

ROCKY VIEW/CALGARY BOUNDARY REVIEW PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request a deferral of the Rocky View County/City of Calgary Boundary Review Project. The joint review identified opportunities and possible solutions for sites where the current municipal boundary between Rocky View and Calgary presents challenges to development.

At the 2015 October 30 Rocky View County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (IMC), Administration had brought this item back for further direction. There have been several recent changes including that The County identified a need to report back internally to anticipate the potential for new Council and new committee appointments; recent staff changes at The County require more time to familiarize different staff stewarding the project; and the announcement of Growth Management Boards that may affect Intermunicipal planning matters. As a result, IMC directed staff to request that Council defer further reporting on the project with further direction to come from IMC. This will allow Rocky View County and the Administrations of both municipalities more time to reconsider the recommendations for project scoping from the Boundary Review, and assess whether further work can be resourced and determine whether to proceed.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Intergovernmental Affairs committee recommends that Council defer reporting on the Boundary Review Project to allow the Rocky View County-City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee to have more time and opportunity to provide guidance on the direction of further work.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At 2015 January 12 Combined Meeting, Council adopted, after amendment, the recommendation contained in Report IGA2014-0845 (Rocky View/Calgary Boundary Review Project – Deferral Report) “That Council defer the report on the Boundary Review Project until no later than Q4 of 2015.”

At 2014 January 27 Regular Meeting of Council adopted report IGA2014-0043 (Process, Implications and feasibility of annexation of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant by Rocky View County) which included a recommendation to “Direct Administration to initiate discussions with Rocky View County to identify possible locations, including the Blazer water treatment plant, where adjustments to the municipal boundary through an annexation could be mutually beneficial. Report to Council through the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on the outcome of those discussions and a strategy for possible annexations no later than 2014 December.”

At the 2013 July 22 Combined Meeting Council approved a Motion Arising, moved by Alderman Pincott, that with respect to Bylaw 74D2013 (CPC2013-083), the following be adopted: “that Council direct Administration to bring forward a report to City Council on the process, feasibility, and implications of ‘deannexing’ the private water treatment plant on Bears paw Meadow Way, no later than 2013 December”.

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BACKGROUND

At the 2013 July 22 Combined Meeting, Council considered a land use amendment intended to allow the expansion of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant. This privately operated facility is located within The City of Calgary but largely serves development in Rocky View County. As a result, a Motion Arising was approved to investigate the process, feasibility and implication of “deannexing” the water treatment plant to Rocky View County. During the investigation for the subsequent report, Administration identified potentially significant implications with respect to a County initiated annexation process. Most notably it would involve significant Administrative and elected official time to resolve a single issue. It was also noted that focusing on a specific site would not address similar municipal challenges emerging in other boundary areas.

While the Blazer investigation was underway, discussions at the 2013 September 27 Rocky View/Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (IMC) meeting identified a number of additional geographic areas along the shared municipal boundary that currently present challenges in terms of logical areas for planning and development such as parcels isolated by roads and natural features or where access is challenged. The IMC directed Administration to prepare a list of areas that may benefit from an adjustment of the municipal boundary and to return to the IMC for further discussion. As a result of the discussions at IMC, Administration included the consideration of further municipal boundary challenges within the report on Blazer investigation; IGA2014-0043 (Process, Implications and feasibility of annexation of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant by Rocky View County).

The Administrations of both municipalities jointly identified lands in both the City of Calgary and Rocky View County that have become functionally isolated from their jurisdiction and may naturally function better within the adjacent municipality. At the 2014 October 03 IMC meeting, both Administrations jointly proposed recommendations that could be used to address the particular challenges of the boundary lands. At the 2015, January 09 IMC meeting, Administration was anticipating a decision from committee as to whether to proceed with scoping for two potential planning projects presented at the previous IMC meeting. Due to a number of regional issues, IMC directed joint Administration to put the project on hold and defer Council decision until the end of the year. At the 2015 October 30 IMC meeting, Administrations from both municipality requested further direction from IMC. Due to recent changes and announcements, City Administration was directed to prepare a deferral report to Council with further direction to come from IMC within half a year.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration from both Rocky View County and The City of Calgary completed the study and presented their recommendations for project scoping during IMC meetings in the Fall of 2014. No further investigation has taken place.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Engagement with Rocky View County Administration and Intermunicipal Committee is a continuous part of this project.

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Strategic Alignment

The Municipal Development Plan notes that “Regional alignment with Rocky View County is administered through the Rocky View/Calgary Intermunicipal Development Plan”. The intent of the plan is to coordinate planning activities within the intermunicipal area and establish intermunicipal cooperation on various issues.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

None

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget

None

Current and Future Capital Budget:

None

Risk Assessment

None

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Deferring reporting on the project will allow Rocky View County-City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee to have more time and opportunity to provide guidance on the direction of further work.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None