

Livability Task Force Council Update

Presenter: Jamie Doyle & Brad McMurdo

Department: RMWB Livability Task Force

Meeting Date: December 10, 2019

Background

Summer 2019

- RMWB Administration presented update to Council re: FIFO
- Council passed a 10-part motion (June 4th)
- Livability Taskforce was created to develop strategies to:
 - a. Increase population
 - b. Promote affordability
 - c. Increase livability
 - d. Support brand development
- Sub Committees: Housing, Transportation, Support Services

Background – Council Motions

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019	
A	Pursue commitments made by Industry signatories arising from the existing signed memoranda of understandings (MOUs).
B	Continue to request signed memoranda from active oil sands producers.
C	Work with Industry, contractors, camp providers and other partners to identify priority transportation infrastructure projects that would help improve highway safety and decrease the commute time from regional communities to oil sands projects. This would include retaining experts as required, in partnership with Industry. Once identified, all parties to work collaboratively to encourage provincial and federal funding.
D	Work with Industry to conduct “Park and Ride” pilot projects that will support Industry projects north and south of Fort McMurray. This includes the expenditure of municipal funds to prepare sites for projects of this scale, once obtaining agreements for usage from Industry partners.
E	Encourage Industry to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. increase its use of Fort McMurray as a hub for its camp-based operations workforce ii. incent its workforce to live in Fort McMurray while off-shift iii. support travel to the job site via a “Park and Ride” or flights from the Fort McMurray International Airport and return home to Fort McMurray or other residential centres in the region at the end of their shift rotation.
F	Continue and expand the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo community engagement initiatives related to rotational workforce.
G	Encourage that all new discretionary use Project Accommodation (camp) applications be located within the “Consolidated Work Camp Area(s)” in proximity to Fort McKay and Conklin areas, as identified on the MDP’s “Regional Growth Concept” map.
H	Further explore opportunities for the Municipality to encourage increased local employment via grants or other non-tax related incentives.
I	Explore opportunities for the Municipality to provide financial incentives for Seniors to continue to stay, or relocate to, the region.
J	Along with Industry and other stakeholders, determine the baseline for reporting back to Council the progress of these initiatives to Council no later than December 10, 2019.

Motion Updates

	COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019
A	Pursue commitments made by Industry signatories arising from the existing signed memoranda of understandings (MOUs).
B	Continue to request signed memoranda from active oil sands producers.

Status:

- MOU Review complete: non binding
- Regional Livability Principles have been drafted with intent to replace existing MOU's
- Regional Livability Principles have been circulated to OSCA for review

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

C Work with Industry, contractors, camp providers and other partners to identify priority transportation infrastructure projects that would help improve highway safety and decrease the commute time from regional communities to oil sands projects. This would include retaining experts as required, in partnership with Industry. Once identified, all parties to work collaboratively to encourage provincial and federal funding.

Status:

- July 8, 2019: Council mentioned ECH as Transportation Priority
- OSCA hosted regional transportation session in August 2019
- Transportation priorities identified, in no particular order:
 - East Clearwater Highway
 - Highway 881
 - Twinning Highway 63 north of Syncrude
- OSCA presenting to Council to request support of above

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

- D Work with Industry to conduct “Park and Ride” pilot projects that will support Industry projects north and south of Fort McMurray. This includes the expenditure of municipal funds to prepare sites for projects of this scale, once obtaining agreements for usage from Industry partners.

Status:

- Multiple sites assessed with preferred location in Abraham’s Land
- Industry partner is ready to participate in pilot project

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

- E Encourage Industry to:
- i. increase its use of Fort McMurray as a hub for its camp-based operations workforce
 - ii. incent its workforce to live in Fort McMurray while off-shift
 - iii. support travel to the job site via a “Park and Ride” or flights from the Fort McMurray International Airport and return home to Fort McMurray or other residential centres in the region at the end of their shift rotation.

Status:

- Industry Job postings encourage Fort McMurray residents to apply
- Industry is coordinating camp workers to access Fort McMurray for events, shopping, recreating, and dining
- Establishing Benchmarking to measure progress
- Collecting project accommodation data 4 times per year

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

F Continue and expand the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo community engagement initiatives related to rotational workforce.

Status:

- Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation establishing a Place Brand strategy
- Marketing the region to the camp-based workforce

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

G Encourage that all new discretionary use Project Accommodation (camp) applications be located within the "Consolidated Work Camp Area(s)" in proximity to Fort McKay and Conklin areas, as identified on the MDP's "Regional Growth Concept" map.

Status:

- GoA acknowledges that Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) requires amendments in order to inform work camp development
- LARP not an immediate priority; long term deliverable

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

H Further explore opportunities for the Municipality to encourage increased local employment via grants or other non-tax related incentives.

Status:

- Options were explored by external legal counsel and administration; majority were deemed not viable
- Centralized bussing is being explored
- Bigger picture: overall quality of life improvements will attract and retain residents

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

- | Explore opportunities for the Municipality to provide financial incentives for Seniors to continue to stay, or relocate to, the region.

Status:

- Potential financial incentives have been identified
- Additional resources and programming, based on the existing seniors needs assessment and workplan, is being explored
- Community engagement underway to inform recommendations to Council

Motion Updates

COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019

J Along with Industry and other stakeholders, determine the baseline for reporting back to Council the progress of these initiatives to Council no later than December 10, 2019.

Status:

Developing baselines for:

- Project accommodations
- Revised population projections
- 2020 Census

Summary Next Steps

	COUNCIL MOTION passed JUNE 4, 2019	Next Steps
A B	MoU's with Industry	Sign Regional Principles Agreement with Industry partners. Annual monitoring and reporting.
C	Transportation Priorities	Council to amend July 8 motion, and send revised transportation priorities letter to GOA. Send letter to Federal Government seeking change in tax status for RMWB residents (Northern Zone 'A').
D	"Park and Ride"	Finalize agreements with site owner, conduct pilot project.
E	Attract workforce to live in Fort McMurray	Industry to provide updates on local hiring and retention efforts.
F	Engagement Initiatives	Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation to finalize Place Brand initiative and implement.
G	"Consolidated Work Camp Area(s)"	Requires GOA to amend LARP.
H	Increased local employment via incentives	Continue efforts to increase quality of life for all residents.
I	Financial incentives for Seniors	Work with stakeholders to review and validate incentives.
J	Baseline for reporting	Partner with industry to establish baseline dataset, ongoing reporting.

Subcommittee Recommendations

A. COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

- External Communications
- Internal Communications
- Multicultural
- Social Depth

B. TRANSPORTATION

- Designate Fort McMurray as a “Northern Community Zone”
- Support the Fort McMurray International Airport’s endeavors
- Designate a High Occupancy Vehicle lane on Highway 63 north
- Support construction of the East Clearwater Highway project

C. HOUSING

- Housing Stabilization
- Housing Affordability
- Branding better neighbourhoods

Questions

Thank you