



## PLANNING POLICY

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**TO:** Council  
**DATE:** September 7, 2021 **DIVISION:** 7  
**FILE:** N/A **APPLICATION:** N/A  
**SUBJECT:** Pathway Development Feasibility Study – Airdrie to Calgary

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### POLICY DIRECTION:

The proposed Pathway Feasibility Study is guided by the County Plan, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, the City of Airdrie / MD of Rocky View Intermunicipal Development Plan, and the City of Calgary / Rocky View County Intermunicipal Development Plan.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Airdrie has initiated discussions around supporting development of a regional pathway from its communities, through the County, and to the northern boundary of the city of Calgary. A potential route for the pathway previously brought before Airdrie's Council is within existing utility rights of way, immediately west of the Canadian Pacific Rail line running parallel with Highway 2. The general corridor and potential option for a pathway route is shown in Attachment 'A'.

The first step in development of the project would be to undertake a Pathway Development Feasibility Study to explore the potential for a pathway connection. The estimated cost of the study is \$70,000 and the scope would cover:

- a review and assessment of background information that may affect route alignment;
- detailed review and assessment of three potential pathway route options and the necessary supporting infrastructure;
- stakeholder engagement;
- a full lifecycle cost assessment for each of the three options; and
- establishment of a preferred option.

The City of Airdrie initially engaged the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) group to see what support it could provide, and in August, TCT provided a Contribution Agreement to the City of Airdrie, as the project lead, confirming funding of \$30,000 for the Feasibility Study under TCT's 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program. A response from the three municipalities is required by September 10, 2021, confirming funding of the remaining costs, in order to proceed per the terms set out in the agreement.

Therefore, the request from the City of Airdrie to Rocky View County Council and the City of Calgary is to provide one-third of the remaining \$40,000 cost of funding the Feasibility Study. A budget adjustment of \$13,333 would be required to entertain this request.

### BACKGROUND:

The County's Parks and Open Space Master Plan, adopted in 2011, identifies a Trans Canada Trail (TCT) connection between the city of Airdrie and the city of Calgary. The Feasibility Study would help determine the appropriate route for the pathway. To proceed with the Feasibility Study, Council approval would be required in conjunction with a budget adjustment. County Administration has previously supported the preparation of a Feasibility Study, with the caveat that any financial support would need the support of Council.

#### Administration Resources

Jessica Anderson, Policy Planning



## ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

The estimated cost to complete the Study is \$70,000. The project is being funded, in part, under TCT's 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program. TCT will fund 42.86% of actual eligible expenditures for the Project, up to a maximum of \$30,000. Airdrie, Calgary, and the County would fund the remainder of \$40,000 proportionally, with the County's contribution being \$13,333.

The funding is conditional upon receiving confirmation of matching funds, Council approval, and submission of a signed Contribution Agreement by September 10, 2021. If the signed Contribution Agreement has not been received by September 10, 2021, it will be determined, by TCT, that the agreement is cancelled.

A draft timeline for the study presented by Airdrie would see the project commence on November 19, 2021, with an anticipated completion of August 2, 2022. If Council supports the initiative, the next step would be to submit the Council resolutions to TCT and arrange for a meeting between the parties to confirm the project scope, schedule, and requirements. The Feasibility Study would be presented to each Council upon completion for further direction.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

Budget implications for this project include a request for \$13,333, which represents approximately one-third of the remaining portion not funded by the Trans Canada Trail group, to support the development of the Feasibility Study. The Budget Adjustment Form is set out in Attachment 'B'.

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

The TransCanada Trail project supports Council's strategic objectives, particularly embracing partnerships to reduce cost of service delivery to the County, and responsible growth.

### **OPTIONS:**

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| Option #1: | Motion #1 | THAT the request to provide matching funds of up to \$13,333 for the Pathway Development Feasibility Study – Airdrie to Calgary be approved as per Attachment 'B'. |
|            | Motion #2 | THAT Administration be directed to work with the TransCanada Trail group to execute the Contribution Agreement prior to September 10, 2021.                        |
|            | Motion #3 | THAT the Budget Adjustment for the Pathway Development Feasibility Study – Airdrie to Calgary be approved in accordance with Attachment 'B'.                       |
| Option #2: |           | THAT alternative direction be provided.  |



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Brock Beach”

“Kent Robinson”

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Acting Executive Director  
Community Development Services

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer

JA/rp

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT 'A': Project Location

ATTACHMENT 'B': Budget Adjustment Form