

Air Services Funding Request**Report Purpose**

To discuss a request to participate in the establishment of an Air Services Opportunity Fund to re-instate priority international flights at the Edmonton International Airport.

Recommendation

Not available.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 3 - Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Report

On May 27, 2021, the Chairs of Edmonton International Airport (EIA) and Edmonton Global met with the member municipalities of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) to discuss air services at the EIA.

In the information provided at that meeting and at the June 10, 2021 Edmonton Global Extraordinary Shareholders meeting, it was stated that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, international passenger flights at EIA ceased with no timeline or criteria for their return. There are currently no federal or provincial funding opportunities for regional economic air service initiatives.

Edmonton Global and EIA are seeking to raise funds by way of a three-year commitment to establish an Air Services Opportunity Fund to re-instate priority international flights (Europe, Eastern and Western seaboard hubs). The proposal identifies Edmonton Global to manage the fund and develop a governance model.

A contribution has been requested from all of the member municipalities of EMRB, including Strathcona County.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Economic Development and Tourism; Intergovernmental Affairs; Corporate Planning; Corporate Finance

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Communication Plan

Strathcona County will communicate its decision with EIA, Edmonton Global, EMRB and its member municipalities.