

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_May17\_2016**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Joint Planning Study: Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategies****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with information regarding the Joint Planning Study: Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategies which was undertaken with the City of Edmonton.

**Council History**

April 19, 2016 – The Priorities Committee received the Joint Planning Study: Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategies for information.

**Economy:** n/a

**Governance:** The Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategy document adheres to the priority area of cooperative partnerships with neighbouring governments, in this case the City of Edmonton. It builds towards mutual respect, common goals and a desire to move forward together to achieve long-term success. The document also follows the strategic goal of advancing the community's interest by developing and maintaining strong relationships with the City of Edmonton to ensure long term prosperity.

**Social:** n/a

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** This document has been prepared with the assistance of the appropriate County departments and will be shared with those departments.

**Summary**

The City of Edmonton (the City) and Strathcona County (the County) share a 40 km boundary along their respective eastern/western edges. The purpose of the Joint Planning Study: Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategies is to improve collaboration and communication regarding infrastructure and planning in this area.

In order to achieve these goals, an improved communication protocol is needed to strengthen the inter-municipal relationship and ensure an ongoing commitment to collaborative planning in the Joint Planning Study (JPS) Area. The JPS provides guidance to the Administrations of the City and the County regarding development within the Study Area.

This document forms a foundation for future discussions, supports regional prosperity for citizens, and demonstrates leadership in cooperation between regional partners. Each municipality will have a clear understanding of their responsibilities pursuant to the JPS.

Both municipalities acknowledge that they are legislatively separate and have distinct interests and cultures. Through the JPS, the City and the County agree to support the objectives, follow the guiding principles and follow and implement the recommendations.

The JPS recognizes that each Council retains their decision-making autonomy as per the *Municipal Government Act*.

The JPS sets out a series of recommendations that represents a commitment from both municipalities to collaboratively plan and manage land use within the Study Area within an atmosphere of mutual respect. The recommendations in this document will also enhance the policy direction set out in each *Municipal Development Plan*.

The Study Area for the JPS encompasses the entire shared boundary between the City and the County and extends approximately 1.6 km into each municipality (see Map 12.1, Study Area). The shared boundary area features many regionally important transportation networks, drainage basins, environmental networks, and diverse land use patterns. The land uses within the Study Area include a broad mix of agricultural, industrial, commercial, residential, institutional, open space and recreation. In addition, there are a number of major pipelines located throughout the various industrial areas and within the Transportation Utility Corridor that runs north-south through the Study Area.

The JPS, although not a statutory document, is meant to provide guidance to the County and City regarding moving forward on planning and development within the Study Area. The policies developed within the scope of this document will support and uphold the larger regional initiatives of the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan under the Land Use Framework, and the Growth Plan under the Capital Region Board. The City and County agree to jointly implement the study and follow the recommendations wherever possible.

The Objectives for the Study Area are as follows:

- Promote information sharing,
- Ensure mutual consultation on plans and studies that impact the JPS area,
- Ensure an understanding of each municipality's planning and development requirements,
- Create clearly defined communication protocols, and
- Build a foundation for long-term political and administrative commitments to implement a shared vision.

The following Guiding Principles support the purpose and objectives of the JPS and provide the basis for decision-making within the Study Area:

- The actions of one municipality will not hinder the activities or opportunities of the other, now or in the future,
- Each municipality recognizes the right of the other to ultimately make decisions with respect to matters within its jurisdiction,
- Both municipalities will strive to protect assets of regional significance within the Study Area,
- Both municipalities will plan with consideration for the regional context; each brings value to the Capital Region and derives benefits from it,
- The working relationship between the municipalities will be strengthened and sustained when the approach is based on common interests, and
- Both municipalities will commit to working together to resolve issues if they arise in the future.

The document was signed off by the Chief Commissioner for the County and the City Manager for the City.

**Communication Plan**

Media release

**Enclosure**

- 1 Joint Planning Study: Boundary Interface Protocols and Strategies Document