

January 20, 2026

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Mayor Nathan Pachal and Council
City of Langley
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Dear Mayor Nathan Pachal and Council:

**Consultation on Proposed *Metro 2050* Amendment Options
in Response to South of the Fraser Mayors' Request**

On November 28, 2025, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board of Directors directed staff to initiate consultation on potential amendments to *Metro 2050*, the Regional Growth Strategy, in response to a letter to the Board Chair from three South of the Fraser Mayors. These municipalities have expressed that the current amendment framework is limiting their ability to accommodate the region's growing demand for housing, employment lands, and essential services.

In June 2025, the mayors of Surrey, Langley Township, and Delta submitted a joint letter outlining policy changes they believe are necessary to better support growth and development south of the Fraser. Informed by this request and subsequent discussions with municipal staff and the MVRD Board, Metro Vancouver has developed four amendment options for consideration. These options focus on improving flexibility for making adjustments to the Urban Containment Boundary and streamlining the amendment process while maintaining the integrity of regional growth management objectives.

The proposed amendment options are:

- 1. Type 3 amendment: Add new Special Study Areas in the requesting municipalities.**
Currently, *Metro 2050* does not allow the addition of new Special Study Areas (SSAs). SSAs are designated locations where future regional land use changes are anticipated but require further study before an amendment can proceed. This amendment would allow Surrey, Langley Township, and Delta to identify a limited number of new SSAs for inclusion in *Metro 2050*, enabling future land use changes in these areas to be considered under a lower voting threshold.

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2. **Type 1 amendment: Re-Classify amendments to lands with a Rural regional land use designation from Type 2 to Type 3 amendments.**
Lower the voting threshold for designation changes from Rural to Industrial, Employment, or General Urban.
3. **Type 1 amendment: Expand amendment opportunities for properties adjacent to the Urban Containment Boundary.**
Lower the voting threshold for changes from Agricultural or Rural to General Urban or Employment, provided that the sites (a) are contiguous with the Urban Containment Boundary; (b) are outside the Agricultural Land Reserve and ecologically sensitive areas; (c) can be serviced with existing or committed infrastructure; and (d) support compact, transit-oriented, complete communities.
4. **Type 3 amendment: Expand use of the flexibility clause (6.2.7) for properties adjacent to the Urban Containment Boundary.**
Allow regional land use designations on sites contiguous to the Urban Containment Boundary to be changed without a *Metro 2050* amendment, if the change satisfies criteria outlined in the current flexibility clause (i.e. site size and cumulative usage).

Under *Metro 2050*, Type 1 amendments require a 50%+1 weighted vote of the MVRD Board plus unanimous acceptance by all affected local governments to pass. Type 3 amendments require a 50%+1 weighted vote of the MVRD Board to pass after an opportunity for comment from all affected local governments. More details about these amendment types is contained in Part F of *Metro 2050* ([Implementation](#)) and in the [Regional Growth Strategy Amendments Implementation Guide](#).

The MVRD Board cannot give initial readings to a *Metro 2050* amendment bylaw that affects local governments without first consulting with them. As an agency with a statutory role in the Regional Growth Strategy amendment process, we are seeking your feedback on these options, as detailed in the enclosed staff report. At this stage, we are not requesting formal consideration of any bylaw; all feedback received through this consultation will be summarized and provided directly to the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board when it considers the initial readings of any draft *Metro 2050* amendment bylaws. If the MVRD Board grants initial readings to any bylaw at that meeting, a formal referral and comment period of at least 60 days will be initiated.

To meet this timeline, we request that you provide any comments by **March 20, 2026**. Staff would be pleased to meet with your staff or present to your Council or Board to discuss the proposed options in more detail. To arrange this, or should you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Cote, Deputy General Manager, Regional Planning and Housing Development, Regional Planning and Housing Services, by phone at 604-432-6391 or by email at jonathan.cote@metrovancouver.org.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued collaboration in shaping the region's growth.

Enclosed is a copy of the aforementioned staff report for your reference.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Boards

MH/JC/ms

cc: Francis Cheung, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Langley
Kelly Kenney, Corporate Officer, City of Langley
Jerry Dobrovlny, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver
Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning, Metro Vancouver

Encl: [MVRD Board Report dated November 14, 2025, titled "Proposed Metro 2050 Amendment in Response to South of the Fraser Mayors' Request" \(pg. 407\)](#)

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