

With regards to pipelines and corridors, the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) provides some direction. In this regard, the MDP states:

3.5 (Utilities) Promote the integrity of utility and pipeline corridors by encouraging:

24. cooperation with the province, surrounding municipalities and utility companies to create new integrated utility corridors as well as support and maintain existing integrated utility corridors.

25. pipeline planning to reduce land fragmentation by crossing land along section or quarter section lines or following existing surface disturbances or other linear infrastructure. Existing surface disturbances may include roads, railways (on non-industrial lands) or existing pipeline corridors.

26. the use of pipeline and utility corridors as multiuse corridors to accommodate oil, natural gas, municipal utilities, electrical transmission lines, communications infrastructure, wildlife corridors and active transportation infrastructure.

27. the owner/leaseholder to remove the infrastructure associated with abandoned utilities, pipelines and well sites, as well as the rehabilitation of these areas once no longer utilized.

5.5 (Agriculture Large Holdings Policy Area) Promote large contiguous tracts of land with minimal fragmentation by encouraging:

22. pipelines to locate within the alignments shown on Map 11: Pipeline Corridors (attached).

23. utility, energy and transportation corridors to consider the location of prime agricultural lands when establishing alignments.

5.7 (Heartland Policy Area) Promote viability in the long term by encouraging:

29. industrial developments to share infrastructure and right of ways.

5.9 (Transportation/Utility Corridor Policy Area) Ensure the Transportation/Utility Corridor is protected for infrastructure purposes by requiring:

1. the protection of the Transportation/Utility Corridor for infrastructure purposes.

Sections 3.5, 5.5 and 5.7 speak to promoting, as the authority to approve pipelines lies with the province or federal government and therefore the County cannot require pipelines to be located in certain areas. Section 5.9 speaks to ensuring as the TUC is provincial owned/controlled. If the County was to identify or create a corridor, there would be no obligation for the provincial or federal government to recognize that corridor or mandate that pipelines have to be located in that corridor. Identifying or creating a corridor brings with it other implications such as under what authority would the County be able to compel a developer to provide land for the corridor when preparing a planning document or going through a planning process, or where would the funds to compensate a landowner for a corridor come from.

The draft of the updated Heartland Area Structure Plan (ASP) will build on the policy provided in the MDP by including pipeline routing guidelines that were created in collaboration with stakeholders and landowners in the heartland area. Although not creating a dedicated corridor, the intent of the pipeline routing guidelines within the ASP is to provide options for pipeline access to industrial sites while ensuring optimal industrial development. These guidelines will still reflect encouragement rather than requirement for future pipeline routing.