

Topic: Parkland County Municipal Development Plan Project Update and Public Engagement Plan**Introduction:**

Administration is providing the Governance and Priorities Committee (the “Committee”) an update on the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Project through the presenting of the MDP Public Engagement Plan.

Parkland County’s MDP is a legally binding (statutory plan) passed by council via three readings and a public hearing. The MDP serves as a “blueprint” for future growth, providing direction to Parkland County’s land use generally focused on the economic, social, environmental, cultural and governance of Parkland County. With the recent changes within Parkland County’s borders and updated Council strategic initiatives, the MDP is in need of an update in order to foster effective growth opportunities with recent changes to core industries, such as the closure of the Highvale mine within County borders. This work is carried out with the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) ReDesign to support efficient policy alignment and transparency for its users.

The following Administrative Report provides the Committee with the presentation of the MDP Public Engagement Plan.

MDP Project | Update**Municipal Development Plan Project**

The MDP Project consists of 2 phases which will occur over an 18-24 month period. Phase 1 of the MDP Project includes the completion of a Technical Growth Study to better reflect the current economic and market state of the County and a high-level Highway Corridor Study which will anticipate potential growth patterns to support future opportunities along major highways in the County.

Phase 2 of the project, the MDP amendment, will be informed by public engagement, include outcomes provided through the technical studies completed during phase 1, and reflect study work recently carried out by Parkland County (ex. Storm Water Master Plan, Trails Strategy Plan, Wabamun Area Vision).

Timeline

O2 Planning and Design was awarded the MDP Project through a public procurement process that occurred from January 19th – February 10th 2023. O2 Planning and Design is an Alberta based consulting company with offices in Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto. Previously, O2 Planning has worked on various projects within the County such as the Conservation Master Plan, Wabamun Area Vision and soon to be completed Wabamun Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan. In support to their efforts will be FBM Planning, Lehman and Associates and AI-Terra Engineering.

Public Engagement is integral to the success of this project. This project is the blueprint for future growth within Parkland County and must represent the perspective if its residents. To help foster a robust engagement platform, the consultants in collaboration with the Parkland County administration have completed a Public Engagement Plan.

The Public Engagement Plan includes a proposed timeline for engagement. Key milestones for engagement are listed below and further explained within the Public Engagement Plan identified as **Attachment 1- Public Engagement Plan**

Key Engagement Opportunities

- Information Sessions (in collaboration with the Land Use Bylaw Redesign)

- Council Workshops/Sessions
- Internal Workshops (Department specific)
- Open Houses
- Online Surveys
- Online information sharing (Major and Minor info launch)

A timeline for the work being completed can be found under **Attachment 1- Public Engagement Plan** (page 8 Timeline).

Engagement

The main objectives for the MDP Project Public Engagement Plan are to:

- Inform residents and stakeholders of the MDP update project and make all relevant project information easily available.
- Gather meaningful input from a wide range of interests, areas, and partnerships to inform growth priorities and policy changes within the MDP.
- Authentically incorporate community insights into the project's decision making.
- Report back on engagement results and how the results were used in a clear, timely, and transparent manner.

MDP engagement will be conducted in three stages:

- **Stage 1** Growth Scenarios (Fall 2023) – engage on growth priorities and scenarios
- **Stage 2:** Policies (Winter 2024) – engage on policy options
- **Stage 3:** Draft MDP (Spring/Summer 2024) – engage on the draft updated MDP document

In addition to these stages, there will be external circulation to adjacent municipalities and identified agencies in addition to a public hearing as part of the formal adoption process required by the Municipal Government Act.

Each stage will include a minimum of one public open house as per County Policy C-AD51. In addition to this, the project team will also conduct:

- One online public survey per stage
- One Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) workshop per stage
- Quarterly public open houses with the LUB Redesign team
- Monthly MDP Committee update meetings (internal)
- Internal stakeholder workshops per stage
- Topic-specific external stakeholder workshops

As engagement events occur, tactics and approach may change to best support the public. Additional engagement events may be included if the project team notes the public wanting more opportunities to interact with the project. This engagement approach will allow for an inclusive, accessible, meaningful, transparent and adaptive process.

Engagement for the MDP Project is a live process. Currently, the Project Team has identified a high-level list of Internal and External Stakeholders who will be engaged with throughout the public engagement process. The list identified as **Appendix A – Stakeholder** List within the Public Engagement Plan is high level in nature and intended as a “launching pad”. The project team is aware as the MDP project continues, additional stakeholders will be identified and included through the process. Administration has and will continue to be part of all aspects of the project including engagement.

Land Use Bylaw Coordination

The MDP update process is carried out concurrently with an internally led Land Use Bylaw update. The MDP project team will work closely with the LUB team to ensure the resulting policies and land use regulations are informed, shaped by, and aligned with one another.

The project teams will coordinate quarterly open houses between Q1 of 2023 and Q3 of 2024 to ensure that the public and stakeholders are informed of the progress of both projects simultaneously. The MDP project team consultants will also attend select LUB engagement events throughout Engagement Rounds 2 and 3 of that process. Messaging and communications regarding both projects will be coordinated to ensure clarity and consistency.

Live Engagement Tools

To provide transparency and continuous information sharing to all interested stakeholders, all engagement, project updates and general information will be posted on www.yourparkland.ca/mdp. Additionally, in collaboration with the Land Use Bylaw ReDesign team, a joint email has been created (buildingparkland@parklandcounty.com) to provide the public an opportunity to ask specific and direct questions to the project team. This email address is monitored by each project manager daily to support the public's questions and concerns. The project team will also utilize the County newsletter to advertise key information and includes dates and overall updates for both projects. As the MDP project team continues its engagement efforts, additional engagement tools will be available for Council and the public.

Next Steps / Conclusion

The MDP Project Team will execute stage one of the Public Engagement Plan which will gather input on the vision for the future of the County, understand growth priorities and present the findings and scenarios identified through the completion of the Technical Growth Study.

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