

CAPITAL PLANNING REGION SERVICING STRATEGY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy?

The Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy is intended to assist the Capital Region to identify opportunities for regional approaches to infrastructure investment to promote economic growth and ensure Manitoba remains competitive and attractive for business.

A Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy is critical to help the region, its 18 member municipalities and the province deliver cost-efficient and reliable services and reduce the unnecessary or untimely expansion of costly infrastructure caused by a lack of coordination between land use planning and development and infrastructure investment.

2. Why is the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy being started now?

The creation of a Comprehensive Servicing Strategy is a multi-phase and iterative process that requires extensive stakeholder engagement. As such, the province is starting Phase 1 of the project, which initially involves the creation of a framework focused on drinking water and sewage servicing that will be subsequently used to inform the development of future phases of the Comprehensive Servicing Strategy.

The Servicing Framework will be a tool to assist municipalities of the Capital Region in planning and evaluation of regional water and wastewater solutions. As subsequent phases of the project are completed, the Servicing Framework will become part of a larger Comprehensive Servicing Strategy that outlines more specific potential regional solutions to effectively deliver services such as water and wastewater to meet public health needs and protect the environment as well as consider other critical factors such as resilience, sustainability and partnerships.

The Comprehensive Servicing Strategy will take into consideration public health needs, climate change adaptation and resiliency, sustainability, existing regional partnerships and current and projected growth. The Capital Planning Region Board, once established and operational, will have direct input in finalizing the Servicing Framework, improving upon it and eventually helping to guide future phases of the Comprehensive Servicing Strategy.

3. Why is the Province of Manitoba paying for a Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy?

As a partner in sustainable growth, the Province has a provincial interest in infrastructure - Provincial Land Use Policies identify the need to maximize existing and proposed infrastructure investment as a provincial priority. Initiating work on Phase 1 of the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy will also provide a Capital Planning Region Board with clear principles and opportunities for regional cooperation.

4. How will municipalities, planning districts and development industry have an opportunity to participate in the development of the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy?

The Province expects the consultant to inform all phases of the Servicing Strategy through meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and a broad range of stakeholders and informants including, but not limited to, municipalities, planning districts, provincial departments and the private sector. As noted earlier, a working group composed of key stakeholder representatives will be established to provide direct opportunities to influence the Servicing Strategy's scope and content.

The project requires the successful consultant to engage with key stakeholders, including the Capital Planning Region Board and individual member municipalities. This will provide member municipalities opportunities to provide feedback throughout the whole project.

5. How will Indigenous communities be engaged for this project?

The Province acknowledges the importance and value of engaging Indigenous communities in the creation of a Servicing Strategy for the Capital Region. As such, the consultant will be required as part of their contract to engage with Indigenous communities and ensure discussions are led by an Indigenous person. Additionally, the consultant will be required to re-engage with Indigenous communities, and other key informants, at critical milestones of the project to confirm that their feedback has been adequately reflected in the Servicing Strategy.

6. What role will regional member municipalities have in the creation of the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy?

Member municipalities of the Capital Planning Region will play the important role of providing key data necessary for the consultant's work to be conducted such as:

- existing asset management plans;
- current state of a range of local and provincial infrastructure (e.g. existing capacity, condition, constraints);
- immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure investment needs; and
- existing or proposed service sharing agreements.

7. Will the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy be supported by a Stakeholder Working Group? If so, who will participate?

In January 2021, the department established a stakeholder working group to advise on implementation of key initiatives to ensure modern and effective planning processes in Manitoba, including regional approaches to land use planning and development. It includes key stakeholders, such as The Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, The Urban Development Institute, Manitoba Professional Planners Institute, and the City of Winnipeg.

8. How will the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy impact municipal decision-making on local infrastructure?

Capital Planning Region member municipalities will maintain their local autonomy for making decisions on local matters. However, the Regional Growth Plan and the Comprehensive Servicing Strategy will provide sound guidance regarding land use and development and the provision of infrastructure and services in the region. For example, the servicing framework being created in Phase 1 of the project will provide member municipalities of the Capital Planning Region with the criteria and principles for planning and evaluating regional water and wastewater solutions. Meanwhile, the Comprehensive Servicing Strategy, once completed, is also expected to provide more detailed regional recommendations that can be used to better assess the most cost-efficient and reliable services to meet current and expected population change and capitalize on regional solution opportunities for current and future municipal councils.

9. How does this model compare to regions in other jurisdictions?

Every jurisdiction is unique. That being said, a cross-jurisdictional review of how other jurisdictions approach regional infrastructure investment indicates that all reviewed regions have a regional servicing strategy, or an equivalent document, intended to ensure coordination among members on infrastructure investment and the provision of services. The review also indicated essential infrastructure (e.g. sewer and water) is often a key component of most regional servicing strategies.

10. What is the relationship between the growth plan and a regional servicing strategy?

The Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy is expected to align with the long-term vision for regional growth as outlined in existing planning by-laws and the regional plan to be adopted by the Capital Planning Region Board, once established. Additionally, the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy will be informed by the latest information available regarding population, development patterns, infrastructure investment and regional priorities. The content of the complete Comprehensive Servicing Strategy, including findings and recommendations, will be corroborated with municipal representatives and key stakeholders to ensure a sufficient supply of appropriately serviced land is readily available where it is regionally needed.

11. How will the Capital Planning Region Servicing Strategy affect existing or proposed servicing agreements (e.g., municipality to municipality, municipality to First Nations)?

The Servicing Strategy is expected to identify opportunities for regional collaboration through mutually beneficial partnerships to develop infrastructure and shared services on a regional basis. The Servicing Strategy will support the expansion or continuation of existing service sharing agreements and the establishment of new ones, where appropriate. That being said, any potential partnership identified by the Servicing Strategy will be subject to the review and approval of all involved parties.