

Report to Council



Date: June 23, 2025

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Thriving Urban Centres: Urban Centres Dashboard

Department: Long Range Planning

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Long Range Planning dated June 23rd, 2025, with respect to the Urban Centres Dashboard.

Purpose:

To receive an overview of the recently launched Urban Centres Dashboard.

Council Priority Alignment:

Affordable Housing

Economy

Climate and Environment

Transportation

Background:

The Thriving Urban Centres project (formerly called the Urban Centres Framework) aims to provide a new, more resource efficient approach to neighbourhood planning for Kelowna's five Urban Centres: Downtown, Pandosy, Capri-Landmark, Midtown and Rutland. Funded largely through a Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Complete Communities grant, the project aims to provide more responsive guidance sooner with more real time data than can be achieved in a traditional Urban Centre plan.

Launched in late 2023 with the approval of the UBCM grant, the Thriving Urban Centres project is nearing completion, and the following three key deliverables will be completed by this summer as illustrated in Figure 1:

1. A trends report outlining the status of our Urban Centres - complete
2. An interactive online mapping and **dashboard** tool to assist with future decision making -today; and
3. A report on future directions to make Kelowna's Urban Centres thrive- later this summer.

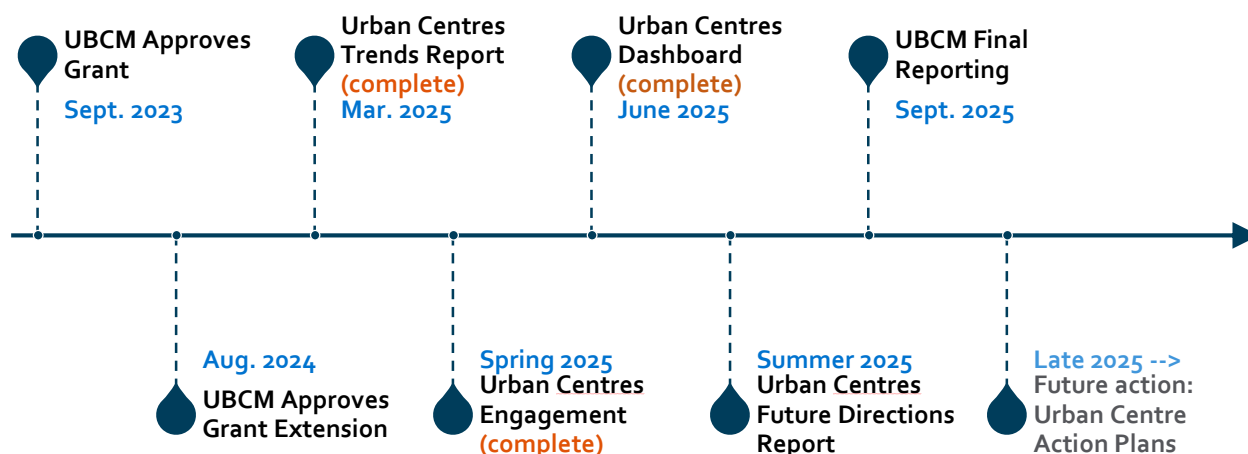


Figure 1: Thriving Urban Centres project timeline

Previous Council Resolution

| Resolution | Date |
|--|--------------------|
| THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Long Range Planning dated April 7, 2025, with respect to Thriving Urban Centres: Pandosy and Downtown. | April 7, 2025 |
| THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Long Range Planning dated March 31, 2025, with respect to Thriving Urban Centres: Rutland, Midtown and Capri-Landmark. | March 31, 2025 |
| THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Long Range Planning dated March 10, 2025, with respect to Thriving Urban Centres: Project Update and Trends Report. | March 10, 2025 |
| THAT Council receive the report dated September 11, 2023 regarding the Urban Centre Planning Framework, for information. | September 11, 2023 |

Discussion:

To support the development of Kelowna's Urban Centres, it is necessary to ensure a high quality of life for residents and create attractive locations for visitors and workers. Esri Canada has been engaged to assist in developing the [Urban Centres Dashboard](#) to enhance and modernize the City's data-driven decision-making. This dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of each of the five Urban Centres, covering aspects such as population, housing, daily needs, transportation, climate and environment, and future directions. It is powered by data from Model City, BC Assessment, Environics, and other City data sources, offering accessibility to Council, staff, and the public through an interactive interface. This method addresses Kelowna's growth challenges by providing access to real time information, enabling faster adaptation to new changes, and reduces the need for developing plans from scratch by updating future directions promptly, reinforcing our "City of the Future".

Dashboard users will find data on these subjects under a series of easy to use tabs:

- Housing – includes information on existing and upcoming residential units, housing types, housing tenure and anticipated units by 2041.
- Population – shows current population, population by age bracket, annual income, indigenous identity and visible minority.
- Employment – shows the estimated number of jobs in each Urban Centre as well as business licenses and BC Assessment land uses.
- Amenities and Environment – provides information about schools, daycare capacity, parks and trees.
- Infrastructure and Transportation – provides information about age of all buildings, bike infrastructure, shared use pathways, sidewalk completeness, and modal split.
- Capital Projects – provides information on the capital projects underway in each Urban Centre.

The dashboard also includes a variety of mapping layers with locational information on building permit and development applications, capital projects, business licenses, parks, street trees, zoning, building heights, street character, bus routes and more.

The Urban Centres Dashboard is anticipated to evolve over time. Future updates could include new measures and directions coming out of Urban Centre Action Planning and the integration of new data as it becomes available.

Next steps:

Now that the Trends Report, Urban Centres engagement, and Dashboard are complete, staff are focusing on other parts of the Thriving Urban Centres project.

- ***Urban Centres Future Directions Report:*** This final report to meet the commitments of the UBCM grant is targeted for completion by summer 2025. It will outline proposed new policy directions alongside actions that are necessary to continue to grow Urban Centres into complete communities. The Future Directions Report will be informed by the Trends Report, the Dashboard, community engagement and additional analysis work including:
 - *Growth projections:* The revised growth scenario (presented to Council at the April 14, 2025 PM session) which demonstrates that based on the existing zoned capacity the five Urban Centres, are well poised to accept a significant share of our city's growth.
 - *Employment projections:* An analysis is being completed to understand the types and amount of employment growth that can be anticipated in each Urban Centre. This work also includes research to examine future potential employment densities and will consider policy options to support Urban Centre employment growth. This work is being coordinated with the outcomes of the recently released Regional Employment Lands Inventory by RDCO.
- ***Urban Centre Action Plans*** (to be completed post project): The Thriving Urban Centres project will be used to inform future Urban Centre Action Plans. These Action Plans will focus on nimble implementation tools that can help the City respond to the evolving growth context of each Urban Centre. The key directions identified in these Action Plans would be included in future updates of the Urban Centre Dashboard.

Conclusion:

Kelowna's Urban Centre planning adapts to intensive urban growth and high demand. The Urban Centres Dashboard streamlines the process, efficiently using staff resources and incorporating data-driven decisions with community input through tools like Model City.

Internal Circulation:

Development Planning
 Integrated Transportation
 Infrastructure Delivery
 Development Engineering
 Climate Action & Environment
 Asset Planning
 Data Services & Analytics
 City Clerk
 Communications

Considerations applicable to this report:**Existing Policy:**

- 2040 Official Community Plan
 - Objective 4.1 Strengthen the Urban Centres as Kelowna's primary hubs of activity.
 - Objective 4.4 Reinforce Downtown as the Urban Centre with the greatest diversity and intensity of uses in the City
 - Objective 4.5 Promote more residential development to balance employment uses in the Capri-Landmark Urban Centre
 - Objective 4.6 Support infill and redevelopment to promote housing diversity and enhanced services and amenities in the Pandosy Urban Centre
 - Objective 4.7 Focus new development in Rutland strategically to create a new high-density business and residential hub to support improved services and amenities
 - Objective 4.8 Support modest residential development to transition Midtown into a transit-supportive neighbourhood
 - Policy 16.3.1 OCP Implementation Actions.
 - Action 17 – Develop a Rutland Urban Centre Plan (short term)
 - Action 18 – Develop a Pandosy Urban Centre Plan (short term)
 - Action 19 Develop a Midtown Urban Centre Plan (long term)
- 2023-2026 Council Priorities
 - The Urban Centres framework outlined in this report would further advance Council's 2023-2026 priorities, particularly:
 - Affordable Housing: Urban Centre planning advances and streamlines processes to accelerate housing in the areas where 50% of future housing units are targeted.
 - Transportation: The Urban Centres Dashboard will inform upcoming transportation projects.
 - Climate and Environment: Urban Centre planning will explore opportunities to make our Urban Centres low-emission and more resilient to the effects of climate change.
 - Economy: Urban Centre planning allows for a strategic approach to growing employment in Kelowna's busiest activity hubs.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The City has received \$149,500 of grant funding from the Complete Communities Program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to assist with this process. These funds supplement the \$75,000 of annual funding for Urban Centre Planning identified in the Long Range Planning base budget.

Considerations not applicable to this report:***Consultation and Engagement******Communications Comments******Legal/Statutory Authority******Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements***

Submitted by: Ahmed Mustafa, Planner Specialist

Approved for inclusion:



Robert Miles, Long Range Planning Manager