

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Oct22\_2019**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan (SRRMP).

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Continuously improving the way we work, as one organization, in an agile and sustainable manner

**Report**

Transportation and Agriculture Services mission is to "Inspire community by enabling safe travel and agriculture". The Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan guides how Strathcona County's 1,300 kilometres of rural roads are maintained and rehabilitated. These rural roads include range roads, township roads, and roads within country residential subdivisions and rural hamlets.

Transportation and Agriculture Services (TAS) has started a complete update of the Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan (2010). It will include a review and analysis of the following:

- Principles and recommendations of the 2010 SRRMP
- Classification system for rural roads
- Prioritization strategy for improvements
- Current operations and maintenance activities
- Alternatives for maintenance strategies and short-term repairs
- Technical engineering review of the County's operations and maintenance of rural roadways as well as existing rural road standards
- Links to the Integrated Transportation Master Plan and the Traffic Safety Strategic Plan 2020 projects to support the implementation of a Safe System approach in Strathcona County.

A key result of the completed update will be a clear level of service for the rural road network.

The initial public engagement sessions will be an opportunity to listen and learn from our residents. It is important to understand the local conditions and experiences of the users that travel the roads each and every day. Responses will help gauge public satisfaction of the current state of the roads and guide direction of County practices for rural road maintenance and improvements. Sessions will commence in Q4 2019 into Q1 2020. The engagement will include the use of open houses, online surveys and other tactics to ensure we give all residents the opportunity to provide feedback to the County.

Following the initial engagement sessions, results will be compiled, and the technical review started. A key part of this engagement will be the second round of public engagement in

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Q2 2020. We will report back to the residents and validate the input received as well as provide further opportunities for resident feedback on the engineering action plan. Priorities Committee will also receive an update on the engagement results and direction the project team will be taking on the finalized SRRMP Update.

Updating the existing SRRMP is expected to garner significant public attention, therefore it is important that our process not only engages the public but expands our collective knowledge to access unique and innovative ideas that will address the functional requirements of the rural road network while addressing concerns from the local residents and stakeholders. This also must be done through the lens of sustainability, as we recognize road improvement budgets are limited.

To create a transparent and defensible approach to the SRRMP update process, TAS will be including a formal Value Engineering session. A properly designed Value Engineering session has elements of a "focus group" but also includes technical expertise to create the necessary balance between competing interests. The completed review and updated SRRMP document will be presented to Council for approval in Q4 2020. The session will include:

Task	2019	2020				
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Public Engagement "Listen & Learn"						
Engineering Technical Review						
Priorities Committee Update						
Public Engagement "What We Heard"						
Priorities Committee Update						
Final Council Approval						

### **Council and Committee History**

December 6, 2018 Council approved the 2019-2022 Corporate Business Plan and 2019 Budget.

May 4, 2010 Council approved the Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan 2010.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** Transportation Planning and Engineering, Planning and Development Services, Communications

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a