

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jul09_2024

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Rural Road Safety Action Plan 2024

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee information about the Rural Road Safety Action Plan 2024.

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

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

Report

Strathcona County has a large network of rural roads, including 1,314 km of County-owned rural roads and over 100 km of provincially owned rural highways. In the last five years, 76% of fatal injury and 55% of all major-injury collisions in the County happened at a rural location. Developing a rural road safety plan was identified in the Traffic Safety Strategic Plan (2020) as an important strategy for meeting our safety goals.

Based on best practice and interdepartmental collaboration, the following 21 actions are recommended or planned to improve safety on Strathcona County's rural network. Many of the actions recommended in this plan directly reflect and align with the recommendations of the Integrated Transportation Master Plan and the Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan. These actions are being planned within existing operational budgets and staff time. Where capital budgets are required, they will be brought to Council as part of the budget process.

Recommended actions:

- 1 Create an asset management plan that will guide investment and maintenance of the County's entire transportation network.
- 2 Update Strathcona County Design and Construction Standards.
- 3 Update Bylaw 02-2017 Transportation System Bylaw.
- 4 Update SER-009-030 Road, Sidewalk, and Parking Lot Network Maintenance Policy.
- 5 Develop a comprehensive, proactive rural roadside vegetation control program that implements a regular maintenance schedule to ensure adequate sightlines at intersections while causing minimal disruption to bird habitats.
- 6 Update intersection control safety guidelines and ensure the guidelines are included in Strathcona County's Design and Construction Standards.

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- 7 As part of a County-wide Active Transportation Plan/Vulnerable Road User Strategy, develop a plan for expansion of active transportation facilities (multi-use trails) in the rural area (link to Action 17).
- 8 Consider development of an animal strikes mitigation strategy (link to Action 5).
- 9 Implement roadway departure warnings (edgeline/centreline rumble strips) according to best practice across the rural network with planned rehabilitation.
- 10 Encourage proactive interactions with pedestrians on highways.
- 11 Continue to work closely with engineering partners to build enforcement plans on data delivered through the Rural Road Safety Plan and Enforcement Services STEP to ensure the most effective use of enforcement resources.
- 12 Participate in Immediate Roadside Screening pilot project.
- 13 Update the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Plan Traffic Safety Calendar.
- 14 Expand local business and school traffic safety presentations in rural areas.
- 15 Continue to engage with Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors to find solutions to the safety concerns on rural highways.
- 16 Seek to engage and develop relationships with engineering and enforcement partners in adjacent rural municipalities (Lamont, Sturgeon, Leduc, Beaver Counties) and explore opportunities to partner on rural safety initiatives and advocacy.
- 17 Leverage the Council approved Traffic Safety and Active Transportation Task Force to develop a Vulnerable Road User/Active Transportation Strategy.
- 18 Explore the opportunity to partner more closely with rural community leagues to distribute rural road safety materials.
- 19 Expand positive ticketing program in Strathcona County, to include rural areas.
- 20 Continue to engage with industry partners regarding truck routes and employee traffic management.
- 21 Add additional Fire Station 7 to serve areas North of Yellowhead (planned and scheduled to open in 2027).

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Council and Committee History

November 29, 2022	THAT the five Integrated Transportation Master Plan priorities of safety, accessibility, connectivity, efficiency and economy, as set out on page 2 of Enclosure 2 of the November 29, 2022 Transportation Engineering and Operations report, be approved.
September 14, 2021	THAT recommendations 10.1 to 10.5 as described in the Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan (2021), set out in Enclosure 2 of the September 14, 2021 Transportation and Agriculture Services report, be approved.
June 24, 2014	Council approved the Traffic Safety Strategic Plan (2020)

Other Impacts

Policy: SER-009-030 Road, Sidewalk, and Parking Lot Network Maintenance Policy, SER-014-005 Asset Management

Financial/Budget: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Bylaw 02-2017 Transportation System Bylaw

Interdepartmental: RCMP and Enforcement Services, Strathcona County Emergency Services, Transportation Engineering and Operations

Master Plan/Framework: Traffic Safety Strategic Plan 2020, Integrated Transportation Master Plan, Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan

Communication Plan

Information about the action plan will be added to the Strathcona County website. Additional communication will be required as the 21 actions are finalized and implemented.

Enclosure

1	Rural Road Safety Action Plan 2024
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