

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan30_2018

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Alberta's Industrial Heartland Transportation Study Update 2017

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with the Alberta's Industrial Heartland Transportation Study Update 2017, for information.

Council History

June 12, 2007 (Motion 532/2007) – Council received the Strathcona Area Industrial Heartland Transportation Study, dated March 2007, by Stantec Consulting, as information.

October 17, 2006 (Motion 648/2006) – Council authorized Administration to proceed with a Heartland Industrial Area Transportation Study at a cost of up to \$200,000 to be funded by industry.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Long term sustainable development of the Industrial Heartland Area is critical to the County. The study will guide transportation throughout the Alberta Industrial Heartland.

Governance: Statutory plans will reflect and collaborate with the study for transportation initiatives.

Social: The study will aid in the County's ability to provide timely emergency service response and enhance safety by minimizing conflicts between transportation user groups in the Alberta Industrial Heartland area. The future roadway upgrades support safe roads for Strathcona residents.

Culture: n/a

Environment: The plan addresses design considerations for environmental impact and safety.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Economic Development and Tourism, Planning and Development Services, Transportation and Agricultural Services, Emergency Services

Summary

Strathcona County's Alberta Industrial Heartland Area (AIHA) Transportation Study Update report has been prepared as a high level planning document necessitated by changing land uses and development patterns in the region, and as an update supplemental to the Area Structure Plan (ASP).

A previous Transportation Study in the Industrial Heartland Area (IHA) was completed in 2007. Since that time, there have been significant changes in the region including the initiative to update the ASP for Strathcona County's portion of the AIHA. In 2015 the County initiated a concurrent transportation study to update the existing 2007 document. Stantec Engineering was retained in June 2015 as the consultant to undertake the assignment.

AIHA covers lands within Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, Lamont County, and abuts Fort Saskatchewan and Bruderheim. Strathcona County's IHA is bounded by Highway 15 to the south, Range Road 220 to the west, the North Saskatchewan River, and Highway 830 to the east.

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The primary objective of the Transportation Study update is to ensure that the long term transportation goals in Strathcona County's IHA will be met and to provide the necessary guiding principles to ensure the effective and efficient planning of the future transportation network. The Transportation Study update is an evolving living document and will be revised over time, given changes in the area.

The Transportation Study update attempts to balance and accommodate development needs throughout the region by creating the least negative impact on businesses and the environment. The study update takes into consideration the interests of affected stakeholders, and follows the principles that the ultimate transportation network should be compatible with Strathcona County's long term goals and objectives in the region. At the same time the study update is intended to satisfy various constraints imposed by other governing authorities including Alberta Transportation (in its Highway 15 Functional Study), CN Rail, and CP Rail.

To achieve its target, the objectives of the Transportation Study update are to establish and/or update the following:

- A general spine road system in the IHA for convenience of access and for emergency access purposes;
- The broad and conceptual major internal roadway network alignment in the study area, based on the requirements for normal operating, construction, and shut down maintenance traffic;
- Preliminary roadway details including right-of-way or width, the number of lanes, and the major intersection locations with the adjacent Provincial Highway system;
- Railroad at-grade or grade-separated crossings, and the decision criteria for the basis to establish either;
- Connectivity of collector and local roads with arterials, and the provision of accesses to future developments;
- Recommendation of staging and phasing for the construction of a Highway 15 and Range Road 214 grade separated interchange; and other important highway elements according to Alberta Transportation's Highway 15 functional study; and
- Preliminary cost estimates.

The Transportation Study update recognizes that industry stakeholders' input is important in arriving at solutions best able to be accepted by all road users. Consultation with stakeholders, both internal and external, and public meetings with area residents was completed and conducted throughout the study process and detailed within the report.

Communication Plan

The Alberta's Industrial Heartland Transportation Study 2017 will be posted on the County website and available publicly.

Enclosures

- 1 Alberta's Industrial Heartland Transportation Study Update
- 2 Alberta's Industrial Heartland Transportation Study Update Presentation