

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct18_2016

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Strathcona County Aerial Imagery****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with information on the benefits oblique imagery can have for improving the current biennial aerial imagery acquisition that will be put forward as a 2017 Information Technology Services Geographic Information System (GIS) budget initiative.

Council History

November 9, 2010 – Council authorized participation in the Alberta Municipal Affairs grant application for the Edmonton Regional Joint Orthophoto Initiative (ERJOI) 2011 project.

November 6, 2012 – Council authorized participation in the Alberta Municipal Affairs grant application for the ERJOI 2013 project.

September 9, 2014 – Council authorized participation in the Alberta Municipal Affairs grant application for the ERJOI 2015 project.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: A comprehensive and current GIS enables County Departments to effectively and efficiently manage municipal infrastructure assets.

Governance: Maintaining current and high quality geospatial imagery enables data-driven decision making, informed planning for the future of the County, and assists with communication about our land base.

Social: A comprehensive and current GIS enables County Departments to plan and deliver police, fire and emergency management services.

Culture: The ability to maintain both current and historical information in Strathcona County's GIS enables us to ensure a complete archive of our community's cultural assets.

Environment: A comprehensive and current GIS enables County Departments to promote and protect our natural environment.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: All County departments use GIS

Summary

For a number of years Strathcona County has been a member of the Edmonton Regional Joint Orthophoto Initiative (ERJOI) which is a consortium of local governments that collectively acquire orthophotos on a biennial basis. Thus far we have acquired orthogonal imagery through this initiative which provides a top down view of the landscape. Unlike the traditional orthophotos that we acquire every two years, oblique imagery allows a 360° view (captured from north, south, east and west) revealing much more detail about features on the landscape.

In early 2016, the Information Technology Services and Assessment and Tax departments completed a pilot study to explore the use of oblique imagery as a source of information during the annual assessment program. The pilot study was comprised of urban and rural properties where external inspections were conducted using oblique imagery. It was determined that oblique imagery added value to the inspection process by providing the ability to increase tax equity, enhance customer satisfaction, minimize staff safety related issues, streamline workflows/processes and improve property data integrity/quality.

Other anticipated benefits to Strathcona County include but are not limited to property encroachment issues, considerations for building permits, permitting compliance and land use activities, assisting with the emergency response activities, input into fire investigation, fire preplanning, and disaster recovery.

While orthophotos have been used in a municipal environment for a number of years, municipalities within the Edmonton region and other municipalities in Canada have successfully incorporated oblique imagery in their business workflows/processes. It is recommended that Strathcona County replace our current imagery initiative with oblique and orthogonal imagery as part of a 2017 budget initiative.

Enclosure

1 Aerial Imagery Presentation