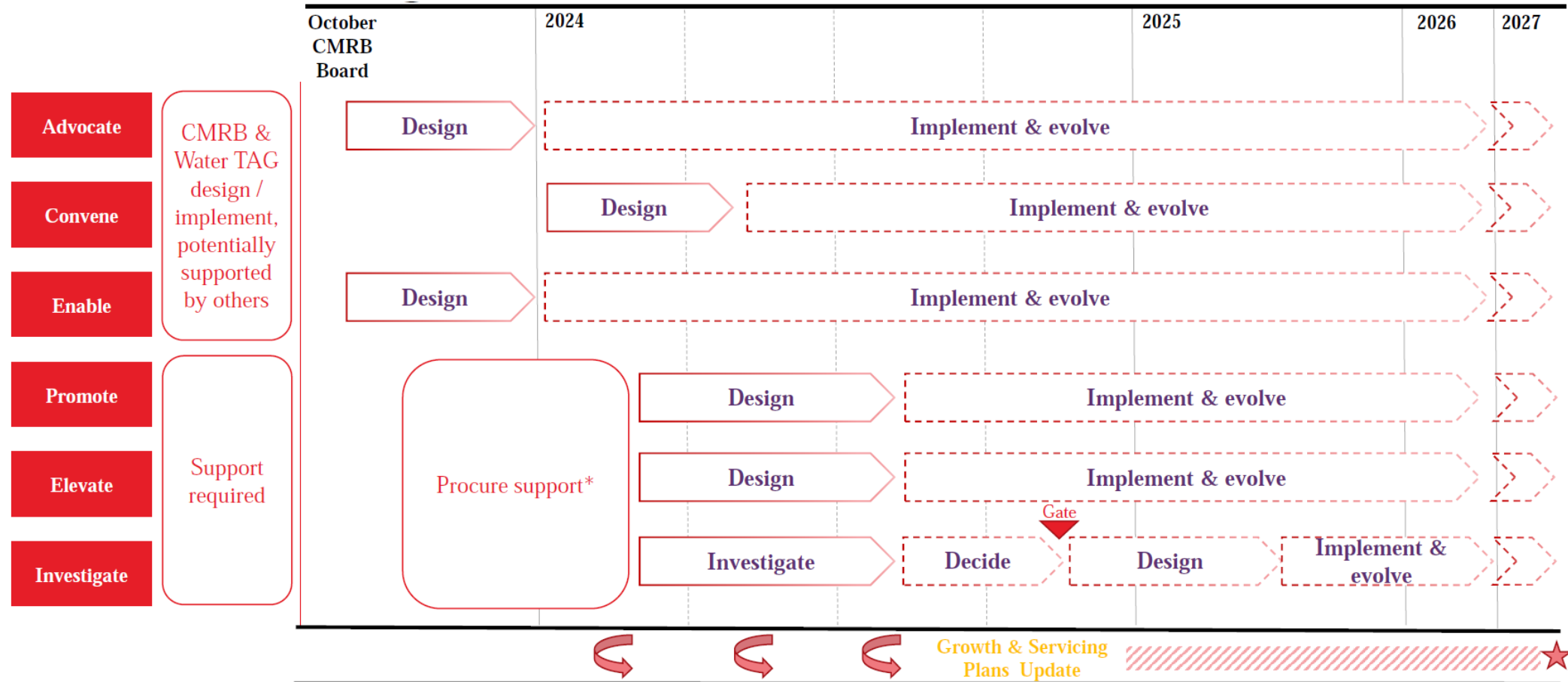


2) Implementing Water Roadmap

- Throughout 2023, CMRB Administration worked with Water TAG and a consultant to complete a Water Roadmap, which was approved by the Board on February 9, 2024. The Water Roadmap included 6 future action areas:
 - Advocate: engagement with the provincial government on water-related issues (i.e. water recycling, stormwater re-use)
 - Convene: bring together relevant regional water stakeholders
 - Enable: recommendation that municipalities work with local watershed groups
 - Promote: public-facing campaign to generate awareness of water issues and encourage demand-side management
 - Elevate: policy updates to Growth and Servicing Plans
 - Investigate: feasibility of creating integrated watershed management plan
- CMRB Administration has indicated that they will pause work on the Water Roadmap until Fall 2024 due to competing priorities



2) Water Roadmap Action Areas & Potential Timelines



3) Indigenous Relations Phase 3

- At the April 26, 2024, Board meeting, CMRB Administration presented a project charter for Phase 3 of Indigenous Relations projects, which the Board approved but asked Administration to provide a prioritization list for review at a subsequent Board meeting
- Throughout 2023, CMRB Administration worked with a consultant and the Indigenous Relations Working Group on the Additions to Reserves guidance document (discussed above), and a Stories of the Land pilot project that was not completed

Potential Impacts:

- Improved relations with Indigenous neighbours is a worthwhile endeavour, but improved relations with First Nations that border CMRB member municipalities should be a higher priority