

Deputy City Manager's Office Report to
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
2020 July 23

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IGA2020-0836

Proposed City of Calgary submission on the Alberta Infrastructure Act and 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Alberta (GoA) is requesting public input to aid the development of their upcoming Alberta Infrastructure Act and their 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan. The GoA is focused on prioritizing its own capital spending, and developing a 20-year plan that anticipates future GoA infrastructure needs. Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy (ICS) and Infrastructure Calgary (IC) of the Deputy City Manager's Office (DCMO) are coordinating The City of Calgary's (The City) response. They have consulted widely within Administration to develop The City's submission (Attachment 1). The deadline for the GoA's 'Infrastructure Planning Engagement' is 2020 August 10. To meet this deadline, IGA Committee on 2020 July 23 needs to review The City's submission and forward the item as Urgent Business to the 2020 July 27 Combined Meeting of Council for Council's review and approval.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee forward this Report as an item of Urgent Business to the 2020 July 27 Combined Meeting of Council, for approval of The City of Calgary's submission to the Government of Alberta's Infrastructure Planning Engagement as set out in Attachment 1.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

There is no previous direction on this specific matter from Council, however The City's extensive experience with capital planning and Council previously approved capital plans and capital policies informs The City's submission to the GoA.

BACKGROUND

The upcoming Alberta Infrastructure Act (the Act) is a legislated governance framework for capital planning in Alberta. The Act will outline how the GoA will plan for, and prioritize, capital investments and is expected to be introduced into the Alberta Legislature in the fall 2020 legislative session. The 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan will guide the GoA's approach to long-term planning for infrastructure and is expected to be developed over the winter of 2020-2021, to be released in early 2021. Proposed prioritization criteria will be used to guide decision-making on all submissions for infrastructure projects for the Capital Plan.

The GoA's public engagement survey seeks input on three major areas:

- (a) Governance and the capital planning process,
- (b) Proposed prioritization criteria; and
- (c) Future trends for consideration.

In January 2020, Chris Arthurs (Acting GM, DCMO), Heather Kathol (Manager, IC) and Jeremy Clarke (ICS) met with the GoA and shared The City's approach to capital planning and prioritization. Many of the concepts from The City's capital prioritization criteria are reflected in the GoA's proposed criteria.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The City, within its submission to the GoA, offers considerations for best practices in capital planning governance, criteria definition expansions and improvements, especially with respect to climate and resilience, further definition of technology as a trend, and recognition of the rise of social movements. In addition, The City recommends a stronger partnership and high level of engagement between the GoA and The City with respect to capital planning to ensure we are optimizing capital investment value, project alignment and integration with existing and future municipal infrastructure.

Lastly, The City responds to the GoA request for selecting three strategies to best respond effectively to trends and offers:

- (1) Partnering and engaging with municipalities;
- (2) Striving for predictable, stable and sufficient funding structures; and
- (3) Being innovative, tech savvy and future-focused.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Input for this submission was sought from Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy (ICS), Infrastructure Calgary Steering Committee, Infrastructure Calgary EPMO, Corporate Budget Office (CBO), Departmental Infrastructure Investment Planning (IIP) stewards, Corporate Project and Asset Management (CPAM), Corporate Engineering & Energy, Next 20 project team (Municipal Development Plan (MDP)/Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) review), Resilience team and The City's Strategic Foresight Scan Club, which draws from staff from across the organization.

Strategic Alignment

This report and attached submission is in alignment with the Council priority of a 'Well Run City': *Calgary's government is open, responsive, accountable and transparent, delivering excellent services at a fair price. We work with our government partners to ensure we have the tools we need.* The strategies selected support Administration's Rethink to Thrive Strategy and align with the Council approved Capital Infrastructure Investment Principles.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The attached submission reflects input from all three policies of the triple bottom line.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

This report will have no impact on the operating budget.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This report will have no direct impact on the capital budget. However, development of a GoA 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan may impact and influence future City capital budgets.

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Risk Assessment

The City typically submits input into a GoA public engagement where The City has valuable expertise and perspectives to share. The risk in not making a timely submission is that the GoA will develop the governance framework for their 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan in the absence of The City, which may lead them to not adopt governance best practises and/or adopt prioritization criteria that are suboptimal. The City also risks that this is last opportunity to engage with the GoA before they complete drafting and introduce the Act in the fall of 2020.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The upcoming Alberta Infrastructure Act will lay the legislative and governance framework for development and management of the Government of Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan. This report is intended to seek Council's approval of Administration's submission to the Government of Alberta's public engagement for the coming Act, the Infrastructure Planning Engagement, which is open until 2020 August 10. The upcoming legislation and 20-year Strategic Capital Plan will impact the future of our Province and our City and it is important for The City of Calgary's advocacy and long-term interests to share best practices, our experience and our perspective with the Government of Alberta.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Proposed City of Calgary submission on the Alberta Infrastructure Act and 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan