

Need for the Growth Plan

The Growth Plan initiatives respond to a number of imperatives facing Saskatoon:

- a) Sustained annual population growth ranging between 1.9% and 3.7% since 2007 – With a sustained growth rate of 2%, the city can be expected to grow to a population of 500,000 in approximately 30 years.
- b) Financial costs of growth – In 2009, the City Manager appointed a Future Growth Team to review the funding model and develop a strategy to meet the needs of growth. The team concluded that fundamental changes are necessary in the City’s approach to transit, transportation, and land use, to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the City.
- c) Community Vision – The Saskatoon Speaks initiative identified that changes in how the City plans for growth and moving around were necessary to align with the expectations and values of the community. The Strategic Plan 2012-2022 addresses these goals of Sustainable Growth and Moving Around through an “Integrated Growth Plan”.
- d) Growth Plan – This plan, and its supportive initiatives, identified the negative implications of continued “business-as-usual” growth including increasing traffic congestion and roadway infrastructure costs, reduced level of transit service and growth that is imbalanced and unsustainable.
- e) Targets – in order to mitigate future traffic congestion and infrastructure needs, the Growth Plan and Active Transportation Plan identify a number of targets necessary to achieve their objectives:
 - i) Mode Share
 - Transit – increase from 4% to 8% of all trips, and from 10% to 25% for peak period to the Downtown and University areas.
 - Cycling – increase from 4% to 8% of all trips and from 2% to 4% of commute trips.
 - Walking – increase from 8% to 16% of all trips, and from 5.5% to 11% of commute trips.
 - ii) Transit Service Levels – increase to between 1.8 and 2.0 service hours per capita by increasing annual service hours by between 2.5% to 3%.