

The current City of Lethbridge **Municipal Development Plan** (MDP) was adopted by City Council on June 29th, 2021, replacing the previous MDP from 2010. Every municipality in Alberta is required by the Municipal Government Act to adopt an MDP. Lethbridge's MDP is a long-term statutory plan, and sets policies to guide development of our built environment, infrastructure and City services for many years to come.

The MDP carries forward the **Vision Statement** - developed through extensive community consultation - from the previous MDP:

We are a City that works together with our community and partners to ensure that Lethbridge is a leader in environmental stewardship, innovation, and active leadership. We are recognised as being safe, healthy, vibrant, prosperous, economically viable and a place where all people can fully participate in community life.

The MDP sets six desired **Outcomes** for Lethbridge, which the plan aims to realise:

- An economically prosperous city
- A healthy and diverse city
- A culturally vibrant city
- A well-designed city
- An environmentally responsible city
- A city that supports the region

These Outcomes allow the Vision Statement to be connected with measurable actions through the use of subject matter-specific policies, which will guide the work of City Council and City Administration toward achieving the Outcomes. Policies are organised by topic, to improve user-friendliness of the document compared to the previous MDP.

Key highlights of the new MDP include:

- Updated baseline data, to ensure the MDP is relevant to Lethbridge today.
- A greater focus on areas City Council identified for improvement, such as the local economy, housing, and reconciliation.
- Policies are now organised by topic, and follow a specific format designed to make them clear, specific and actionable. Each policy provides one or more directions for City Administration to carry out.
- Policies from the previous MDP have either been removed (where no longer relevant) or adapted to the new format. New policies have been added where needed, based on findings and recommendations from various studies and plans completed in the past decade since the previous MDP was adopted. Some examples include:
 - Planning for the future growth of Lethbridge Airport.
 - Urban growth management.

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- Recognising the importance of initiatives aimed at reducing and eliminating racism and discrimination of Indigenous peoples and other marginalised communities.
 - The connection between transportation and land use.
 - Greater focus on tackling and adapting to climate change.
 - More focus on housing affordability.
 - Greater clarity around neighbourhood-level planning.
 - Enabling an increase in infill development.
 - Encouraging an environment of inclusivity for all residents and visitors.
 - More adaptive and responsive to changes in community development and technology.
 - A comprehensive framework has been established for implementation and performance measurement. This includes:
 - Outcome indicators, i.e. metrics for which data will be updated annually to help assess whether we are moving toward achieving the MDP's six Outcomes (as listed above).
 - Annual MDP implementation progress summaries to City Council.
 - Five year MDP reviews, which will provide City Council with a more in-depth analysis of the MDP's effectiveness in working toward achieving the six Outcomes. This will also provide City Council with any recommendations for updates to the MDP, such as new policy directions.

The full Municipal Development Plan can be found at: <https://www.lethbridge.ca/mdp>.