Edmonton’s Smart Choice Program

Presentation to Canadian Federation of Urban Municipalities Conference

February 2010
Major Policy Initiatives

The Way Ahead
Edmonton’s Strategic Vision

The Way We Grow
Edmonton’s Municipal Development Plan

The Way We Move
Edmonton’s Transportation Master Plan
City Strategic Vision
"The Way Ahead"

- Sustain the Environment
- Transform Urban Form
- Shift Transportation Mode
- Diversify the Economy
The Way We Grow

• City Wide Food and Agriculture Strategy

• Urban Design

• Green Building Program

• Growth Management
The Way We Move

- LRT Expansion
- Bicycle Plan
Smart Choices

Any and All Actions Needed to

• Reduce Energy Consumption
• Conserve Natural Resources
Comprehensive Growth Strategy

“The Way We Grow”

• Growth in Mature neighborhoods

• Intense development around LRT stations

• Growth linked to infrastructure cost
Transit Oriented Development

Prepare TOD Plans to:

• Intensify and diversify development close to stations
• Create walkable environment
• Include public amenity
Transit Oriented Development

Integrated Transit and Land Use Framework

- 3 kinds of LRT stations
- Determine land use mix
- Intensify within 200 and 400m of station
- Design of buildings and streets
- Framework for TOD Plan
Neighbourhood Reinvestment

Infrastructure Program

• Co-ordinate improvements in selected neighborhoods
• Roads, sidewalks, sewer
• 3 communities a year
• 2% of tax dollars
Neighbourhood Reinvestment

Drainage Programs

• Reduce suspended solids
• End of pipe wetland
• 5 ha wetland serves 7000 ha
Neighbourhood Reinvestment

Drainage Programs

• The Quarters Plan
• High density proposed
• New storm pipes
• Natural drainage features
Revitalize Old Commercial Industrial

**Issues**

- Trend towards big box
- Industrial conflicts with encroaching residential
- Shopping centers with high vacancy
- Deteriorated commercial strips
Revitalize Commercial and Industrial

Incentives for Local Commercial Centers

• Market analysis
• Design
• Rezoning
• Cash incentives
Walkability Strategy

Focus is on

• Sidewalk infrastructure
• Traffic safety
• Mixed use/density
• Streetscape improvements
Walkability Strategy

Still lacking

- Small commercial centers
- Small parks/plazas
- Connected street pattern
- Windows/doors eyes on the street
- Streets /intersections designed for pedestrians
Residential Infill Strategy

More housing in established neighbourhoods

• Where
• What scale
• Amenities
• Design
Residential Infill Strategy

Environmental:
• Reduces growth footprint

Economic:
• Uses existing infrastructure

Social:
• Builds on existing communities
Residential Infill Strategy

Create greater acceptance of infill by residents:

• Protect single family housing in neighborhood core
• Ensure compatibility of built form
• Foster a high quality public realm
• Provide certainty on where infill should go
Residential Infill Strategy

Create More Certainty and Less Cost for developers

• Clear policy direction
• Reduce conflict with residents
• Reduce need to use Direct Control Zoning
• REDUCE COST
Residential Infill Strategy

Residential Infill Types

• Small Scale:
• Medium Scale:
• Large Scale:
• Large Sites:
Residential Infill Guidelines

Medium Scale

- Rowhousing (6+units)
- Stacked Rowhousing
- Low Rise Apartments
Residential Infill Guidelines

Location for Low rise Apartments
- On corner sites
- Next to neighborhood commercial
- On major shopping centre sites
- On commercial strips & major bus corridors
- Adjacent to LRT stations
Residential Infill Guidelines

Built Form for Low Rise Apartments

- Building height reduced
- Building length limited
- Ground floor units have private yards & front doors
- Street oriented with a prominent front entrance
- Articulated building frontages
Urban Design Requirements

Density Must be Accompanied by

- Attractive streets
- Quality buildings
- Compatible mass and scale
- Public open space
- Amenities for residents
Communication and Consultation

Smart Choice means “CHANGE”

Public needs to
• Understand
• Demand
• Be involved
Challenges

• Too much capacity in the outer ring
• Market forces contrary to smart growth
• No design template for suburban neighborhoods
• Street design still focused on cars
• Understand and require green building technology and sustainable infrastructure.
Thank you FCM

Ottawa Rocks!