

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Metro Mayors Alliance

Motion:

Council of the City of Fort Saskatchewan hereby agrees as follows:

1. The report of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future dated May 31, 2016 titled "*Be Ready, or Be Left Behind*", provided as Attachment 1 of the September 13, 2016 agenda, be received as information;
2. The Mayor and City Manager are authorized to continue to represent the City of Fort Saskatchewan as part of the Metro Mayors Alliance; and
3. The Mayor is authorized to sign a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to signify the City of Fort Saskatchewan's willingness to continue to participate in and explore the recommendations made in the report titled "*Be Ready, or Be Left Behind*".

Purpose:

To authorize the Mayor and City Manager to continue to participate in the Metro Mayors Alliance to explore ways of better working together inter-municipally and as a metro region.

Background:

The Capital Region has made progress in recent years in terms of regional collaboration. To expand further on this progress, nine Edmonton Metro Region municipalities through their Mayors, formed a positive alliance to consider how best to optimize future prospects as a metro area. The municipalities include Leduc County, City of Leduc, City of Fort Saskatchewan, City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, Parkland County, City of Spruce Grove and the City of St. Albert.

The nine municipalities represent 95% of the region's current population and 96% of its assessment base. The fast pace growth of the Edmonton Metro Region has brought economic opportunities and social challenges.

To investigate these opportunities and challenges, an independent Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future comprised of respected leaders was established. Panel members represented a variety of sectors: business, industry, finance, academia, arts and culture, social and not-for-profit agencies, public policy, and agriculture. The Panel was tasked with exploring open-ended strategic questions including:

- Is a globally competitive Metro Edmonton Region achievable?
- What is required to get there?
- What needs to be different to achieve these results?

On June 10, 2016 the Panel released its report to the Mayors, Councils, and public. Highlights of the report titled "*Be Ready, or Be Left Behind*", include:

- 1) The Edmonton Metro Region can position itself to attract jobs and investments...but only if it takes steps to better leverage its opportunities and build the regional systems that other competitive regions offer today.

- 2) The three “cornerstones” recommended to focus on as a region are:
 - a) Economic Development
 - b) Public Transit
 - c) Land Use and Infrastructure Planning
- 3) Tactical steps to be taken and implementation timing were outlined as well as specific recommendations for each “cornerstone”.

Next Steps:

Henry Ford said “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” The Panel’s report is the result of nine municipalities coming together to strengthen the Capital Region and the communities within. The Panel’s report is the first of a number of steps. The next step is to agree to keep working together by entering into a non-binding MOU. This MOU provides the framework to:

- Investigate what it will take to move forward with the Panel’s recommendations including resource and cost implications.
- Understand the role of all stakeholders in the region including the Provincial Government.
- Develop a master agreement for consideration by all Councils involved. Each Council would then decide what future participation in the process, if any, looks like.

A draft copy of the non-binding MOU is included as Attachment 2 to this report.

Strategic Plan:

Participating in the Mayor’s Metro Alliance aligns with the City’s strategic direction to work with other municipalities and key stakeholders. This ensures Fort Saskatchewan, as a major urban centre, continues to be part of the conversation in building a globally competitive region.

- GOAL 1.5 – Collaborate with other municipalities in the development of local and regional initiatives and marketing of the region.
- GOAL 1.7 - Continue to support development of a long-term solution to issues regarding transportation corridors in and around the City.
- GOAL 4.3 - Continue to develop and maintain strong relationships with our neighbouring municipalities and civic organizations.

Financial Implications:

As part of the 2016 Budget, Council approved \$30,000 for regional collaboration initiatives including continued work with the Metro Mayors Alliance. The City’s share of the work described in the MOU will be well within the budget allocated.

Recommendation:

That Council pass the following motion:

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Enclosures:

1. Attachment 1 - Report of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future dated May 31, 2016 titled "*Be Ready, or Be Left Behind*"
2. Attachment 2 – Memorandum of Understanding

Prepared & Approved by:

Kelly Kloss
City Manager

Date: August 29, 2016

Submitted to:

City Council

Date: September 13, 2016