

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Regional Transportation Study Collaboration Project

Motion:

That Council approve funding, not to exceed \$40,000, from the Financial Stabilization Reserve for the Regional Transportation Study Partnership with the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, and the Government of Alberta.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council for the participation in a Regional Transportation Study.

Background:

Tremendous growth in the region has put a strain on the transportation network. The issues experienced daily with highway networks and road crossings is hitting a critical point where it is important that the municipalities within the Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) show leadership in working with the Government of Alberta to plan for new roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure.

On July 8, 2014 Council approved the submission of a Regional Collaboration Grant (now known as the Alberta Community Partnership) to facilitate a study to help determine the necessary upgrades needed for the regional transportation network that would include, among other things, a study of the optimal location for another bridge across the North Saskatchewan River. It is estimated that a study of this magnitude would likely cost roughly 1.5 million dollars.

On March 30th of this year, the City was informed that our submission for the Alberta Community Partnership Grant was denied. Given the importance of such a study, lobby efforts continued with Alberta Transportation and they have now agreed to fund \$700,000 of the study if the municipal partners are willing to fund the remaining amount.

While a comprehensive funding allocation model has yet to be developed, administration believes that the majority of the funding would, and should, come from the City of Edmonton as the bridge crossing would be located within their boundary. Administration is asking for Council to approve a maximum of \$40,000 to enable our participation in the study.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

Section 1.7 of the Council Strategic Plan refers to the "Continued support for the development of a long-term solution to issues regarding transportation corridors in and around the City".

Financial Implications:

The current uncommitted balance of the Financial Stabilization Reserve is \$5,800,000.

Internal Impacts:

The study will require a time commitment from the Director of Project Management and potentially from the General Manager of Infrastructure and Community Services.

Alternatives:

1. That Council approve funding, not to exceed \$40,000, from the Financial Stabilization Reserve for the Regional Transportation Study Partnership with the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, and the Government of Alberta.
2. That Council not approve funding for the Regional Transportation Study Partnership, and advise how they wish to proceed.

Recommendation:

That Council approve funding, not to exceed \$40,000, from the Financial Stabilization Reserve for the Regional Transportation Study Partnership with the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, and the Government of Alberta.

Attachments:

1. Appendix A – July 8, 2014 Council Report re the Regional Collaboration Grant Program.
2. Appendix B – March 30, 2015 letter from Municipal Affairs re Declined Alberta Community Partnership Program Application.
3. Appendix C – June 19, 2015 letter from Alberta Transportation re Regional Transportation Study.

File No.:

Prepared/Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager of Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: July 6, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: July 8, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: July 14, 2015