

# **REPORT**

## ***Climate Action, Planning and Development***

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** May 30, 2022

**From:** Emilie K Adin, MCIP      **File:**  
Director, Climate Action, Planning and  
Development

**Item #:** 2022-396

**Subject:** **Regional Growth Strategy Update: Metro 2050 Acceptance**

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **THAT** the proposed Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (*Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*) be accepted, as presented, pursuant to section 436 of the *Local Government Act*;
  2. **THAT** staff be directed to forward the Council resolution of acceptance of Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (*Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*) to Metro Vancouver Regional District; and
  3. **THAT** staff be directed to include in the letter conveying acceptance of Metro 2050 that the City of New Westminster encourages further consideration of including municipal-scale population and housing targets in regional plans going forward.
- 

### **PURPOSE**

To seek Council acceptance of the updated Regional Growth Strategy, Metro 2050.

### **SUMMARY**

Metro Vancouver, in consultation with member jurisdictions, has prepared an updated Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), Metro 2050. From July to November 2021, Metro Vancouver provided a comment period on the draft, during which the City submitted a letter expressing substantial support and offering minor comments. Revisions based on these and other comments were then made to the draft, and in March and April the regional Board gave first and second reading and held a public hearing for the RGS bylaw that would repeal Metro 2040 and replace it with Metro 2050.

The attached memo and other attachments describe the changes that were made to the draft, and reconfirm the alignment between the regional strategy and New Westminster's Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan. Although most of the comments offered by the City did not result in changes to the RGS, staff advise that, on balance, the regional plan provides a strong framework to guide growth in the coming decades.

The City had encouraged Metro to reconsider replacing municipal population, employment and housing projections with sub-regional projections, and to consider changing nomenclature from projections to targets. These changes were not made to the draft, but conversations on the topic will likely continue at the regional and provincial level, given senior governments' interest in BC's growth areas better meeting existing and expected housing demand.

Staff recommend that the City accept the updated RGS, and that the City also convey to Metro Vancouver an abiding interest in including municipal-level population and housing targets in regional plans going forward.

## **OPTIONS**

The following options are provided for Council's consideration:

1. That the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, titled Metro 2050 (Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022), be received for information;
2. That the proposed Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022) be accepted, as presented, pursuant to section 436 of the Local Government Act;
3. That staff be directed to forward the Council resolution of acceptance of Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022) to Metro Vancouver Regional District;
4. That staff be directed to include in the letter conveying acceptance of Metro 2050 that the City of New Westminster encourages further consideration of including municipal-scale population and housing targets in regional plans going forward; or
5. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Options 2 to 4.

---

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Staff Memo

Attachment 2 – Metro Vancouver May 3 Letter Submitting *Metro 2050* for Acceptance

Attachment 3 – Metro Vancouver Responses to CNW Comments

## **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:

Meredith Seeton, Policy Planner

This report was reviewed by:

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor of Land Use Planning and Climate Action

Jackie Teed, Senior Manager of Climate Action, Planning and Development

This report was approved by:

Emilie K. Adin, Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer