

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

CAO - CORPORATE SUPPORT

On-It Regional Transit System

Attach.1

The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) announced that Southland Transportation has agreed to take over ownership and management of the On-It Regional Transit system from CRP effective February 28, 2018 (Attach.1).

Dr. Morris Gibson School presentation

Attach.2

Administration met with representatives of FSD and Dr. Morris Gibson School to discuss ways to improve traffic and pedestrian safety around the school and on the site, January 24.

The meeting began with a presentation by three students, who have been undertaking traffic counts and making note of unsafe behaviors observed during the morning drop-off period. The students have prepared a podcast, and following their brief presentation to us they made suggestions for ways safety and traffic flow might be improved. Mayor Robertson attended the students' presentation. Additional suggestions for next steps came out of the meeting, including:

- A safety video by the students in cooperation with the high school; Okotoks Municipal Enforcement (OME) has agreed to assist.
- A rewards system for rule followers, both students and parents; Mayor Robertson offered to host a rewards luncheon (pizza) at the end of it.
- A talk about traffic safety on the radio station; Mayor Robertson offered to arrange a date to have the students accompany him at the station to talk about traffic safety.

The school Vice-Principal will forward a copy of the presentation made by the students, which was agreed to share with Council.

Coming out of the meeting, Administration has agreed to bring one of the school's suggested solutions (an on-site "stop, drop and roll" lane for parent drop-off – not to be mistaken for the fire context) to the February Development Permit Application (DPA) meeting for feedback from affected departments including Planning, OME, Engineering, Fire, Parks and others. In addition, OME has agreed to meet with teachers from the school to get a better understanding of the school's issues and to provide information about relevant legislation and bylaws. Administration will provide FSD with feedback from DPA on the

proposed drop-off lane following that meeting, and will continue to work with the school division toward solutions.

The school and division reps took some photos at the meeting and have posted them to their Facebook page (Attach.2).

Alberta Ombudsman's Jurisdiction Expansion

The recent proclamation of the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* includes provisions, specifically section 139, which expands the responsibilities of the Alberta Ombudsman's office. As of April 1, 2018, the Alberta Ombudsman will have the ability to review complaints about municipalities. This will allow them to investigate complaint-handling processes and administrative decisions made at the municipal level. Updates to the website and materials designed to inform Albertans regarding the expanded jurisdiction will be made available in the coming months.

Street Light Upgrades

Through a pilot initiative 5-6 communities were chosen by Fortis in 2016 for a streetlight retrofit from High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights to the LED lighting. At no cost to the Town, Fortis retrofit the "Davit arm" or "Cobra Head" lights to LED. This project has concluded with all being converted to LED.

Some of the ornamental or decorative streetlights in Town that have not been converted to LED would include the lights in the downtown core and some neighborhoods throughout town, these are the HPS that emit the orange or yellowish color. For new construction, ornamental fixtures are being installed with LED lights. An example is the newest street Ranchers' Rise (Rancher's Way) where they are LED and appear white while the other streets are still HPS.

Administration is researching replacement bulbs for ornamental fixtures and will be reviewing options for retrofits with Fortis.

The Town will save approx. 675,700 kWh/year

Equivalent to:

- *Taking 92 cars off the road*
- *Operating 87 homes*
- *Planting 19,820 trees per year*

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Services

Hail Shelters

Due to regular hail storm activity in the area, hail damage insurance deductibles for automotive dealerships have increased dramatically. Development Permit Applications were received from two Okotoks automobile dealerships in 2017 for the construction of structures to protect inventory from hail damage. Both were refused by the Municipal Planning Commission in May, 2017 for reasons of nonconformity with statutory plans and the land use bylaw.

A questionnaire was sent to dealerships in September, 2017 and later the same month a consultation meeting was held between Okotoks Administration and representatives of four Okotoks dealerships to discuss the needs of the dealerships in the context of statutory plans and the land use bylaw. Criteria arising from that meeting, provided to the dealerships to guide future development permit applications, included building permanence, comprehensive site design, complementary design elements and finishing materials, and compliance with statutory plans and district regulations. Use of sustainable design elements was encouraged.

Arising from this process, a Development Permit Application is expected from Okotoks Honda for permanent hail protection structures incorporating solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and finishing materials complementary to the principal building. The solar PV consultant working on the project is assisting the developer in accessing available grant funding. Okotoks Administration is working closely with the developer to facilitate timely plan reviews and approvals, including acting as Development Authority in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw to avoid delays associated with monthly meeting timelines and to streamline processes to the greatest extent possible. In keeping with the Guiding Principle of Local Economy in the *Okotoks Community Sustainability Plan*, this project reflects the organization's commitment to promoting innovation and green technologies among the business community.

In addition to the value-added benefit of solar power generation, the project will receive significant exposure due to the site's prominent location on a busy arterial roadway and the parent company's commitment to green technologies. Administration is also investigating ways the Town may be able to publicly recognize this developer-driven green project for its contribution to community sustainability. This assistance may include online features, articles and/or other marketing programs that profile the business and recognize commitment to significantly reducing their carbon footprint.

Compiled by:
Chief Administrative Officer's Office
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