

## **TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDY POLICY UPDATE – DEFERRAL**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Administration requests to defer the update to the Transportation Corridor Study Policy (the Policy) to Q4 of 2017. The additional time is needed to complete, and evaluate the experiences of Corridor Studies started after approval of the Policy.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the SPC on Transportation and Transit recommend that Council defer the update report on the implementation of the Transportation Corridor Study Policy and report back to the SPC on Transportation and Transit no later than Q4 2017.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

On 2014 July 28, Council approved the Transportation Corridor Study Policy (TT2014-0400). Approval of the Policy included the following recommendation:

4. Direct Administration to report to the SPC on Transportation and Transit no later than the end of Q2 2016 on the implementation of the Policy based on the experience with the Crowchild Trail Corridor Study and other Transportation corridor studies initiated after approval of the Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Policy is to guide Administration, Council and the Public about how Transportation Corridor Studies will be undertaken by The City. Approval of the Policy resulted in a change in how Transportation Corridor Studies are undertaken by The City to follow an iterative process with community input to come up with a solution.

The Policy states that Stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate in an interactive, two-way engagement process to influence decision-making throughout the transportation corridor study process. Based on recent experience, the implementation of the Policy is resulting in Corridor Studies taking additional time to complete, with the objective of providing more complete stakeholder engagement and a higher quality outcome.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

One of the key goals and objectives on the Policy is for studies to include a high quality engagement plan and produce engagement driven final products. When the Policy was approved, Administration anticipated that to produce a high quality engagement plan and engagement driven final products, additional time and budget may be required.

After Council approved the Policy in July 2014, Administration re-scoped and started three corridor studies in 2014 that were previously on hold, started three corridor studies in 2015 and started two new corridor studies in 2016.

The first three studies to be re-scoped and started after the approval of the Policy were the Crowchild Trail Study, the 17 Avenue SE Study and the Glenmore Trail SE Study. These studies are all still active, with the first two planned for completion in 2016. The third study for Glenmore Trail was re-scoped and expanded at the request of the stakeholders and is currently planned for completion in mid 2017.

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The second group of three studies to be started after the approval of the Policy were the South Shaganappi Trail Study, the 50 Avenue SW Study and the Deerfoot Trail Study. All of these studies are also currently active and are planned for completion on different timeframes due to the varied nature and complexity. 50 Avenue SW is being completed along a shorter timeframe and is planned for completion in 2016 while Shaganappi Trail and Deerfoot Trail are planned for engagement through 2016 and into 2017.

The most recent studies to be started after the approval of the Policy are the Sarcee Trail / Richmond Road planning study and the Airport Trail / LRT Study. These studies are currently in early implementation with the initial public engagement anticipated for the fall of 2016 with additional engagement in 2017.

These studies all have a different setting. The studies are on a variety of road types that are geographically dispersed in all quadrants of the City and have different land uses in different stages of development adjacent to the roads. This mix of studies will enable Administration to evaluate the Policy for different roadway and land use types in different areas of the City. Administration would therefore be in a better position to provide an update on the Policy as well as an assessment of the Policy after the completion of many of these studies.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

The report on the implementation of the policy will include information on engagement that was undertaken for the Transportation Corridor Studies that were initiated after approval of the Policy.

Also, this deferral allows for additional time for communication to the citizen working group that helped develop the Policy and input from Calgarians.

### **Strategic Alignment**

The *Transportation Corridor Study Policy* supports the seven transportation goals identified in the 60-year Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). It also supports the Council priority of a City that moves.

The Policy also supports Council's priority of A Well Run City and the strategic action of Regularly Collaborating and Engaging citizens to encourage participation in City decision-making, and better communicate the reasons for the decisions.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

There are no current or future Social, Environmental or Economic impacts associated with this report.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### **Current and Future Operating Budget:**

There are no current or future operating budget impacts associated with this report.

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### **Current and Future Capital Budget:**

There are no current or future capital budget impacts associated with this report.

### **Risk Assessment**

A delay in a report back may cause stakeholders to feel that The City is not monitoring the experiences of following the Policy. However, to provide an accurate update, Administration needs to complete the Transportation Corridor Studies that started after approval of the Policy in order to better evaluate the implications of the Policy.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Transportation Corridor Studies have a significant impact on the long term growth and development of The City and are a required component of the City's Transportation plans. The Policy helps ensure that studies are conducted in a consistent, open and transparent manner and that citizen are engaged appropriately throughout a collaborative and iterative process.

Several studies are ongoing and learnings have yet to be determined. Deferral of the report allows Administration to provide a better update and assessment on the Policy.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.