

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun14\_2016**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****River Valley Alliance (RVA) and Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Update****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update of the two regional trail programs and associated projects.

**Council History**

March 8, 2011 – River Valley Alliance presentation was received by Council as information. Council referred the matter of municipal funding for projects back to Administration for further review and report back to the March 29 Council meeting.

March 29, 2011 – Council reviewed three recommendations and provided direction to Administration.

September 13, 2011 – Council supported the development of the River Valley Alliance Park before 2014 as outlined in the Plan of Action – Phase 1. Council approved the County's one-third share of the expenditures for the River Valley Alliance Park in the amount of \$308,280 to be funded from the Capital Projects Reserve (1.4266).

December 11, 2012 – Council approved the 2013 Capital Budget.

January 22, 2013 – An update was provided to Council on the activities of the River Valley Alliance.

February 5, 2013 – Council approved the amendment of the 2013 Capital Budget to construct the River Valley Alliance Trail – Phase 2 of 3 in the amount of \$924,840 to be funded from the Capital Projects Reserve (\$308,280), from the Federal Building Canada Fund (\$308,280) and from a Provincial Contribution to the River Valley Alliance (\$308,280).

May 6, 2014 – Council approved the closure of part Road Plan 4630X to facilitate the construction of a new pipeline. In exchange for this new utility right-of-way, Inter Pipeline Ltd. committed a \$1.5 million contribution to complete approximately 3.2 km of Trans Canada Trail.

March 22, 2016 – Council approved amendment of the 2013 Capital Budget for the River Valley Alliance Trail Phase 2 of 3 projects, to increase the cost due to a change in estimates by \$275,160 (from \$924,840 to \$1,200,000) to be funded from the River Valley Alliance contribution.

March 22, 2016 – Council approved the amendment to the 2016 Capital Budget to construct the River Valley Alliance Trail Phase 3 of 3 in the amount of \$1,200,000 to be funded \$400,000 from the Municipal Projects reserve (1.3773), \$600,000 from Trans Canada Trail contribution and \$200,000 from a River Valley Alliance contribution.

### **Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** Strathcona County is working with Trans Canada Trail (Federal) and the River Valley Alliance (Federal and Provincial) to fund implementation of 22 km of Capital Region multi-use trail. This shared approach as stated in the Trails Strategy, allows Strathcona County to provide connectivity locally, regionally and nationally.

**Governance:** These trail initiatives advance the community's interests by developing and maintaining strong relationships with our neighbouring municipalities and civic organizations.

**Social:** These trails are key components of walkable communities and act as a catalyst for community connectedness. They provide safe recreational opportunities for all ages, thereby increasing community health and well-being and improve quality of life.

**Culture:** Public art is being considered for this trail system, which will define and strengthen the community's identity and heritage.

**Environment:** Trails allow individuals to use non-motorized methods to travel within and to other surrounding communities. This reduces emissions and improves air quality. As per the Integrated Transportation Master Plan, these regional trails provide greater connectivity between urban and rural areas

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** GOV-001-019 County Representation on External Boards/Committees/Commissions

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** Recreation, Parks and Culture, Planning and Development Services, Capital Planning and Construction, Transportation and Agriculture Services, Financial Services

### **Summary**

Strathcona County is working on completing 22 km of regional trail that is part of the River Valley Alliance, as well as with the National Trans Canada Trail Programs. This trail network will connect Strathcona County to the City of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. Both of these trail programs have similar goals of providing connectivity of communities through integrated trail systems, to allow users to see and explore their neighbourhood and ultimately their country (Enclosure 2 Map – Trail Alignments).

Each program has matching funding opportunities to complete these trails and Strathcona County has and will continue to pursue these opportunities as they become available.

Strathcona County has contributed \$7,250,000 of capital dollars and acquired and matched these dollars from both programs (Build Canada Fund, River Valley Alliance, Trans Canada Trail) as well as with corporate funders (Inter Pipeline Limited), in order to complete this trail system. Enclosure 3 Map – Trail Phases, identifies the individual trail projects and phases of construction.

### **River Valley Alliance**

The focus of the River Valley Alliance is to connect its member municipalities along the North Saskatchewan River and in Strathcona County that is being done through trail development. Funding for these projects is a part of River Valley Alliance's 2012-2016 capital plan.

The River Valley Alliance Phase I project, also known as the Riverside Nature Trail, was completed in 2005 and was funded by Strathcona County and the River Valley Alliance. This

2.5 km granular trail is located along the North Saskatchewan River adjacent to the Capital Region Waste Water Commission site.

The River Valley Alliance Phase II project is being constructed in 2016. This 4.5 km of granular trail will link our Riverside Nature Trail to Fort Saskatchewan. Funding for this trail was acquired through the River Valley Alliance and its funding partners (Build Canada Fund, Province of Alberta).

Strathcona County is continuing to work with Trans Canada Trail in order to seek matching dollars to complete the River Valley Alliance Phase III project, along Range Road 232, north of Township Road 435 to Township Road 540. The River Valley Alliance is going to design this 3.3 km granular trail and once funding has been confirmed, Strathcona County will construct in 2017.

Funding for the River Valley Alliance Phase IV project as well as the pedestrian footbridge, and possible boat dock will be designed once funding opportunities are available in 2017-2022.

### **Trans Canada Trail**

Trans Canada Trail is eager to complete their trail system from coast to coast by July 1, 2017; Canada's 150 Anniversary of Confederation. Funding for this program has been identified at \$75 million.

Phase I of the Trans Canada Trail was completed in 2012 and funded through arterial road construction projects.

For 2016, Strathcona County is designing 3.2 km of asphalt trail along Petroleum Way. This \$1.5 million Trans Canada Trail Phase II project was generously funded by Inter Pipeline Limited. Construction will commence in 2017.

In March of this year, funds for the Trans Canada Trail Phase III project was provided by Strathcona County and matched by Trans Canada Trail. This project is being designed and will be constructed in 2016 and 2017. This 3.2 km asphalt trail linkage, is located north of Highway 16 along Range Road 232 up to Township Road 534.

### **Next Steps**

In the future and through the next round of matching capital funding opportunities, Strathcona County will continue to implement identified projects as per the River Valley Alliance Plan of Action. The next phase (2017-2022) of capital projects will be reviewed by the River Valley Alliance Board for approval (June 2016) and their next funding campaign will commence.

In anticipation of the Canada 150 Celebration, we hope to have these trail projects substantially completed and will be working with our funding partners on their opening festivities.

### **Enclosures**

Enclosure 1 ppt Regional Trails - Update

Enclosure 2 Map -Trans Canada Trail & River Valley Alliance Trail Alignments

Enclosure 3 Map -Trans Canada Trail & River Valley Alliance Trail Phases