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COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Title:	**Transportation Corridor Study Policy**
Policy Number:	**TP020**
Report Number:	**TT2014-0400**
Approved by:	**Council**
Effective Date:	**2014 July 28**
Business Unit:	**Transportation Planning**

BACKGROUND

1. The City of Calgary (Council and Administration) recognizes that 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 and long term mobility objectives.

2. As a result of City Council's Notice of Motion NM2012-51, Administration was directed to develop a Transportation Corridor Study Policy that includes:

    a. Preservation of the integrity of adjacent communities;
    b. Identification of community improvements;
    c. Minimization of negative impacts on adjacent land uses and open spaces;
    d. Provides clear Definitions of desired outcomes for movement onto, through and across the corridors for all transportation modes;
    e. Concepts for staging and prioritizing both interim and ultimate solution projects within the corridor over time utilizing criteria such as community impacts, cost vs. benefits, traffic optimization techniques, and feasibility;
    f. Develop a new community engagement and communications approach which Collaborates with Stakeholders utilizing the *engage!* Policy of the City of Calgary.

3. The City's *engage!* Policy (CS009) states that The City recognizes that decisions are improved by engaging citizens and other stakeholder groups where appropriate. Transportation Corridor Studies need to be undertaken in a consistent manner providing opportunity for citizen and stakeholder engagement that will influence the decision-making process during transportation corridor studies.

4. The City describes the transportation network in the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP provides a high level overview of the location and classification of each transportation corridor including roadways or transit links.

5. Transportation Corridor Studies are typically undertaken 10 to 30 years before construction takes place. The goals of a Transportation Corridor Study are typically to:

    a. Identify the alignment;
    b. Identify upgrades needed to a Transportation Corridor to meet the goals of the CTP;
    c. Identify how much room (Right of Way) is needed for upgrades to the Transportation Corridor to meet the goals of the CTP;
    d. Identify issues and opportunities along the corridor, including but not limited to impacts on land use, the environment and property; and
    e. Identify the potential costs for improvements.

PURPOSE

6. The *Transportation Corridor Study Policy* (the policy) is intended to guide Administration, Council and the Public about how The City will undertake Transportation Corridor Studies using best practices (interactive, two-way, multiple channels, timely, etc.) of communications and by following The City's *engage!* Policy and its Administration Framework.

SCOPE

7. This policy applies to Transportation Corridor Studies undertaken by The City once it has been determined by the Transportation Department that a Transportation Corridor Study is required.

DEFINITIONS

8. In this policy:

    a. "Stakeholder" means anyone (person or group of people) who can impact or can be impacted by the results of a decision made by The City, and may include: citizens, the public, customers, businesses, community organizations and partners, City of Calgary Administration other government agencies and any other body interacting with The City.

    b. "Transportation Corridor" means the routes within the transportation network identified in the CTP. A Transportation Corridor can be a road, street or rapid transit corridor. It does not differentiate by the type of road (i.e., skeletal or arterial), land use or user (i.e., motorist, pedestrian, cyclist or transit user). Typically

the Transportation Corridors that are studied more often are the Skeletal Roads and Arterial Streets (which includes Urban Boulevards, Neighbourhood Boulevards and Parkways).

c. "Transportation Corridor Study" means a long-term transportation system analysis which examines the current and future transportation planning needs for a specific (typically a linear) area of the city. A Transportation Corridor Study is not a detailed design. A Transportation Corridor Study is intended to provide recommended alignments and upgrades to meet the long term needs of the Corridor as identified in the CTP as well as to highlight issues to be reviewed through more detailed studies.

POLICY

9. The following policy items are identified to clarify what will or may be undertaken in a Transportation Corridor Study. These items are not listed in sequential order or in order of priority. The City will, through an iterative process:

    a. Undertake Transportation Corridor Studies on Transportation Corridors as required in support of the long term growth and development of The City to ensure that appropriate plans are in place for Transportation Corridors based on the goals, objectives and policies of the CTP;

    b. Use a multifaceted communications approach to communicate to stakeholders that The City is undertaking a study on a Transportation Corridor;

    c. Conduct the appropriate level of engagement based on the classification of the Transportation Corridor, impact to the surrounding community and by following The City's *engage!* Policy and Administrative Framework;

    d. Provide clear definitions of desired outcomes and tradeoffs for movement onto, through and across the corridor for all Transportation modes;

    e. Engage with Stakeholders to identify existing and potential future issues along a Transportation Corridor;

    f. Use identified issues to work with stakeholders to develop concepts for improvements to the transportation corridor;

    g. Seek to develop concepts for a Transportation Corridor that will:
        i. Preserve the integrity of adjacent communities
        ii. Identify community improvements

iii. Minimize negative impacts on adjacent land uses and open spaces
iv. Include a “do nothing” concept to explain the outcome of making no improvements to the transportation corridor as the city grows. A “do nothing” concept does not show any improvements along the transportation corridor; and
v. Include staging and prioritizing both interim and ultimate solutions within the corridor utilizing criteria such as community impacts, cost vs. benefits, optimization techniques, and feasibility.

h. Communicate the factors (e.g. when land becomes available, traffic volumes reach a threshold, funding becomes available, etc.) that may lead to implementation of the recommended concept(s) and the estimated timelines for implementation.

10. The City will not review the classification of the Transportation Corridor as part of the Transportation Corridor Study process. A review of the classification of a Transportation Corridor will only be completed as part of a network study.

11. The City may:

a. Develop a set of guiding principles for an identified Transportation Corridor Study to facilitate decision making and engagement approaches; and

b. Utilize a stakeholder group to help inform the engagement and communication process once a corridor study has been identified.

12. Stakeholders will:

a. Have an opportunity to participate in an interactive, two-way engagement process to influence decision-making throughout the transportation corridor study.

b. Have an opportunity to understand the issue and/or need for a Transportation Corridor Study and to participate in a process to develop and evaluate concepts; and

c. Have the opportunity to follow up on the Transportation Corridor Study process through various engagement and communication tactics.

PROCEDURE

13. The implementation of the *Transportation Corridor Study Policy* is guided by the Transportation Corridor Study Guidelines (The Guidelines).

14. The Guidelines incorporate the following policy principles for guiding the process of undertaking Transportation Corridor Studies:

    a. Project Initiation - The City will use its best efforts to inform Stakeholders of the initiation of a Transportation Corridor Study;

    b. Issue Identification and Problem Definition – The City will make its best efforts to involve Stakeholders in the identification of issues within a Transportation Corridor;

    c. Project Goal Development – The City will seek to provide, by engaging with stakeholders, clear definitions of desired outcomes for a Transportation Corridor Study;

    d. Concept Identification – The City will seek to establish, by engaging Stakeholders, feasible transportation corridor concepts that meet the project goals that seek to preserve the integrity of adjacent communities, minimize the negative impacts of Transportation Corridor Concepts on land uses and open spaces adjacent to Transportation Corridors and meet the goals and objectives of the Transportation Corridor as identified within the CTP;

    e. Concept Evaluation – The City will seek to undertake, with the assistance of Stakeholders, an evaluation of the potential concepts for a Transportation Corridor in a manner that is consistent with The City's *Triple Bottom Line Policy* and considers such factors as community impacts, cost vs. benefit, feasibility among others; and

    f. Concept Selection and Recommendation – The City will seek to select and recommend, with the assistance of Stakeholders, the preferred concept(s) for the Transportation Corridor. The preferred concept(s) will consider interim improvements; utilize traffic optimization techniques along with the ultimate solution.

AMENDMENTS

New Policy