



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro 2050 The Regional Growth Strategy

What is a Regional Growth Strategy?

A regional growth strategy is a long-range, strategic land use plan aimed at advancing the region's livability and sustainability, while managing anticipated growth. These strategies align projected long-term growth with transportation and infrastructure planning while protecting agricultural, rural, ecologically-sensitive, and industrial lands. Regional growth strategies are authorized by the *BC Local Government Act*.

Regional Planning in Metro Vancouver

As a region with a growing population, strong economy, and a constrained land base, thoughtful and collaborative regional planning has been important in Metro Vancouver for many decades. *Metro 2050* replaces *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, as the regional growth strategy. Since its adoption in 2011, *Metro 2040* was a strong and effective tool representing the regional federation's collective vision for livability and managing growth anticipated to come to our region over the long-term. *Metro 2050* carries forward many of the effective policies and tools from *Metro 2040* and previous regional plans, while adding content that responds to our emerging and increasing challenges.

Developing *Metro 2050*

Between April 2019 and December 2021, Metro Vancouver engaged extensively with member jurisdictions, TransLink, Provincial ministries, First Nations, other regional organizations, adjacent regional districts, subject matter experts, and the general public. Through this process, a number of emerging issues and opportunities were identified, and the content of *Metro 2050* was shaped by this engagement.

Metro 2050 Vision

Metro Vancouver is a region of diverse, equitable, and complete communities connected by sustainable transportation choices where residents take pride in vibrant neighbourhoods that offer a range of opportunities to live, work, play, and learn, and where natural, agricultural, and employment lands are protected and enhanced.

Shaping long-term growth and development in the region is essential to meeting this vision in a way that protects the natural environment, fosters community well-being, fuels economic prosperity, provides local food security, improves social equity, provides diverse and affordable housing choices, ensures the efficient provision of utilities and transit, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and improves resilience to climate change impacts and natural hazards.

Metro 2050's Five Goals

Metro 2050 contains five regional goals which are supported by corresponding strategies and policy actions for Metro Vancouver, Member Jurisdictions, and TransLink.



Goal 1: Create a Compact Urban Area

Metro 2050 reinforces the established framework of concentrating growth into compact, walkable, complete communities, where development is transit-oriented, and people can access a range of housing choices that are close to jobs, amenities, and services. To protect the environment while keeping infrastructure costs low, urban development should only take place inside the Urban Containment Boundary and Rural lands should be protected from development.

STRATEGIES

- Contain urban development within the Urban Containment Boundary
- Focus growth in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas
- Develop resilient, healthy, connected, and complete communities with a range of services and amenities
- Protect Rural lands from urban development

Goal 2: Support a Sustainable Economy

Metro 2050 protects important job lands and supports the land base and transportation integration required to nurture a healthy business climate for both the traditional and emerging economies. Agricultural lands are protected to support local food security and to provide ecosystem services.

STRATEGIES

- Promote land development patterns that support a diverse economy and employment opportunities close to where people live
- Protect the supply, and efficient use of, Industrial lands
- Protect the supply of agricultural lands and strengthen agricultural viability

REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Metro 2050 is guided by the following five well-established regional planning principles:

1. Put growth in the right places
2. Protect important lands
3. Develop complete communities
4. Provide affordable mobility, housing, and employment choices for all; and
5. Support the efficient provision of infrastructure



Goal 3: Protect the Environment, Address Climate Change, and Respond to Natural Hazards

Metro 2050 protects our unique and vital natural environment, and takes action to respond to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving regional resilience to climate change and natural hazards.

STRATEGIES

- Protect and enhance Conservation and Recreation lands
- Protect, enhance, restore, and connect ecosystems
- Advance land use, infrastructure, and human settlement patterns that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, create carbon storage opportunities, and improves air quality
- Advance land use, infrastructure and human settlement patterns that improve resilience to climate change impacts and natural hazards

Goal 4: Provide Diverse and Affordable Housing Choices

Metro 2050 reflects the importance of housing as a key component of growth management in this region, and establishes region-wide objectives for increasing housing supply, diversity, and affordability, particularly in transit-oriented locations.

STRATEGIES

- Expand the supply and diversity of housing to meet a variety of needs
- Protect tenants and expand, retain, and renew rental housing supply
- Meet the housing needs of lower income households and populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness



Goal 5: Support Sustainable Transportation Choices

Metro 2050 supports transit-oriented urban forms with a range of sustainable transportation choices including expanding opportunities to use transit, walk, and cycle. It supports efficient goods movement and job growth in the region's employment areas and Urban Centres, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

STRATEGIES

- Coordinate land use and transportation to encourage transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling, and walking
- Coordinate land use and transportation to support the safe and efficient movement of vehicles for passengers, goods, and services

Anticipated Growth

Metro Vancouver's forecasts indicate that over the next 30 years, the region will receive an additional one million residents for a total population of **3.8 million by the year 2050**. This also means 500,000 additional housing units will be needed and almost 500,000 jobs will be created during that time.

What's New?

Metro 2050 is a modern, forward-looking plan that sets this region on the path for a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. As a result of the policy reviews and engagement efforts, many improvements have been made including:

- Stronger alignment of planned locations for growth with transit investment using a new tool called Major Transit Growth Corridors
- An aspirational regional target that 15 per cent of new and redeveloped housing in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas be affordable rental housing
- Housing policies that encourage transit-oriented affordable housing, increase stock, and protect existing non-market rentals
- Clearer and stronger definition for Industrial lands, as well as limited flexibility for residential use on Employment lands (with an emphasis on affordable rentals) near rapid transit stations
- Stronger climate action, including collective actions toward greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and preparing for the impacts of climate change
- Regional targets to protect 50 per cent of land for nature, and achieve 40 per cent tree canopy cover within the Urban Containment Boundary
- More integration of social equity considerations
- Greater emphasis on reconciliation and building relationships with First Nations

Metro 2050 Regional Targets

98%
of growth within the
Urban Containment
Boundary

Growth to Urban Centres



Growth to Frequent Transit Development Areas



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **45% below 2010** levels by the year 2030 and achieve a **carbon neutral region** by the year 2050

NEW



Protect **50%** of land for nature



Achieve **40%** tree canopy cover within urban areas



15% of new and redeveloped housing in Urban Centres and FTDA's will be affordable, rental housing

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about *Metro 2050*: metrovancover.org/metro2050

Email us: regionalplanning@metrovancover.org

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Together we make our region strong