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To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Sean Tynan, Acting Senior Planner, Regional Planning

Date: August 15, 2019 Meeting Date: September 13, 2019

Subject: ***Metro 2050 Scope and Status Update***

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report titled “*Metro 2050 Scope and Status Update*” dated August 15, 2019.

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board with a status update on progress towards developing *Metro 2050*, including an update on engagement collaboration with TransLink, as well as provide an opportunity for Committee members to comment on scoping decisions that will inform the *Metro 2050* process.

### **BACKGROUND**

*Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, the regional growth strategy, was accepted by all member jurisdictions, TransLink and adjacent regional districts and adopted by the MVRD Board in July 2011. Since its adoption, *Metro 2040* has been a strong and effective tool representing the regional federation’s collective vision for how to sustainably manage anticipated growth 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.

At its meeting of April 5, 2019 the MVRD Board adopted the following resolutions:

*That the MVRD Board:*

- a) initiate a comprehensive update to Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future;*
- b) direct staff to prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the update to Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future for Board consideration; and*
- c) authorize staff to partner with TransLink in its May to September 2019 ‘Vision and Values’ public engagement process for the future of the region.*

This report is intended to provide an update on progress towards resolutions a) and c) above. Staff will provide an update quarterly to the Committee and Board.

### **METRO 2050 SCOPE AND STATUS UPDATE**

The table below provides a high-level summary of recently completed tasks and deliverables associated with the development of *Metro 2050*.

**Table 1. Status of Metro 2050 Tasks and Deliverables**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PROGRESS NOTES</b>
Extension of Sewerage Services Policy Review	Complete	
Performance Monitoring	Complete	Additional changes may be considered within each policy review.
Long Range Growth and Transportation Scenarios	Complete	The scenarios will be used to qualitatively evaluate the resilience of <i>Metro 2040</i> policies.
Update Housing Demand Estimates	In progress	The housing demand estimates will be updated by 2021, including a revised methodology.
Urban Centre and Frequent Transit Development Area Policy Review	In progress	Policy options under development. See report under separate cover in the September 13, 2019 agenda package titled “Urban Centres & FTDA Policy Review - Policy Directions,” dated August 14, 2019.
Update Projections for Population, Housing and Jobs to 2050	In progress	Draft updated projections to 2050 were provided in Q1 of 2018 to the Regional Planning Committee. Additional updates to methodology will be undertaken in Q4 2019 – Q2 2020.
Agriculture Policy Review	In progress	A Staff Advisory Group has been formed to enable municipal planners and provincial agencies to provide direct input on any agriculture policy updates.
Regional public survey on future of the region (partnership with TransLink)	In progress	The survey, hosted on a TransLink website, has received 19,000 responses so far. The results will inform <i>Metro 2050</i> work associated with updating the regional vision and potentially adding guiding principles to <i>Metro 2050</i> .
Environment Policy Review	In progress	Regional Planning hosted a forum and undertook a review of other regional agencies’ approach to environmental policy. For more information, see report under separate cover in the September 13, 2019 agenda package titled “Update on <i>Metro 2040</i> Environment Policy Review – Forum Results and Policies from Other Jurisdictions,” dated August 12, 2019.
Transportation Policy Review	In progress	Being undertaken in coordination with <i>Transport 2050</i> plan development.
Climate Change and Natural Hazards Policy Review	In progress	A proposed amendment to update <i>Metro 2040</i> ’s GHG targets to align with IPCC targets will be brought to Regional Planning Committee in October 2019.
Equity in Regional Growth Management Study	In progress	Phase 1 consultant work is underway. Staff are scoping Phase 2 to begin in 2020.
Housing Policy Review	Upcoming	Engagement with RPAC and RPAC Housing Subcommittee will be undertaken in Q4 2019.
Rural Lands Policy Review	Upcoming	

Industrial and Mixed Employment Policy Review	Upcoming	Current focus is on the Regional Industrial Lands Strategy, which will identify actions for this policy review.
Complete Communities Policy Review	Upcoming	Work will be undertaken in coordination with Housing Policy Review and Transportation Policy Review.
Implementation Policy Review	Upcoming	Staff are considering proposals regarding voting thresholds for minor amendments, updating content regarding First Nations, and other potential updates.

**Metro 2050 Scope**

Staff have identified several important scoping considerations that influence the feasibility of completing *Metro 2050* within the planned three-year timeline.

*Site-specific Changes to the Urban Containment Boundary or Regional Land-Use Designations*

The intent of the existing minor amendment process (*Metro 2040*, Sections 6.3 and 6.4) is to identify types of minor amendments and procedures for site-specific changes to the Urban Containment Boundary and regional land-use designations. Through *Metro 2040*, member jurisdictions have agreed on a process for approving such amendments.

Given the existing minor amendment process, it is proposed that no parcel or site-specific changes to the Urban Containment Boundary or regional land-use designations be considered as part of the amendment bylaw to *Metro 2040*. If a member jurisdiction wishes to submit a proposed minor amendment (Type 2 or Type 3) for a specific parcel or site, it can do so as per the existing policy in *Metro 2040* Section 6.3 and 6.4.

In addition, the approvals process for the update to *Metro 2040* may create a delay in Metro Vancouver’s ability to process minor amendments. Once the amendment bylaw is referred out for acceptance to affected local governments (anticipated to occur in Summer 2021) minor amendments to *Metro 2040* will need to be deferred until *Metro 2050* is adopted. Member jurisdictions are therefore requested to bring forward any minor amendments to the Urban Containment Boundary or regional land use designation by October 2020 so that they can be processed prior to the amendment bylaw being developed. Alternatively, member jurisdictions may bring forward proposed minor amendments after *Metro 2050* has been adopted by the MVRD Board.

As part of referring the amendment bylaw for acceptance from affected local governments, staff will seek support from the MVRD Board to request that member jurisdictions defer site-specific minor amendment requests until *Metro 2050* is adopted.

*General Changes to Regional Land-Use Designations and Overlays*

Changes to the definitions and criteria for regional land-use designations and overlays may be updated as part of the comprehensive update to *Metro 2040*. For example, through the Industrial and Mixed Employment Policy Review, updated definitions of the industrial and employment land use designations may influence which parcels throughout the region fit into each category. Staff will work with member jurisdictions through the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) and its subcommittees, as well as through staff to staff meetings to review any proposed definition changes and the resulting mapping changes. All proposed changes would be considered by the Regional

Planning Committee and MVRD Board through consideration of the amendment bylaw updating *Metro 2040*. Land use designation and overlay amendments triggered by updates to definitions and criteria are the only parcel-based changes that will be considered through the update process.

#### *Engagement with Metro Vancouver Committees and Boards*

The Housing Committee, Regional Parks Committee, and Climate Action Committee will be provided with information reports specific to the relevant Policy Reviews for Housing, Parks, Environment and Climate Change and Natural Hazards respectively. Otherwise, any input from Metro Vancouver Board directors will be provided through the Regional Planning Committee and the MVRD Board.

#### *Revision of Regional Context Statements*

Because this is a major amendment to the regional growth strategy, after the amendment bylaw to *Metro 2040* has been adopted by all affected local governments, member jurisdictions are required to submit new Regional Context Statements (RCSs) demonstrating how their respective Official Community Plan is consistent with the updated regional growth strategy or how it will become consistent over time. Member jurisdictions will have two years following the adoption of the amendment bylaw to complete and submit new RCSs.

#### **Update on Alignment with the Regional Transportation Strategy**

Regional Planning is working closely with TransLink to ensure integration and alignment between *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050*, the Regional Transportation Strategy. This integration began in mid-2018 through the co-development of Long-Range Growth and Transportation Scenarios intended to help both agencies consider and better integrate the possible impacts of a range of drivers and external forces that are influencing the future of the region, including climate change, technological innovation and automation and global economic shifts. The joint scenarios will be utilized by both agencies in testing the resilience of policies in both current and future plans.

In addition, Metro Vancouver and TransLink are partnered on several engagement opportunities, including:

- As described in the report dated March 28, 2019 titled “*Towards Metro 2050: Updating Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future*” (see Reference), Metro Vancouver has partnered with TransLink on a process to gather input on public values regarding the future of the region with the aim of informing the development of a regional vision and principles. The outputs are meant to inform both *Transport 2050* and *Metro 2050*. The engagement was launched in May 2019 through an online survey. To date, more than 19,000 responses have been received.
- In June 2019, TransLink and Metro Vancouver co-hosted an event to launch stakeholder engagement on *Transport 2050* and to begin to gather policy ideas related to the future of transportation in the region. The outcomes can be used to inform *Transport 2050*, *Metro 2050* and the *Climate 2050* roadmap focused on transportation.
- In September 2019, Metro Vancouver and TransLink will be hosting a half-day event at the closing of the Rail~Volution conference in Metro Vancouver called Rail~Volution Regional Forum. The Regional Forum, which Metro Vancouver is sponsoring, will bring together practitioners from around the region to focus on pressing challenges facing the region

including affordability, climate change, new mobility, and equity and consider new responses. It is focused on a local audience, but conference attendees are welcome to attend. Metro Vancouver and TransLink staff see this half day session as an important opportunity to highlight, and provide valuable input into, the development of both *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050*.

The integration of regional growth management and land use considerations into *Transport 2050* are also built into the project governance, through the Executive Project Steering Committee and Project Management Committee both having representation from TransLink, the Province and Metro Vancouver. The Regional Planning Committee will receive updates throughout *Transport 2050* and *Metro 2050* development.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications to this report.

### **SUMMARY / CONCLUSION**

The comprehensive update to *Metro 2040* will build on its strengths, extending the strategy's time horizon to the year 2050, integrating with *Transport 2050*, and strengthening current policy actions to address policy gaps.

This information report summarizes progress towards the comprehensive update to *Metro 2040*, identifies key scoping assumptions and provides an opportunity for comments from the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board. In summary, parcel or site-specific changes to the Urban Containment Boundary or regional land-use designations will continue to be undertaken through the *Metro 2040* minor amendment process rather than through the comprehensive update to *Metro 2040*; such site-specific changes will need to be deferred during the acceptance phase of the amendment bylaw (i.e. Phase 3); some targeted changes to regional land-use designations and overlays will likely be considered through the comprehensive update; and the Regional Planning Committee and the MVRD Board are the primary means through which comment will be received from MVRD Board Directors.

Staff will continue to bring forward regular updates. Staff intend to provide an overview of progress quarterly, supplemented by more detailed staff reports for policy reviews, key engagement events and deliverables.

### **Reference**

Report titled [Towards Metro 2050: Updating Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future](#) dated March 28, 2019 (See agenda item E2.4)