

Transportation Report to
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
2020 November 12

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IGA2020-1280
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Regional Transportation Update: Bow Valley Passenger Rail Project – Memorandum of Understanding

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council support the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the “Bow Valley Corridor Alliance”, an alliance of First Nations and municipalities along the proposed rail route from Calgary to Banff Townsite.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2020 NOVEMBER 17:

That Council adopt the Recommendations contained in Report IGA2020-1280.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It is beneficial to have alignment and collaboration amongst municipalities along the proposed passenger rail line.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? The City of Calgary is prepared and engaged with regional municipalities to bring coordinated dialogue on the proposed project.
- Why does it matter? Future transportation projects could be impacted by the proposed project. The City relies on Government of Alberta funding for some major transit projects.
- This work is outside the scope of the Calgary Metropolitan Regional Board (CMRB).
- There is no commitment from The City of Calgary, just information sharing at this time.
- Strategic Alignment to Council’s Citizen Priorities: A city that moves
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

On 15 June 2020, Administration provided Council a briefing on Alberta Transportation’s (AT) announcement that it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to assess the feasibility of a new passenger rail service between Calgary and Banff. (Attachment 1).

A business case is currently being developed by consultants retained by CIB and AT to review the project for investment potential, with their analysis expected in early 2021.

In response and to advance the interest of key stakeholders, a draft Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was drafted that establishes an alliance of First Nations and municipalities along the proposed trail route from Calgary to Banff Townsite. The draft MOU (Attachment 2) is currently being reviewed by the First Nations of Stoney Nakoda and municipal governments of Banff, Canmore, and Cochrane.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed

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Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

The content for this MOU was compiled in consultation with subject matter experts in Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy (ICS).

IMPLICATIONS

Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

The identified advocacy priorities include items that promote an environmental benefit (light rail transit), and the economy (potential for increased tourism).

Service and Financial Implications

It is unknown at this time the potential financial and operating impacts to The City of Calgary if the proposed passenger rail were to proceed to construction. There is currently no commitment or expectation of funding from The City of Calgary.

RISK

The MOU can help mitigate risk that may arise if The City of Calgary and other impacted municipalities and First Nations are at a disagreement in advocacy to AT, CIB and private investors regarding the proposed rail service between Banff and Calgary.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Background
2. Bow Valley Passenger Rail Project MOU

Department Circulation

General Manager	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform