

Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: September 26, 2023
Originated By: Rodney Guilbault, Manager of Parks and Recreation
Title: Adoption of Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

At the Regular meeting of Council on July 11th, 2023, Council requested the Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan presented by project consultant RC Strategies be brought forward for their further consideration and adoption.

The Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan project was a collaborative, grant funded effort of the M.D. of Bonnyville and the City of Cold Lake to guide improvements to the connectivity and quality of the region's trails and trail experiences for residents and visitors. These efforts were intended to function as a foundation and as a catalyst for the two municipalities to achieve their respective quality of life, community, environmental and economic goals as we move forward with the respective Councils during any future trail development discussions.

DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS

Benefits:

Successful trail destinations demonstrate that trails can be drivers of positive economic, social and environmental change, particularly for smaller rural communities. If carefully planned, developed, maintained and activated, trails can directly benefit residents and be a driver for tourism. The trail system that the M.D. has already invested in has made a very positive impact for our residents and outside users as proven by statistics from installed traffic counters recently presented to Council, showcasing the overall usage to date this year.

Disadvantages:

Trails can also pose some disadvantages such as engineering and construction expenses, and the operational maintenance costs necessary to attain the level of service expected by our residents.

Upon the adoption of this Plan:

- 1) That both municipalities agree to continue to collaborate through future meetings to discuss trail focus locations and establish trail development priorities.
- 2) That both municipalities meet with the respective provincial government departments to access the recently approved grant funding allocated for trail development within the province of Alberta, specifically on Crown Lands.

Attached for Council's reference:

- Appendix A: Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan Presentation
- Appendix B: Draft Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 3: Promote Community Development.

REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

N/A

COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING

n/a

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

n/a

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION

THAT Council adopts the Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan as presented, and furthermore that Council directs Administration to bring back future trail development recommendations to the 2024 Municipal Budget deliberations.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. THAT Council adopts the Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan as presented, and furthermore that Council directs Administration to bring back future trail development recommendations to the 2024 Municipal Budget deliberations.
2. THAT Council adopts of the Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan, with the following revisions: _____.
3. THAT Council directs Administration to bring back additional information regarding the draft Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan to a future meeting of Council, as discussed.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Intermunicipal Trails Master Plan - Adoption.docx
Attachments:	- APPENDIX A INTERMUNICIPAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION.pdf - APPENDIX B DRAFT INTERMUNICIPAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 20, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Esther Quiambao

Stephanie Severin