

BRIEFING

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**Operational Services Briefing to
Infrastructure and Planning Committee
2017 July 14**

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Transportation Department 2021 Environmental Performance Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

The City's transportation network has potential to create many environmental impacts, as well as significant opportunities to advance environmental sustainability and demonstrate meaningful action on climate change. One of the Calgary Transportation Plan's (2009) seven goals is to "advance environmental sustainability". As such, the Transportation Department's Sustainability Strategy division has been guiding and tracking environmental performance for the past decade. The division promotes an appropriate alignment of focus and resources across all transportation business service lines to meet environmental compliance requirements and achieve organizational goals.

For Council's information and reference during budget planning and decision making, the attached 2021 environmental performance report provides insight to key risks, programs, investments and outcomes. This includes performance trend lines on pollutant management, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, water use and water quality protection, soil and air quality, waste diversion from landfill, and biodiversity conservation. The report also provides data and narrative information describing the past environmental performance for key areas of investment and operation in transportation.

In the new City structure, the Operational Environmental Systems division resides within the Operational Services Department. Here, it provides oversight and support for the key operational functions involving environmental management for seven front-line business units: Mobility; Parks and Open Spaces; Water Services; Calgary Transit; Waste and Recycling Services; Fleet and Inventory; and Facility Management.

In future, there is opportunity for a more wholistic view of this work for all Operational Services lines of service. Administration will build a plan for sharing progress of these collective efforts over the next year. This will include a continuation of the close partnership with our colleagues in the Climate and Environment Business Unit in the newly aligned Planning and Development Services Department.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In 2021, Calgary's transportation system in continued to expand, while service delivery was adapted to pandemic-related changes in travel patterns and mobility demand. Environmental performance across the department was strong.

Transportation Infrastructure, Calgary Roads, and Calgary Transit are subject to regular internal audits and annual external audits by third parties. These audits verify that environmental management systems and processes will allow the business units to continue to meet legal and policy requirements, and that there are good environmental practices and innovations employed

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in the development and operation of our transportation system, both internally and throughout the contracted services supply chain.

In summary:

- Environmental management systems were confirmed to be well integrated with daily operations and long-term business planning functions within Calgary Roads, Calgary Transit, and Transportation Infrastructure.
- The total energy supply required to operate the transportation system decreased by 8 per cent year-over-year, with reduced public transit service in line with reduced demand/ridership attributable to the pandemic.
- Energy efficiency initiatives helped minimize transportation system energy use, and combined with The City's renewable energy supply contract they allowed an expanding transportation system to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 87 kilotonnes (down from 97 kt the year prior, and 117 kt in 2019).
- Department-wide efforts in planning, developing, operating – and in 2020-2021 – adapting transportation infrastructure and services enabled a wide range of mobility options for Calgarians. These included continued implementation of the cycling strategy, pedestrian strategy, electric vehicle strategy, and RouteAhead transit strategy.
- Residents of Calgary and region enjoy good air quality and good water quality in the Bow River, with noted concerns being dust and sediment from land development, construction activities and unpaved surfaces.
- Potential pollutants were well managed through the effective implementation of plans for erosion and sediment control, construction site management, and working in areas of existing soil and groundwater contamination.
- The environmental management of road salts continued to be an area of focus with significant capital investments made in 2021 to minimize the inadvertent release of chlorides to the environment; Calgary Roads benchmarks well against other road authorities nationally in meeting its voluntary compliance targets.
- Waste produced from transportation operations, construction and demolition, and the public realm are mostly diverted from landfill through reuse and recycling.
- Biodiversity conservation measures addressed key habitats, invasive weeds, wild bees, migratory birds and wildlife, with 2020/21 marking a pivotal shift for Calgary Roads in “naturalizing” roadside open space.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1–Transportation 2021 Environmental Performance Report-IP2022-1103