

Schedule B

Regional Context Statement

ALIGNMENT WITH CRD REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

This section provides a regional context statement that illustrates how the City of Victoria implements the ten objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Regional Context Statement

The City of Victoria collaborates with 12 partner municipalities and an electoral area to advance regional objectives, including implementation of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). With the Capital Region's population continuing to increase, growth must be managed to ensure that regional sustainability and livability are enhanced over time. As the core municipality in the Capital Region, the City of Victoria plays a vital role in achieving the vision and objectives of the RGS as originally adopted by the CRD Board in 2018 and amended in 2021. In accordance with the Local Government Act, this part of the OCP provides a regional context statement that illustrates how Victoria implements applicable objectives of the RGS, which include:

- 1. Managing and Balancing Growth**
 - 1.1. Keep Urban Settlement Compact
 - 1.2. Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities
- 2. Environment and Infrastructure**
 - 2.1. Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health
 - 2.2. Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably
- 3. Housing and Community**
 - 3.1. Create Safe and Complete Communities
 - 3.2. Improve Housing Affordability
- 4. Transportation**
 - 4.1. Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility
- 5. Economic Development**
 - 5.1. Realize the Region's Economic Potential
- 6. Food Systems**
 - 6.1. Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System
- 7. Climate Action**
 - 7.1. Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Regional Growth Strategy Consistency

The following sections, ordered by the ten objectives of the RGS, demonstrate the consistency between Victoria's OCP and the RGS.

Managing and Balancing Growth

Keep Urban Settlement Compact

As a municipality entirely within the CRD's Urban Containment Policy Area, Victoria's accommodation of housing and employment plays a central role in achieving the RGS Objective 1.1: Keep Urban Settlement Compact. One of the five Big Moves of the OCP, in pursuit of Vision 2050 and the OCP goal posts, is to embrace a new urban form that makes way for diverse forms of compact housing and businesses within the downtown and in complete, connected, low-carbon communities throughout the city.

Aligning with RGS Policies (1), (2) and (6) as well as Approaches (II) through (IV) of RGS Objective 1.1, the OCP's Urban Form and Land Use policies, as well as policies in the sections related to Mobility and Community, support more people to live, work and play within Victoria's network of complete communities. The focal points of these complete communities are aligned with the OCP's Transit Priority Network and connected by high coverage walking, biking and rolling networks that support safe, affordable and sustainable mobility options. All of these aspects of the OCP help to increase the proportion of apartments, row houses and other attached housing types within complete communities and supports the RGS objective to accommodate the majority of the region's new dwelling units within the Urban Containment Policy Area.

Aligning with Policy (4) and Approach (I) of RGS Objective 1.1, the OCP also continues to emphasize the Downtown Core as a prominent centre for business, government, arts and culture on Vancouver Island. It provides direction for meeting the city's employment land needs in the coming decades and including through an innovative mix of uses in and around the Downtown Core as the primary regional employment, business and cultural centre.

Protect the Integrity of Rural Communities

Victoria is a built-out urban city with no rural areas and is completely located within the Urban Containment Policy Area. Therefore, the rural policies under Objective 1.2 of the RGS are not generally applicable. However, the plan's land use planning and development policies do play a role in protecting the Capital Region's rural communities by accommodating a significant proportion of regional population through a diversity of housing options within walkable, transit accessible communities.

Alignment with Objective 1: Managing and Balancing Growth

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 1: Managing and Balancing Growth include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Population Growth
 - Housing Need
 - Employment Growth
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Embracing a New Urban Form
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
 - Prosperous, Progressive Economy
- Urban Form and Land Use
- Community Networks
- Mobility Networks and Hubs
- Vibrant and Prosperous Economy

Environment and Infrastructure

Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health

In alignment with Principles (I) through (III) of RGS Objective 2.1: Protect Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health, the OCP provides direction on sustainable planning, circular systems and zero-waste. It encourages practices and approaches that reduce demand for natural resources, minimize waste and mimic natural processes.

The OCP supports regional solid waste and water management efforts and promotes a culture of conservation. It aims to prevent pollution related to air, noise and light to mitigate public and ecological health impacts. Additionally, it focuses on reducing construction waste and emissions, designing for reuse and preventing pollution of watersheds. It promotes sustainable energy use and urban food systems.

In alignment with Principles (IV) and (V) of the RGS Objective 2.1, the OCP recognizes how the city's Blue Green Networks support biodiversity and ecosystem health through a connected system of waterways, open spaces and natural assets. With guidance and direction applicable to both the public and private realms and a vision for broad integration of blue green infrastructure throughout the city, the plan supports protection and enhancement of Victoria's natural assets, shorelines, watersheds and urban forest:

- The OCP integrates ecosystem and population health as a core priority of land use and transportation network planning. Specifically, the OCP's Perimeter Block Concept, where buildings are oriented to green and active streets with functional interior courtyards. This approach to urban form is an essential strategy for addressing housing needs in a manner that contributes to maintaining and enhancing Victoria's Blue Green Network, particularly in the context of increasing extreme rain and heat events due to a changing climate.

- The OCP further strengthens the integration of ecosystem health into land use planning with explicit direction to protect ecological assets in growth and development and especially to pursue sensitive site planning in ecologically rich areas. The plan provides direction to add, expand or enhance Development Permit Areas and associated guidelines for the purpose of environmental protection, including an expanded shoreline protection area.
- The OCP directs the updating and maintenance of an integrated rainwater management plan which plays a vital role in protecting, conserving and managing ecosystem health providing a watershed-focused lens to long range planning.

These directions demonstrate strong alignment with the RGS policies to identify, protect, enhance and restore healthy ecosystems using policies, regulations, Development Permit Areas and other regulatory tools.

The OCP also provides direction for strategic and equitable investment in a multi-functional network of urban parks, including linear parkways. This approach supports enhanced human and ecological connectivity, ecosystem services and access to nature and facilitates long-term protection of the Capital Green Lands identified in the RGS. Major parks identified as Capital Green Lands in Victoria, such as Beacon Hill Park, Summit Park and Gonzales Hill Regional Park, are identified as Public Facilities, Institutions, Parks and Open Spaces by the OCP's Urban Structure Map and on the Parks and Open Spaces Map in Schedule D.

Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably

Aligning with Principles (I) and (II) of RGS Objective 2.2, the OCP establishes housing and employment Goal Posts and strategies for meeting these needs that focus on the Downtown Core and Priority Growth Areas. This approach promotes settlement patterns that are cost-effective and efficient to service within the regional context. This sustainable approach to land management is further supported by directions to support green infrastructure in concert with the renewal, expansion and adaptation of more traditional engineered infrastructure in the context of a changing climate.

Aligning with Principles (III) and (IV), as well as the Policies of RGS Objective 2.2, the OCP recognizes that, as Victoria advances toward Vision 2050, engineered infrastructure - sanitary sewers, water conveyance and stormwater systems - will need to be renewed to serve a growing population. The plan includes policies for sustainable and efficient management of engineered assets, in alignment with regional infrastructure plans. The management of infrastructure and utilities is also supported through the City's various utility masterplans that are informed by the OCP and population growth projections.

Additionally, the OCP supports a zero net solid waste community in partnership with the CRD as well as closed loop systems in resource recovery. These approaches support the RGS objective of avoiding any negative impacts to the long-term availability of utility services within the Urban Containment Policy Area, and thoughtfully consider the impacts of climate change.

Alignment with Objective 2: Environment and Infrastructure

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 2: Environment and Infrastructure include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Climate Goal Posts
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Climate Forward City Building
 - Functional, Connected Green Spaces
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
- Urban Form and Land Use
- Community Networks
- Blue Green Networks
- Climate Forward City
- Healthy, Safe and Resilient City
- Sustainable City
- A City that Speaks, Acts and Listens

Housing and Community

Create Safe and Complete Communities

Aligned with the RGS Complete Communities Criteria, the OCP focuses growth in complete communities. Up to six storey intensive residential development is envisioned in Priority Growth Areas, near community and commercial nodes and along the Transit Priority Network. The OCP further supports development of complete communities by envisioning high-rise mixed use buildings in Town Centres, which are envisioned to be home to high density residential as well as significant employment, institutional and cultural anchors, large programmed public open spaces and major transit exchanges.

In alignment with Policies (1) and (2) of RGS Objective 3.1, the maps and related policies within the OCP demonstrate the existing and envisioned coverage of many of the components of complete communities. Relevant maps include the Urban Structure Map and the maps in Schedule D which show Victoria's Town Centre and Village Network, Parks and Open Spaces, Linear Parkway Opportunities, Cycling Network, Transit Priority Network, and Mobility Hubs that illustrate:

- An urban form and land use pattern that supports continued evolution of a robust range of housing options for people of different ages, incomes, household structures, needs and abilities.
- Enhancement of core employment lands and with opportunities for innovative uses and modern approaches to accommodating a range of office-based, industrial, cultural and tourism sectors within the city, further supporting opportunities to work, shop and learn.

- Strategic guidance to enhance the already robust network of parks, green spaces and community infrastructure to support a growing and urbanizing community.
- Mobility objectives, policies and directions that support complete, connected, low-carbon communities and seamlessly coordinated, future oriented travel options that prioritize people over vehicles.

The OCP also defines and provides direction to enhance Victoria's Community and Mobility Networks. While the vast majority of Victoria is already within a ten-minute walk to many, if not all, components of a complete community as defined by the Complete Communities Criteria in the RGS, the OCP directs approaches and priorities for further enhancing and connecting community infrastructure through redevelopment and capital investment.

In addition to the complete community supporting directions noted above and aligning specifically with criterion (IV) of the RGS' Complete Communities Criteria, the OCP provides direction to ensure Victoria is safe and welcoming for a demographically diverse community. Directions are provided for safe, welcoming public spaces for all, a culture of community support and connection, and contextually appropriate approaches to crisis response and community safety.

Aligning with Policy (3) of RGS Objective 3.1, the OCP identifies areas of seismic and tsunami hazards on the related map in Schedule D and ensures new development in Victoria considers and mitigates seismic and other disaster risks through comprehensive risk assessments and appropriate engineering measures. The City's approach to disaster risk reduction is summarized in the OCP and includes efforts to prepare, mitigate, respond and recover, in line with senior government frameworks.

Addressing Policy (4) of RGS Objective 3.1, the OCP promotes the development and maintenance of resilient urban infrastructure that can withstand and adapt to climate impacts, such as extreme heat and precipitation events. It supports efforts to improve ecological processes and enhance hydrological functions, including through a watershed-focused approach to planning. Specifically, it supports resilient and green infrastructure solutions, restoration of natural hydrological systems, on-site rainwater management and urban forest enhancement.

Furthermore, the OCP encourages innovative approaches to coordinating infrastructure for compatibility, ensuring that public and private utilities are designed in a manner that is compatible with City infrastructure, public space and the urban forest. Through collaboration with regional partners and continuous improvement of hazard understanding, the OCP aims to create a safer, more resilient community that is well-prepared for both seismic and climate-related risks.

Improve Housing Affordability

Aligning with the RGS Approaches to Housing Affordability and Policies of RGS Objective 3.2: Improve Housing Affordability, the OCP defines near and long-term housing Goal Posts which detail both the need to catch up on latent demand and the

need to keep up with projected population growth. Goal Posts are aligned with the City's most recent Housing Needs Report. The plan provides a comprehensive set of strategies for meeting housing needs across the full Housing Continuum and throughout the city. The plan's overall Urban Form and Land Use approach, with an emphasis on Priority Growth Areas in the Residential Fabric, ensures Victoria can meet current and future housing needs within complete, connected, low-carbon communities that reduce the need to rely on travel by car. This land use approach also helps mitigate a risk identified in the RGS related to the potential for growth management measures to have supply-limiting effects.

The OCP provides direction to continue to work with the full range of partners involved in affordable housing provision, which includes ongoing participation in a range of regional strategies, initiatives and programs to support supply across the continuum.

Policy Alignment with Objective 3: Housing and Community

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 3: Housing and Community include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Population and Housing Growth
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Embracing a New Urban Form
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
- Urban Form and Land Use
 - Meeting Housing Needs
- Community Networks
- Mobility Networks
- Blue Green Networks
- Climate Forward City
- Welcoming, Equitable City
- Healthy, Safe and Resilient City
- A City that Speaks, Acts and Listens

Transportation

Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity and Mobility

Aligning with Policies (1) and (2) and all Principles of RGS Objective 4.1, the OCP helps locate growth and trip-generating uses where they can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation through its objectives for a diverse regional downtown core, a network of transit-oriented nodes, and complete communities in between. These objectives are addressed through the plan's close alignment of the Urban Form and Land Use guidance with the Transit Priority Network and Mobility Hubs as also evident through maps in Schedule D.

The plan also reinforces the City's commitment to prioritizing strategic investment in public transit and connecting to the region, including street improvements that align with high-quality transit service and planning for rapid transit on key corridors. The OCP reflects Victoria's ongoing commitment to collaboration in regional transportation planning, including through continued involvement in development of strategies, plans and initiatives and participation in regional programs.

Aligning with Principles (II), (III), and (V) through (VII) as well as Policies (3) and (4) of RGS Objective 4.1, the OCP emphasizes transit and active modes through commitments to incremental improvements in active transportation infrastructure and facilities that support frequent transit services. These commitments are guided by 2050 targets for a greater share of trips being made by walking, rolling, cycling or public transit, and more complete access to an all-ages and abilities cycling route. Achievement of these targets will significantly contribute to the overall RGS target of 42% of all trips being made by walking, cycling and transit.

The OCP's Mobility Networks and Hubs section informs the prioritization of the right-of-way and streetscape design through policies that support and enable:

- Improved pedestrian experience and accessibility
- Improved bike and roll network connections
- A high coverage Frequent Transit Network
- Reliable and safe routes for emergency vehicles and goods and services
- A recognition of streets as places for people, mobility and urban infrastructure

Policy Alignment with Objective 4: Transportation

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 4: Transportation include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Climate Goal Posts
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Embracing a New Urban Form
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
- Urban Form and Land Use
- Community Networks
 - Linear Parkways
- Mobility Networks
 - Mobility Networks
 - Mobility Hubs
- Blue Green Networks
- Welcoming, Equitable City
- A City that Speaks, Acts and Listens

Economic Development

Realize the Region's Economic Potential

Aligning with Economic Development Considerations (I), (VI), (VII) and (X) as well as Policies (1) and (2) of RGS Objective 5.1, the OCP emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing employment lands to support a diverse regional economy. The OCP anticipates and seeks to accommodate employment growth that supports the RGS target for a jobs/population ratio of 0.60 for the Core Area. It supports continued economic development in the downtown core and employment districts. It includes strategies to preserve, intensify and diversify employment uses, including deliberate protection of industrial lands for industrial uses.

Aligning with Economic Development Considerations (VIII) and (IX) as well as Policies (3) and (4) of RGS Objective 5.1, the OCP prioritizes the attraction of new businesses, a highly skilled workforce and investment that supports the retention and growth of existing businesses. The OCP's focus on innovative and adaptable use of commercial spaces and support for emerging economic sectors aligns with the RGS goal of fostering a resilient and responsive economy. The OCP also highlights the need to collaborate with educational institutions to promote lifelong learning and skill development, further supporting the region's economic potential.

Although the RGS does not identify any renewable resource lands within the City of Victoria's boundaries, the OCP's directions to support and enhance marine sectors in the Greater Victoria Harbour and tourism-based industries reflects a recognition of Victoria's maritime context and deep water harbour as strategic economic resources.

Furthermore, the OCP's approach to meeting housing needs – focused on residential infill and transit oriented growth – helps take residential development pressure off employment lands. This addresses the RGS Economic Development Consideration related to addressing the shortage of industrial/business land in a manner that is consistent with overall goals related to complete communities and compact settlement.

The OCP's integrative approach to Community Networks and community infrastructure, as well as affordable housing provision, play foundational roles in helping to reduce poverty in the Capital Region. Overall, these approaches ensure an adequate supply of employment and residential land to help achieve the region's economic potential.

Aligning with Economic Development Considerations (II) and (IV) of RGS Objective 5.1, the OCP includes actions to support economic reconciliation as well as continued efforts to understand, reflect and weave in Indigenous land and water management systems, which help to guide collaborative economic development with First Nations and sustainably manage strategic economic resources such as water, aggregate and energy. The earlier-discussed ways that the OCP aligns with the RGS objective to protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health also relate to how the OCP addresses these Economic Development Considerations.

Policy Alignment with Objective 4: Economic Development

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 5: Economic Development include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Employment Growth
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Embracing a New Urban Form
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
 - Prosperous Progressive Economy
- Urban Form and Land Use
- Community Networks
- Mobility Networks
- Blue Green Networks
- Welcoming, Equitable City
- Vibrant and Prosperous City

Food Systems

Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System

Aligning with Principles (I) through (V) as well as Policies (1) and (2) of RGS Objective 6.1, the OCP emphasizes comprehensive food system planning that supports local and regional food production, processing and distribution. The plan encourages developers and community partners to integrate local food growing, sharing and sales opportunities in all community nodes and supports food vendors and farmers markets throughout the city's Community Networks. This approach aligns with the OCP's land use and mobility network planning approach relating to the development of complete, connected, low-carbon communities in the region's core. All together, this integrated approach to food systems, land use and mobility planning advances the RGS goal of fostering a place-based food economy that enhances local food security while helping to avoid urban/agricultural land use conflict at the regional scale.

The OCP's policies to consider reconciliation in food security actions, celebrate local, Indigenous and multicultural food traditions and partner to increase food security and production demonstrate a commitment to regional objectives to support First Nations food interests and a collaborative approach to working with other local governments, organizations and community members on food systems initiatives.

Aligning with Principles (VI) through (VII) as well as Policies (3) and (4) of RGS Objective 6.1, the OCP encourages working with regional partners to support a quality, resilient regional food system that can adapt to a changing climate and withstand other challenges like shocks in the global food system or energy prices. The plan's vision and strategies for Zero Waste Systems align with the RGS policy to support food waste management.

The OCP's focus on supporting and encouraging localized food production, processing and distribution contributes to the regional economy and improves residents' connections to food. Additionally, the OCP's commitment to supporting healthy, dignified food choices and building food system knowledge and skills aligns with the RGS policies related to agricultural viability as well as principles around encouraging food system education and agri-tourism.

Policy Alignment with Objective 6: Food Systems

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 6: Food Systems include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Climate Goal Posts
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Climate Forward City Building
 - Functional, Connected Green Spaces
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
 - Prosperous Progressive Economy
- Community Networks
- Welcoming, Equitable City
- Sustainable City

Climate Action

Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Aligning with Principles (I) through (III) as well as Policies (1) and (2) of RGS Objective 7.1, the OCP takes a climate focused approach accommodating growth and housing needs. It continues to emphasize compact development in the regional core, and supports a network of complete, connected communities, served by low carbon mobility options. This directly implements the RGS principles and policies related to a low-carbon built form that supports active transportation modes and transit service.

The plan includes a wide array of policies that support RGS goals for efficient energy use, clean and renewable district energy, and low-zero emissions vehicles, including:

- Encouraging and facilitating low-carbon, efficient and climate resilient buildings.
- Encouraging a low-carbon construction industry.
- Reducing waste and emissions from demolition.
- Collaborating on low-carbon district energy opportunities.
- Encouraging and facilitating low-carbon mobility through land use, capital investment and inter-jurisdictional coordination.
- Supporting electrification through advocacy and collaboration with other levels of government, agencies and utility providers.

- Advocating for renewable energy and promoting fuel switching.
- Facilitating the transition to electric and low-emission vehicles

Aligning with Principles (IV) through (VI) and Policy (3) of RGS Objective 7.1, the OCP recognizes, values and protects the ecosystem services provided by Victoria's Blue Green Network and natural assets. In addition to providing explicit direction to prepare for and respond to climate impacts, the plan integrates proactive climate adaptation planning into all elements of city building. Examples include the Urban Form and Land Use Perimeter Block Concept, the recognition of Modern Street Functions and the approach to Linear Parkways which support the urban forest and the maintenance and enhancement of crucial ecosystem services.

The plan also integrates adaptation measures and the protection of ecosystem services throughout direction for Blue Green Networks and provides directions for coastal resiliency and community focused adaptation.

Policy Alignment with Objective 6: Climate Action

Core OCP Policy Sections that support RGS Objective 6: Climate Action include but are not limited to:

- Vision 2050
- Goal Posts: Getting to Vision 2050
 - Climate Goal Posts
- Five Big Moves Toward Vision 2050
 - Embracing a New Urban Form
 - Climate Forward City Building
 - Functional, Connected Green Spaces
 - Strong Community Infrastructure
- Urban Form and Land Use
- Community Networks
- Mobility Networks
- Blue Green Networks
- Climate Forward City
- Sustainable City
- A City that Speaks, Acts and Listens