Introduction

Strathcona County maintains 1,294 kilometres of rural roads and 279 kilometres of urban roads. A transit system is provided for service within the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area and provides regional service that extends to a variety of areas within the City of Edmonton. Both Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) provide national railway routes that run through Strathcona County. Currently, there are a number of public and private airports. A trail system exists in the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area and work is in progress to develop a multi-purpose trail network throughout the County that will incorporate the Trans Canada, River Valley Alliance and Heritage Parkway Trails.

Strathcona County will continue to accommodate the movement of people and commodities in a safe, economical, efficient and environmentally responsible manner. As growth in the County occurs, pressure on the transportation system will continue to increase. Strathcona County will ensure, wherever possible that, all transportation uses such as trails, public transportation, rail, air and pedestrian walkways are inter-connected. I mproving the trail system in both Sherwood Park and the Rural Service Areas will provide more pedestrian friendly routes throughout the County and create more opportunities for residents to interact.

Objectives

Strathcona County's transportation objectives are to:

1) Continue to provide an integrated, regional transportation network and facilities that meet the needs of people, business and industry by providing for the safe, economical, efficient and accessible movement of people and goods;
2) Maintain and enhance the integrity of the transportation system; to minimize the fragmentation of lands; and to facilitate the development of compatible land uses;
3) Provide a safe, effective, reliable, and affordable transit system which is environmentally responsible;
4) Encourage the use of street layouts that provide access between neighbourhoods;
5) Promote alternatives to vehicular transportation by providing an effective inter-neighbourhood trail system;
6) Protect airports from encroachment by incompatible uses; and
7) Continue to work with surrounding municipalities to assess the feasibility of creating a high speed transit (HST) system into the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area.

Policies

General

Strathcona County will:

15.1   Adhere to the policies and recommendations of the Transportation Master Plan as updated and amended from time to time;

15.2   Support the coordination and integration of local, regional, intra-provincial and inter-provincial transportation networks and facilities;

15.3   Work cooperatively with municipal, provincial and federal governments to enhance economic growth by encouraging the development of an integrated, multi-use transportation network (trail, road, transit, rail and air), that will meet the needs of individuals, business and industry;

15.4   Reduce the cost of existing and future roadways by promoting Transportation Demand Management (TDM) principles. Examples of these initiatives include, but are not limited to:

a) Car-pooling;
b) Public transit;
c) Walking;
d) Bicycling;
e) Working from home; and
f) Non-traditional work hours.

15.5   Minimize community disruption caused by through-commuter traffic on non-arterial roadways;

15.6   Promote the use of alternative fuel sources such as biofuels and the use of vehicles powered by alternative energy sources;

15.7   Provide affordable, efficient transportation alternatives in the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area for all citizens regardless of income and age;

15.8   Work with surrounding municipalities and provincial agencies to encourage the development of inter-municipal transportation corridors;

15.9   Reduce the amount of vehicle trips and kilometres traveled by promoting mixed-use developments, walkable communities and compact residential development;

15.10   Provide safe and efficient traffic routes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles; and

15.11   Ensure there is adequate bicycle parking in commercial areas.

Roads

Strathcona County will:

15.12   Strive for an accessible and safe roadway network linking and connecting urban villages, places of employment, recreation areas, etc.;

15.13   Encourage the development of street layouts that increase access between neighbourhoods;

15.14   Promote development of an effective primary road system for high-volume traffic, that conserves the integrity of local neighbourhoods;

15.15   Require access points, roadway and approach design to be in accordance with Strathcona County road standards;

15.16   Consider the future impact of upgrading Highway 21 (future Regional Ring Road), to a high standard freeway facility and work towards reducing the negative impacts on adjacent future land uses, in consideration of best practices for freeway facilities; and

15.17   Continue to enhance landscaping and provide trails adjacent to arterial rights-of-way in the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area.

Trails

Strathcona County will:

15.18 Adhere to the policies and recommendations of the Trails Master Plan as updated and amended from time to time;

15.19 Maintain existing and support future trail development within the County, including linkages to the Trans Canada, River Valley Alliance and Heritage Parkway Trails;

15.20 Support the design, development and maintenance of an integrated, multi-purpose trail network throughout Strathcona County, with linkages to adjacent Capital Region municipalities, the province and the country;

15.21 Promote the use of alternative forms of transportation such as walking and bicycling through the provision of trails; and

15.22 Consider new bicycle and pedestrian routes as an integral component of the transportation system to serve recreation and transportation needs.

Public Transit

Strathcona County will:

15.23 Provide a transit system which strives to meet the needs of each citizen in the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area, including youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

15.24 Facilitate access to transit by providing for safe, convenient pedestrian movement between local and arterial roads and linkages to major destination nodes;

15.25 Promote a maximum 500 metre walking distance to transit service routes within the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area;

15.26 Ensure adequate bus structures and sidewalks are available at all transit stops;

15.27 Provide newly developed residential areas with an appropriate level of transit service based on number of residents and minimum ridership;

15.28 Continue to provide and upgrade, where possible, an economical regional transit service to Edmonton;

15.29 Locate future transit transfer stations to optimize service to neighbourhoods;

15.30 Promote the usage of Park and Ride facilities in the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area and support, where feasible, the development of these facilities in the hamlets;

15.31 Encourage usage of public transit in order to support Transportation Demand Management initiatives; and

15.32 Continue to work with surrounding municipalities to determine the feasibility of extended service of regional transit systems, such as hours of service and possible expansion of the City of Edmonton's High Speed Transit (HST), or an express bus system into the Sherwood Park Urban Service Area.

15.32a Ensure that municipal transit routes and infrastructure respect the location of regional transit corridors and nodes as identified in the Capital Region Growth Plan. **(Bylaw 42-2012)**

Airports

Strathcona County will:

15.33 Encourage and promote initiatives to improve multi-use transportation linkages between airports within the Alberta Capital Region;

15.34 Work with Edmonton Airports and industry to identify economic opportunities that may be available, by providing improvements to existing regional airport facilities at the Strathcona Airport, Cooking Lake Airport, and other airports; and

15.35 Support increased usage of the Strathcona (Josephburg Aerodrome) Airport by Industry.