

Metro 2050 Engagement Plan

Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have had a regional growth strategy since the 1990s. The current regional growth strategy, *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, was adopted in July 2011.

Metro 2040 is the region's collective vision for how anticipated growth will be managed to support the creation of complete, connected and resilient communities, protect important lands and support the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities.

Metro Vancouver is updating *Metro 2040*, with a focus on building on its strengths. The update is being undertaken to consider new drivers of change, integrate with the new Regional Transportation Strategy being prepared by TransLink, and ensure policy improvements. The updated regional growth strategy will be referred to as *Metro 2050*.

Metro Vancouver is committed to working in close collaboration with member jurisdictions, TransLink, the Province, adjacent regional districts, and other regional agencies throughout the update to *Metro 2040*. Metro Vancouver is also committed to providing the public with meaningful and early opportunities to engage on *Metro 2050* in a variety of accessible formats, leveraging web-based platforms and in-house engagement expertise. A summary of *Metro 2050* engagement activities is provided in Appendix A. Legislative requirements for engagement are provided in Appendix B.

Through the collaborative process of updating the regional growth strategy, Metro Vancouver hopes to achieve:

- a renewed commitment to the regional vision and how that vision integrates with municipal planning;
- better integration between land use and transportation planning;
- better preparation for future uncertainties; and
- a series of more robust and updated policies to achieve the regional vision.

Objective: Why Update *Metro 2040*?

Metro 2040 is the region's collective vision for how anticipated growth will be managed to support the creation of complete, connected and resilient communities, protect important lands and support the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities. Updating *Metro 2040* requires close collaboration with member jurisdictions, the public, First Nations and others. The *Metro 2050* Engagement Plan describes the approach Metro Vancouver will take to provide the opportunity for consultation with persons, organizations and authorities considered to be affected by the regional growth strategy. The consultation will meet the engagement requirements of a Type 1 Major Amendment in accordance with *Metro 2040* as well as the provisions of Sections 434 and 450 of the *Local Government Act*, and will align with the Metro Vancouver Board's *Public Engagement policy*.

In addition to providing a proactive and transparent approach to consultation, this plan provides a structure to track feedback that can inform decisions on updates to the regional growth strategy. The consultation process will contribute to building support with signatories, strengthening relationships with other governments, and reaffirming the purpose of the regional growth strategy and benefits of regional planning.

Timing

The Metro Vancouver Board initiated the process for a comprehensive update to *Metro 2040* in April 2019 and directed staff to prepare an Engagement Plan. Some early consultation is occurring through the summer of 2019 through a shared public process undertaken with TransLink to inform *Transport 2050* and *Metro 2050*. In addition, staff have initiated discussions with stakeholders, largely member jurisdictions, on specific policies within *Metro 2040* through a series of Policy Reviews.

The update to *Metro 2040* will be called *Metro 2050*. The approach to engagement aligns with the three phases of *Metro 2050* development outlined in the table below. The table also includes 'pre-consultation' activities to reflect the Policy Review and visioning work already underway.

It is anticipated that the bylaw updating *Metro 2040* will be adopted in mid-2022. Each phase of development will last approximately one year. Phase 1 is intended to include broad engagement to review currently policies, identify new ideas for actions, and to develop an updated vision statement and guiding principles. Phase 2 includes approximately one year for drafting *Metro 2050* and circulating for formal comment from municipal councils as well as additional public engagement opportunities, with anticipated completion in mid-2021. Phase 3 provides approximately one year for approvals (acceptance) from plan signatories.

Metro 2050 Development and Engagement Timeline

	Pre-consultation 2018 – Q2 2019	Phase 1: Review & New Ideas Q2 2019-Q2 2020	Phase 2: Plan Development Q3 2020 to Q2 2021	Phase 3: Approvals Q3 2021 to Q3 2022
Project Phase	Early consultation in anticipation of an update to <i>Metro 2040</i>	Review <i>Metro 2040</i> to identify opportunities for improvement, develop an updated vision and guiding principles.	Refine and add detail to recommended policies and write draft <i>Metro 2050</i> content.	Communicate, refine, and conduct approvals for <i>Metro 2050</i> .
Engagement	Ongoing discussion with stakeholders regarding the application and effectiveness of the regional policies in <i>Metro 2040</i>	Consultation activities differ with different audiences. Technical and municipal staff are engaged at a policy-specific level, and regional agencies and governments on the fuller strategy.	Engagement largely with signatories through reviewing and incorporating feedback and writing content. Refer <i>Metro 2050</i> for formal comment from affected local governments.	Engagement largely with elected councils, public hearing and MVRD Committees and Board.

Audiences

Section 434 of the *Local Government Act* specifies that the Metro Vancouver Board must adopt a consultation plan that provides early and ongoing opportunities for consultation with: citizens; affected local governments; First Nations; Boards of Education, Greater Boards and Improvement District Boards; and, the Provincial and Federal Governments and their agencies. The Province may specify which Ministries and agencies are to be consulted. These requirements complement Metro Vancouver’s Board’s *Public Engagement Policy*, ensuring public involvement in decision making where Board decisions may impact their lives. For the update to *Metro 2040*, Table 1 identifies audiences for engagement in alignment with the *Local Government Act* requirements.

Table 1. Metro 2050 Engagement Audiences

Metro 2050 Engagement Audience	Description
Metro 2040 Signatories and Metro Vancouver Boards and Committees	<p>Signatories: Member jurisdictions*, Fraser Valley and Squamish-Lillooet Regional Districts, and the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink)</p> <p>Metro Vancouver Boards and Committees including the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board; Staff advisory committees including the Regional Planning Advisory Committee and its subcommittees and the Regional Administrators Advisory Committee; Metro Vancouver Departments through policy development including Parks, Housing, Air Quality and Climate Change, Liquid Waste, and Water Services.</p> <p>The Province of BC (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Jobs, Technology and Trade, to be confirmed by the Province.)</p> <p>* Bowen Island and Electoral Area A (specifically UEL/ UBC) are member jurisdictions but are not plan signatories.</p>
Non-signatory regional interests	<p>Interested or Affected Regional Agencies: Agricultural Land Commission, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, School Districts, BC Housing, Health Authorities, Vancouver International Airport Authority, etc.</p> <p>Subject matter experts: Such as academics, researchers, and non-government organizations.</p>
First Nations	First Nations with an identified interest in any lands located in Metro Vancouver as per the BC Government’s First Nations Consultative Areas Data Base including local First Nations without in-region territories.
General Public	General Public including Metro Vancouver residents, community groups, businesses, and media organizations.

Scope of the Engagement Plan

The *Metro 2050* Engagement Plan describes broad inter-governmental and community-level engagement activities, including those required by the *Local Government Act*. It does not include details on the specifics of the engagement that will be required for each *Metro 2040* Policy Review (e.g. Agriculture Policy Review, Environment Policy Review) as these reviews will come forward to the Regional Planning Committee and Metro Vancouver Board independently. A list of the Policy Reviews is found item 5.5 in the Regional Planning Committee Agenda for April 5, 2019.

Consultation Approach by Audience

The *Local Government Act* requires establishment and identified membership for an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) to advise on the update, and facilitate coordination of relevant regional and Provincial regulations. Relevant sections of the *Local Government Act*, including the required membership of the IAC, are included in Appendix B. Metro Vancouver will use the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, including both member jurisdictions and associate members, as the foundation for the IAC, and will add additional representatives, including those identified by the Province to meet the legislated membership requirements.

In addition to the role of the IAC, the Regional Planning Committee and Metro Vancouver Board will guide the development of *Metro 2050*. Where possible, Metro Vancouver will leverage other existing committees of staff and elected officials for engagement.

Section 434 of the *Local Government Act* states that the relevant Regional District Board must consider whether the engagement plan will include a public hearing before the regional growth strategy is submitted for acceptance. The hearing would need to occur before third reading of *Metro 2050*.

Table 2 lists the proposed engagement by audience.

Table 2. Metro 2050 Engagement Approaches by Audience

Audience	Engagement Approaches
Metro 2040 Signatories and Metro Vancouver Boards and Committees	
Member Jurisdictions (20 municipalities and one Treaty First Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter as per LGA • Inviting staff to meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Regional Transportation Advisory Committee • Regional Administrators Advisory Committee • Potential inclusion on Council of Councils agenda(s) • Presentations / workshops with member jurisdiction Councils • Formal referral of <i>Metro 2050</i> to signatory member jurisdictions for comment and for acceptance • Option to co-host Public Meeting with each member jurisdiction
Fraser Valley Regional District and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter as per LGA • Inviting staff to meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Presentations / workshops with Boards • Formal referral of <i>Metro 2050</i> to Boards for comment and for acceptance

<p>South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter as per LGA • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Joint / coordinated approach to <i>Transport 2050</i> development with Metro Vancouver participation in all levels of project governance • Formal referral of <i>Metro 2050</i> comment and for acceptance
<p>Metro Vancouver Boards and Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Planning Committee • MVRD Board (for plan adoption) • GVS&DD and GVWD (for information) • Industrial Lands Strategy Task Force, Housing Committee, Parks Committee and Climate Action Committee (for information) • Meetings and Workshops • Board Strategic Plan will be used to inform <i>Metro 2050</i>
<p>Metro Vancouver staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Corporate Planning Committee • Additional meetings or workshops as required for
<p>Province of British Columbia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Potential for a cross-departmental meeting in Victoria • Correspondence and referrals as per LGA
<p>First Nations</p>	
<p>First Nation governments as per the BC Government's First Nations Consultative Areas Data Base</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer to meet individually with each First Nation to seek input on <i>Metro 2050</i> • Utilize existing meetings between Metro Vancouver and First Nations to provide updates and discuss regional growth strategy issues of interest • Consider using Community to Community events as a forum for input • Correspondence and referral of <i>Metro 2050</i> for comment

Non-signatory Stakeholders	
Federal Government (especially Natural Resources Canada and CMHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Correspondence and referrals as needed
Non-signatory but affected local governments (Bowen Island, Electoral Area A, specifically UEL/ UBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Regional Planning Advisory Committee / Intergovernmental Advisory Committee • Correspondence and referrals as per LGA
Regional interests and organizations including: Agricultural Land Commission, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Port of Vancouver, YVR, BC Housing,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted meetings, events and forums through Policy Reviews and <i>Metro 2040</i> implementation • Regional Planning Advisory Committee Associates meetings (for Associate members) • Additional meetings or workshops as required for policy development / review
School Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence and referrals as per LGA
Other subject matter experts (e.g. Planning professionals, (consultants, academics, NGOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted engagement through key informant interviews and Policy Reviews • Offer for presentations and workshops with post-secondary institutions with a planning program / interest

General Public	
Residents, businesses, community organizations, media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public input to inform updating the regional vision statement and adding guiding principles through an online public survey on the vision and values of residents for the future of the region in partnership with TransLink • Web-based information and feedback form • Social media to promote feedback options • <i>Metro 2050</i> Online Open Houses (webinar format) in Phase 1 and 2. • <i>Metro 2050</i> Community Dialogue Series (typically five locations across the region, including one south of the Fraser). • Optional Public Information Meetings co-hosted by member jurisdictions at city halls in coordination with Council presentations. • Presentations and meetings in response to requests • Content in Metro Vancouver email newsletters • A Regional Public Hearing

Opportunities for Public Input on *Metro 2050*

There are opportunities for the public to provide input in each phase of the *Metro 2050* process. Early engagement is prioritized because later in the process, especially once *Metro 2050* has been referred to signatories for comment, it becomes more challenging to incorporate public input. Staff will therefore seek to encourage feedback in the earlier phases of development as there is greater opportunity to incorporate new ideas early in the process.

Public feedback is encouraged through the online feedback form at any time during the process. Staff will also ensure that organizations representing a range of demographics across this region, including marginalized communities, are invited to engagement activities and encouraged to provide comment. Public engagement activities are described by phase below.

Phase 1 includes opportunity for new policy ideas to be considered (through the comment form) as well as an opportunity for the public to help shape an updated regional vision and principles (through the joint TransLink survey). During this phase the public can provide input online, through the survey on the vision and values (open to fall 2019), several *Metro 2050* Community Dialogue events (locations across the region, including south of the Fraser River), and through an Online Open House (webinar).

In 2020, there is the potential to engage stakeholders about the topic of equity in regional growth management policy. This dialogue would support the *Metro 2050* process to determine if an equity lens or content can be incorporated into the regional growth strategy. Details will be brought to the Metro Vancouver Board for consideration in advance of undertaking this work.

Phase 2 includes the opportunity to comment on draft policy ideas through an online comment card and a second Online Open House. If there is significant public interest in the Phase 1 *Metro 2050* Community Dialogue events, an additional dialogue series can be considered for Phase 2. Metro Vancouver will offer member jurisdictions the option to co-host a Public Information Meeting in conjunction with presentations at Council meetings during the formal referral for comment stage of the planning process. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, one Regional Public Hearing will be offered at the end of Phase 2; this is an opportunity for the public to provide feedback to the Metro Vancouver Board on *Metro 2050*.

Phase 3 will focus on keeping the public informed about the *Metro 2050* process. Updates will be made through the website, social media, and the Regional Planning E-Bulletin typically published quarterly. The public can continue to provide input through the online feedback form, through municipal council meetings as part of *Metro 2050* acceptance, or as a delegation to the Regional Planning Committee or Metro Vancouver Board.

Leveraging Complementary Engagement Opportunities for *Metro 2050*

In addition to the partnership with TransLink, *Metro 2050* will leverage other recent or ongoing engagement processes and surveys. These complementary engagement processes include:

- Engagement on Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050* "roadmap" development and the *Clean Air Plan*;
- Engagement with industry and related sectors through the Regional Industrial Lands Strategy; and
- Recent surveys including the two Shaping our Communities Engagement Initiative Surveys.

***Metro 2050* Engagement Notification**

To formally initiate the engagement process, written notification will be provided on behalf of the Metro Vancouver Board to all affected local governments. Notification letters will be sent in parallel to First Nations.

Reporting and Evaluation

The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, Committees and Metro Vancouver Board will receive updates on engagement throughout the *Metro 2050* development process. In addition to these updates, feedback gathered in this engagement process will be summarized and shared to the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, Regional Planning Committee and Metro Vancouver Board in the form of an Engagement Summary Report at the conclusion of the *Metro 2050* process.

Appendix A: Engagement Timeline

Appendix B: Local Government Act Requirements for Consultation

Based on a review of the *Local Government Act*, a major amendment to *Metro 2040* triggers the same consultation requirements as a new regional growth strategy. The requirements are outlined in Sections 434 and 450 of the *Local Government Act*. These sections outline requirements for consultation during the development of a regional growth strategy and for establishing an intergovernmental advisory committee. Excerpts are included below.

Consultation during development of regional growth strategy

434 (1) During the development of a regional growth strategy,

- a) the proposing board must provide opportunity for consultation with persons, organizations and authorities that the board considers will be affected by the regional growth strategy, and*
- b) the board and the affected local governments must make all reasonable efforts to reach agreement on a proposed regional growth strategy.*

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), as soon as practicable after the initiation of a regional growth strategy, the board must adopt a consultation plan that, in the opinion of the board, provides opportunities for early and ongoing consultation with, at a minimum, the following:

- a) its citizens;*
- b) affected local governments;*
- c) first nations;*
- d) boards of education, greater boards and improvement district boards;*
- e) the Provincial and federal governments and their agencies.*

(3) In adopting a consultation plan under subsection (2), the board must consider whether the plan should include the holding of a public hearing to provide an opportunity for persons, organizations and authorities to make their views known before the regional growth strategy is submitted for acceptance under section 436 [acceptance by affected local governments].

(3.1) The minister may make regulations respecting the procedure to be used for hearings under subsection (3).

(4) A failure to comply with a consultation plan under subsection (2) does not invalidate the regional growth strategy as long as reasonable consultation has been conducted.

(5) For certainty, at any time during the development of a regional growth strategy, additional regional matters may be included under section 429 (3).

Intergovernmental advisory committees

450 (1) A board

- a) may establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district,*
- b) must establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district when a regional growth strategy is initiated, and*
- c) must establish an intergovernmental advisory committee for its regional district if*
 - i. there is a proposed amendment to the regional growth strategy, except in relation to an amendment under section 437 [minor amendments to regional growth strategies], and*
 - ii. the committee established under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection no longer exists.*

(2) The role of an intergovernmental advisory committee is

- a) to advise the applicable local governments on the development and implementation of the regional growth strategy, and*
- b) to facilitate coordination of Provincial and local government actions, policies and programs as they relate to the development and implementation of the regional growth strategy.*

(3) The membership of an intergovernmental advisory committee is to include the following:

- a) the planning director of the regional district, or another official appointed by the board;*
- b) the planning director, or another official appointed by the applicable council, of each municipality all or part of which is covered by the regional growth strategy;*
- c) for the purposes of an intergovernmental advisory committee established in the Metro Vancouver Regional District, the planning director of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority or another official appointed by the board of directors of that authority;*
- d) senior representatives of the Provincial government and Provincial government agencies and corporations, determined by the minister after consultation with the board;*
- e) representatives of other authorities and organizations if invited to participate by the board.*