

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun27_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Transportation Programs and Priorities

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an overview of the management, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the County's transportation infrastructure.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 3 Priority - Investment in our infrastructure that supports development and complete communities

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

Report

Strathcona County manages the maintenance and rehabilitation of all transportation infrastructure through informed decision-making based on comprehensive data collection and inspection on urban and rural roadways. The management of the overall transportation infrastructure system is delivered within the Transportation Engineering and Operations department (TEO). The decision-making for upgrades, rehabilitation, and maintenance is driven by a comprehensive pavement management system. This data related to road condition is updated on a three-year cycle and helps prioritize road segments and treatment options for deteriorated roadways.

Strathcona County has a large toolbox of maintenance and rehabilitation treatments that are used to help determine the right timing of treatments to extend the useful life of the road network in an efficient and sustainable way for many years to come. The maintenance program focuses on the completion of intermediate treatments including crack sealing, spray patch, micro surfacing, small asphalt repairs, base repairs, and thin lift asphalt repairs. All treatments are timed and evaluated with overall network decision-making in mind to ensure the maintenance needs are addressed across all roadway types.

For the past five years, the operations team has focused on ensuring the overall condition and quality of the gravel road network has improved with the introduction of the Gravel Rehabilitation Program in 2019. This program has introduced roadway widening, base reconstruction and a paver placed dust control gravel. This process has introduced a road surface that has seen an increase in overall conditions and has shown early on that it will last compared to the traditional approach. The Gravel Maintenance Rehabilitation Program continues to focus on the ongoing maintenance of the network by re-graveling roadways, spot dust control at occupied properties, and routine blading. The overall gravel network continues to be in good condition and the focus on timely treatments and ensuring when roadways have work completed is done with a focus on longer-term solutions.

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Another key program area is the Annual Roadway Rehabilitation Programs where timely minor and major rehabilitation work is completed across all road types. The annual programs range from roadways needing simple asphalt surface milling and overlays to complete reconstruction of the road structures. The rehabilitation program considers many factors as program candidate roadways are developed.

Roadway selection is based on information from the Pavement Management System recommendations combined with visual inspections and reviews of current liability and hazard information. Candidate roadways are reviewed for several criteria including the future impacts of adjacent lands, potential growth, and any functional plans that may impact the current function of the roadway. Candidate roadways will have a detailed engineering assessment including geotechnical review and pavement design to ensure the asphalt structure will meet the design life for the roadway. A key contributor is performing an overall safety assessment to ensure no upgrades or traffic safety features should be added as part of the construction plans.

Once the projects have been selected, construction communications are planned annually to ensure those most affected are aware of how construction will impact them and are satisfied with the information they receive.

Enclosure 2 will provide additional information regarding Strathcona County's pavement management process.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Enclosures

- 1 Transportation Programs and Priorities presentation
- 2 Supplemental Information on Pavement Management