



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC GROWTH – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 8 July 2025

Subject: Update on City Plan Work – July 2025

Directorate: Strategic Growth and Investment

Issue:

The Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee is being asked to accept this report for information, as an update on Public Engagement and Administration's ongoing work to update the existing Airdrie City Plan and AirdrieONE Sustainability Plan.

Policy / Council Direction:

The AirdrieONE Sustainability Plan (2012) outlines ten sustainability goals which align with what citizens identified as important to long-term quality of life in the community. Under each of the ten sustainability goals, strategies were identified to guide implementation, alignment of many of the City's existing plans, and decision-making processes.

Airdrie's Municipal Development Plan (City Plan) (2014) provides policy direction to guide the city's growth. Policy areas include growth management, environmental sustainability, fiscal sustainability, economic prosperity, community design and development, sustainable transportation, parks, pathways and municipal reserve, educational facilities, infrastructure services, community and recreation facilities and implementation.

Background:

With the time that has passed and the growth that has occurred in Airdrie since their adoption, the AirdrieONE Sustainability Plan and Airdrie City Plan are at a stage where updates to the documents are required. Administration has begun work to update and consolidate the documents under a new Municipal Development Plan that will set up goals and planning for future growth while considering our role in the region.

To support the update of the Airdrie City Plan, City Administration conducted both in-person and online public engagement in Fall 2024. Activities included outreach at AirdrieFEST, an online survey via Involve Airdrie, and targeted youth engagement through school visits and meetings with the Airdrie Board of Youth Affairs.

In total, the engagement initiatives reached:

- Online survey: 470 participants
- AirdrieFEST booth: ~50 attendees
- Youth engagement: ~150 youth across four sessions

Engagement Highlights

Public engagement revealed that Airdrie residents value preserving the city's small-town charm, expanding green spaces, and ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with growth. Many participants expressed a desire for more parks, tree planting, and the protection of natural areas, particularly in the face of increasing housing density.

Concerns about infrastructure were prominent, with many respondents noting that recent growth has outpaced the development of essential services and amenities. Resilience of servicing infrastructure was also a focus considering the 2024 Calgary watermain break, which raised concerns about water scarcity. Residents also expressed the desire for more indoor and outdoor facilities, gathering spaces, and inclusive environments that foster community pride and well-being.

Participants expressed interest in improved walkability, expanded public transit, and better transportation links both within Airdrie and to Calgary. Frustrations with traffic congestion and travel times were common, and many respondents envisioned a future with enhanced transit options, including regional train service. A vibrant downtown core was another aspiration, with residents imagining it as a hub for retail, dining, and social connection.

Youth participants echoed many of these themes, with a particular focus on the need for more spaces to socialize and engage in activities with friends. They emphasized the importance of both indoor and outdoor recreation and entertainment options, as well as shopping and hangout spaces that are accessible and affordable. Mobility was also a key concern, with youth highlighting the need for safe and convenient ways to get around town by car, bike, or on foot. A lack of youth-oriented spaces and the cost of accessing existing amenities were identified as ongoing challenges.

The full copies of the What We Heard Reports are provided in Attachments 1 and 2.

Additional Ongoing Work

In addition to the engagement work addressed here, Administration has been working internally to review and draft policy directions, test scenarios, and coordinate with other internal departments in preparing an initial draft plan for further consultation, review, and refinement.

A part of this work originally anticipated having to align with the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) Growth and Servicing Plans and would reflect the Growth Plan's direction for Airdrie to remain a Preferred Growth Area in the region. Due to the dissolution of the CMRB effective May 1, 2025, Administration continues to work on updating the City

Plan and is working to ensure that growth projections, assumptions, and regional influences are all properly understood and addressed within the framework of the City Plan and through coordination with regional partners.

Administration Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee accept this report for information.

Alternatives/Implications:

The Standing Committee may accept this report for information with any other considerations it deems appropriate.

Budget Implications:

The broader scope of work for updating the Airdrie City Plan is within Strategic Growth's approved budget, and there are no impacts or items specific to the work addressed in this update.

Communications and Engagement:

Administration will continue to work on updates to the Airdrie City Plan and expects to resume public consultation in Q4 2025.

Recommendation:

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee accepts the report entitled "Update on City Plan Engagement", for information.

Willow Czaban
Planner, Level 3

Staff Presenter:	Willow Czaban, Planner Level 3
External Presenter:	N/A
Department:	Policy Planning
Reviewed by:	Stephen Utz RPP MCIP, Director, Strategic Growth & Investment
Attachments:	#1: What We Heard Report - City Plan public engagement #2: What We Heard Report - City Plan youth engagement