



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# DRAFT 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 by managing anticipated growth. Regional growth strategies align projected long-term growth with transportation and infrastructure planning while protecting agricultural, green spaces, and industrial lands. These strategies are authorized under the *BC Local Government Act*.

### About Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy

Metro Vancouver is updating *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, the regional growth strategy. The update is called *Metro 2050*. Since its adoption in 2011, *Metro 2040* has been 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 Vancouver's regional growth strategy was co-created with member local governments and other regional agencies, and is periodically reviewed and updated. Many of the goals, actions, and tools that are working well in *Metro 2040* will remain unchanged in *Metro 2050*.

The current update extends the strategy to the year 2050, integrates with *Transport 2050*, the update to the regional transportation strategy, and responds to critical issues such as climate change, social equity, resilience, and housing affordability.

### How we got to the draft *Metro 2050*

Between April 2019 and June 2021, Metro Vancouver engaged closely with member jurisdictions, TransLink, the provincial ministries, First Nations, other regional organizations and agencies, adjacent regional districts, subject matter experts, and the general public. Collaboratively through this process, a number of emerging issues, gaps, and opportunities were identified, and the content of *Metro 2050* was drafted to reflect that engagement.

### *Metro 2050* Vision

Metro Vancouver is a region of diverse 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 gasses, and contributes to resiliency 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 to carry out.



## 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.

### STRATEGIES

- Contain urban development within the Urban Containment Boundary
- Focus growth in Urban Centres and along Transit Corridors
- Develop resilient, healthy, connected and complete communities
- Protect Rural areas



## Goal 2: Support a Sustainable Economy

Metro 2050 protects important job lands and supports the land base, location choices, 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.

### 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 (urban centres and transit corridors)
2. Protect important lands (food, ecological and job lands)
3. Develop complete communities
4. Provide mobility, housing, and employment choices
5. Support the efficient provision of infrastructure (utilities and transit)





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

*Metro 2050* protects the 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
- Encourage land use, infrastructure and settlement patterns to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourage land use, infrastructure and settlement patterns that improve resilience to climate change impacts and natural hazards

### Goal 4: Provide Diverse and Affordable Housing Choices

*Metro 2050* draws greater attention to the importance of housing as a key component of growth management, 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
- Expand, retain, and renew rental housing supply and protect tenants
- Meet the housing needs of lower income households and those 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 for transit, walking, and cycling. 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 efficient movement of vehicles for passengers, goods and services

## Anticipated Growth

Metro 2050 forecasts indicate that over the next thirty years, Metro Vancouver 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/Proposed?

Much of the content in Metro 2050 will be the same as Metro 2040, and the 'big moves' reflect engagement and feedback from member jurisdictions, other regional agencies, the Province, First Nations, and the public. You will see:

- Stronger alignment of planned locations for growth with transit investment through a new tool called 'Major Transit Growth Corridors'
- Housing policies to encourage transit-oriented affordable housing, increase stock and protect existing non-market rental units
- Clearer and stronger definition for industrial lands, as well as flexibility for affordable rental residential on Employment lands near rapid transit stations
- Stronger climate action, including collective actions toward GHG emission reduction targets and preparing for climate change impacts
- Aspirational regional targets for the federation to collectively work toward for affordable rental housing near transit, protecting land for nature and increasing urban tree canopy cover
- Improved integration of social equity outcomes
- Greater emphasis on building relationships with First Nations, incorporating future development and planning needs

## Metro 2050 Regional Targets

**98%**  
of growth within the  
Urban Containment  
Boundary

### Growth to Urban Centres

**40%** of dwelling unit growth → ● ← **50%** of employment growth

### Growth to Frequent Transit Development Areas

**27%** of dwelling unit growth → ■ ■ ■ ← **28%** of employment growth



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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

A draft version of Metro 2050 was released for public comment in June 2021. Metro Vancouver welcomes comments from municipalities, organizations, First Nations, and members of the public by **November 26, 2021**.

Please send your comments to:

**Online feedback form:** [metrovancover.org/metro2050](https://metrovancover.org/metro2050)

**Email:** [regionalplanning@metrovancover.org](mailto:regionalplanning@metrovancover.org)

**Mail:** Metro Vancouver Regional Planning and Housing Services  
4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 0C6

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