

BE READY, OR BE LEFT BEHIND

Report of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future

The Panel

- Arms length advice
- Assigned by Metro Mayors Alliance
 - 95% of population
 - 96% of assessment base
 - 80% of land base
 - Population growth up to 2.2 million
- Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Leduc County, Parkland County, Spruce Grove, St. Albert, Strathcona County and Sturgeon County

Questions Posed to the Panel:

- Is a globally competitive Edmonton metro region achievable? What does success look like?
- What is required to become globally competitive? What are the key success factors?
- What needs to be different to achieve these results?

Is a Globally Competitive Edmonton Metro Region Achievable?

Yes – but not without change!

We are coping as a region now - but are not positioned to compete.

The Mayors have taken the first step.

We encourage them to stay together and act regionally.

What is Required to Become Globally Successful?

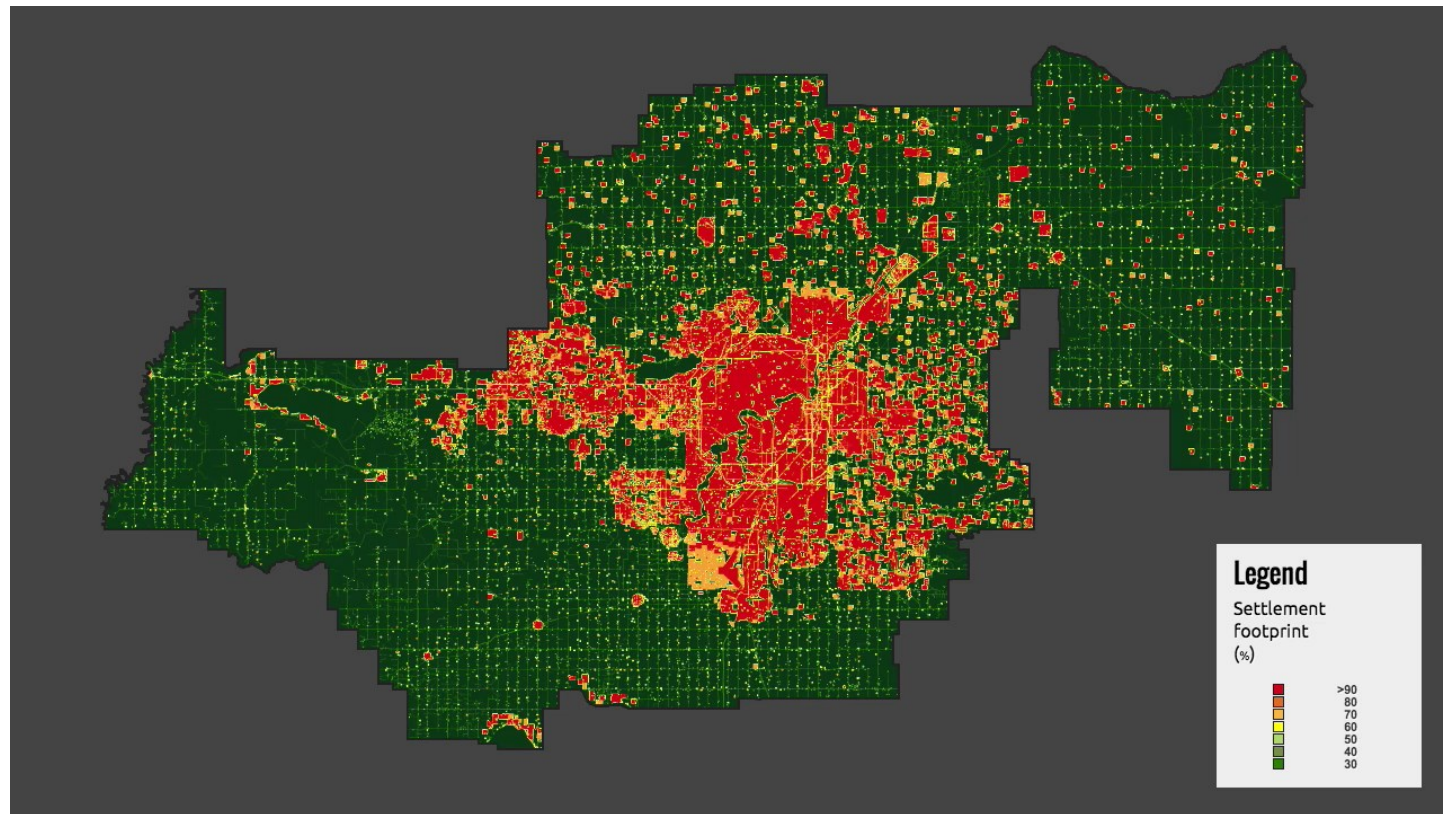
- Develop a Metro Region Mindset:
 - Take a systems approach in key areas that drive competitiveness.
 - Develop capacity for “shared investment and shared benefit” on regional projects.
- Mechanisms to act as a metro region.
- Not amalgamation; not another layer of government.

Focus on the 3 Key Drivers of Competitiveness for this Region:

- Economic development
- Inter-municipal public transit
- Land use and aligned infrastructure

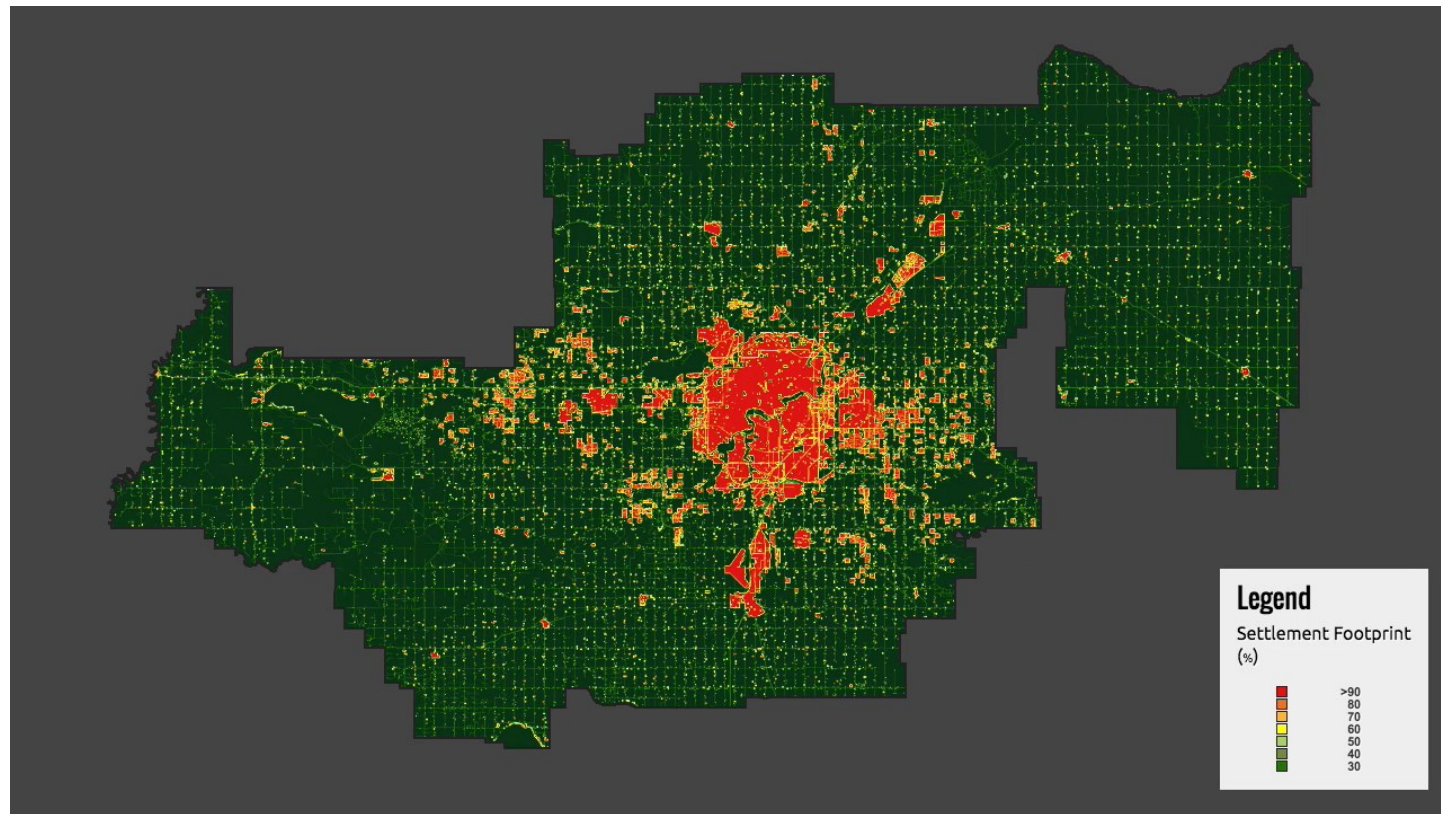
The Cost of Inaction

Low Density Business As Usual

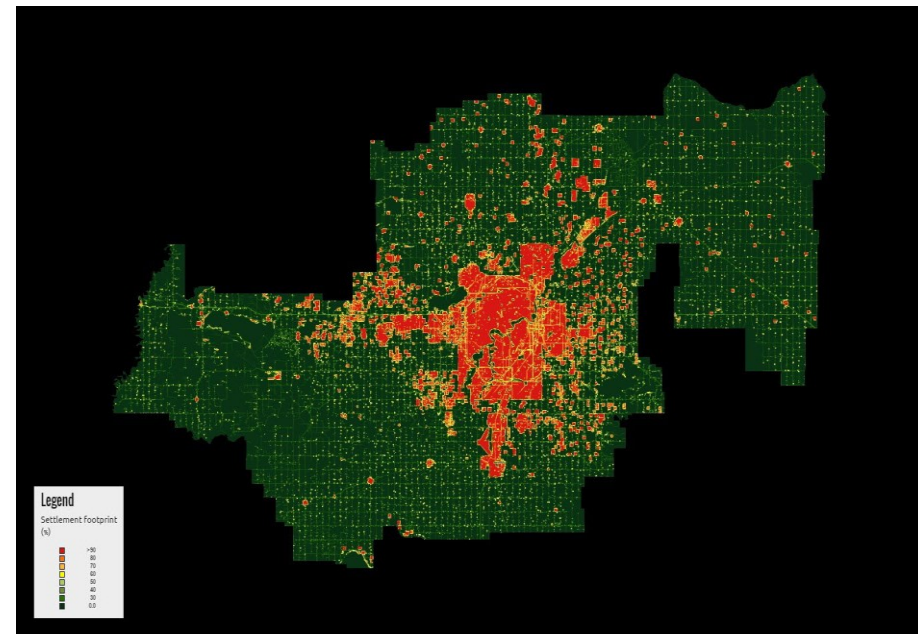
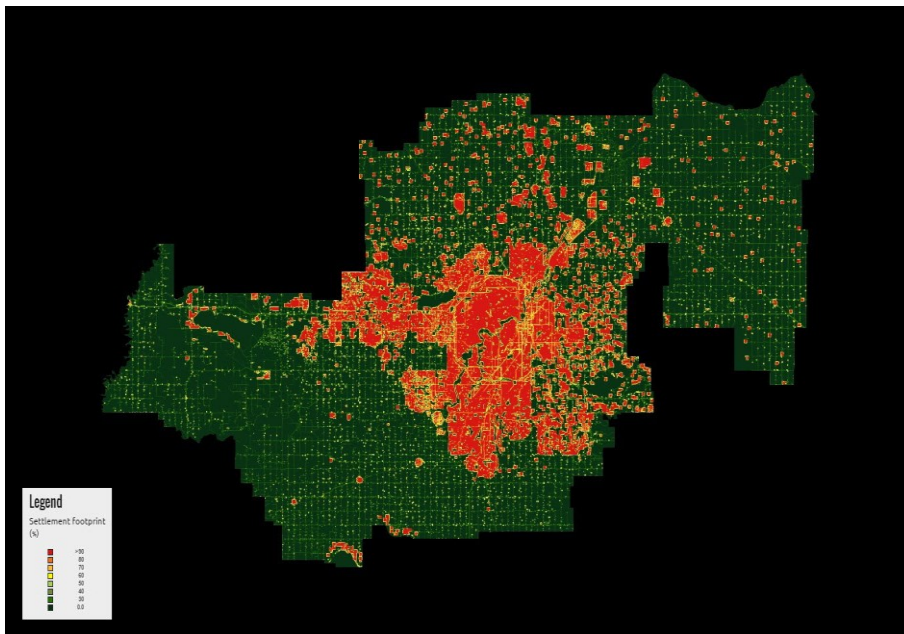


The Cost of Inaction

High Density – Integrated Approach



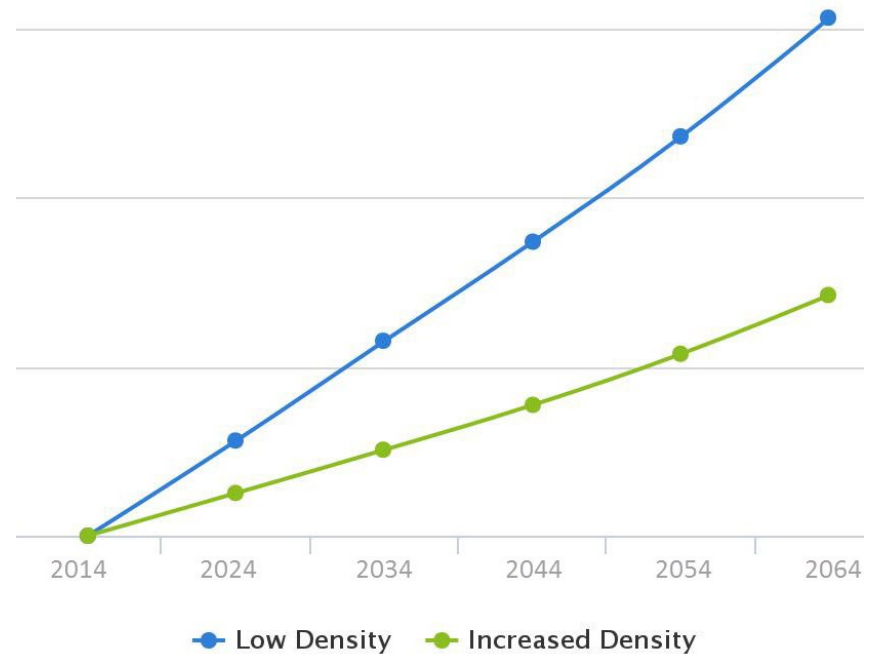
Simulated 2064 Settlement footprint using “Business as Usual” (left) and “Integrated High Density” (right)



What the Models Say

- Double the footprint
 - Double the farmland lost
- Double the cost

Opportunity Cost



What Needs to Change?

Recommendation 1:

Affirm the Metro Mayors Alliance by developing and signing a Memorandum of Understanding that spells out a commitment to plan, decide and act as one Edmonton Metro Region.

Recommendation 2:

Formalize the commitment to plan, decide and act as an Edmonton Metro Region through a legally binding Master Agreement.

Recommendation 3:

Consistent with the Master Agreement, establish new structures responsible for the three key cornerstones of a globally competitive Edmonton Metro Region:

- An entity responsible for regional economic development in the Metro Region.
- An entity responsible for planning, decision-making and delivering core public transit across the Metro Region.
- A structure with authority over regional land use planning and regional infrastructure development in the Region.

Two Land Use/Infrastructure Options:

Option 1 – Edmonton Metro IDP:

- Metro Region IDP would cover entire Metro Region.
- A product of municipal collaboration (i.e. no provincial sign-off needed).
- Direct cooperation on land use through procedures in current MGA.
- Create and delegate powers to a Metro Region Joint Committee on Infrastructure.
- Establish a Metro Region Infrastructure Development Fund to be managed by Joint Committee.
- Provide a platform to negotiate necessary trade-offs for shared regional benefit on land use decisions.

Two Land Use/Infrastructure Options:

Option 2 – Edmonton Metro Growth Board:

- Effective forum for integrated and strategic land use and infrastructure planning and negotiated trade-offs for shared regional benefits.
- Could be responsible for Joint Committee and Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Could be created quickly through provincial regulation.
- New MGA would provide new tools to better integrate land use and infrastructure and enable shared investment/benefit.

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