

# **CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN**

## **Regional Transportation Study**

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### **Motion:**

That Council authorize Administration to proceed with the Regional Transportation Study Project.

### **Purpose:**

To update Council on the progress of the Regional Transportation Study and to get Council approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the other municipal partners to proceed with the project.

### **Background:**

On July 14, 2015, Council approved \$40,000 to be taken from the Financial Stabilization Reserve to enable the City to participate in a joint Regional Transportation Study with the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County, and the Government of Alberta. The intent of the Study is to do some of the detailed research on the transportation network in the region and to specifically look at the ideal location and conceptual design of another bridge bypass to help create another river crossing node.

The financial contributions to the 1.5 million dollar Study are as follows:

- Government of Alberta - \$700,000
- City of Edmonton - \$360,000
- Strathcona County - \$360,000
- City of Fort Saskatchewan - \$40,000
- Sturgeon County - \$40,000

The City of Edmonton agreed to be the project managing partner and a committee of technical experts from each municipality was set up in order to oversee the project and provide input to the process.

To date, there has been two meetings of the Technical Committee. The City of Fort Saskatchewan's representative in the project is the Director of Project Management, Grant Shaffer.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was circulated on October 26, 2015 and contained a clause that was of concern to the City of Fort Saskatchewan. The clause was previously discussed by the Technical Committee, which requires that any project cost overruns be funded on an equally shared basis between the four partner municipalities. This is different from the funding formula for the base budget, which recognizes the differences in the different sizes and capacities of the various partners at the table.

The City of Fort Saskatchewan has been unsuccessful in our attempt to have the clause amended. Due to the importance of the project, it is recommended that the City of Fort Saskatchewan continue its involvement in the Study despite these concerns. The City will not support any amendments to the scope of the project, without requesting prior funding approval from Council. However, if there is an unforeseen cost-overrun of the original budget then the City would be required to contribute additional funds. The likelihood of a cost-overrun in a technical study such as this is low.

**Plans/Standards/Legislation:**

GOAL ONE: Position for Growth 1.7 – Continue to support development of a long-term solution for issues regarding transportation corridors in and around the City.

**Financial Implications:**

The cost of the project to the City of Fort Saskatchewan is currently \$40,000, which has been previously allocated from a reserve. If there were to be a 10% cost overrun in the project for example, this would require Council to allocate an additional \$37,500 to the Study.

**Alternatives:**

1. That Council authorize Administration to proceed with the Regional Transportation Study Project.
2. That Council not authorize Administration to proceed with the Regional Transportation Study Project, and advise how they wish to proceed.

**Recommendation:**

That Council authorize Administration to proceed with the Regional Transportation Study Project.

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File No.:

Prepared by:	Troy Fleming General Manager Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: November 2, 2015
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: November 2, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: November 5, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: November 10, 2015