



BEYOND THE HORIZON

NEWS RELEASE

January 28, 2008

Lacombe County provides additional opportunity for public input into draft development plans for the Highway 2A urban corridor

(Lacombe, Alberta) – To better respond to the unique and timely opportunities resulting from unprecedented growth in the Highway 2A corridor, Lacombe County and the Towns of Lacombe and Blackfalds have moved forward together to develop an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the area between Lacombe and Blackfalds. This strategic inter-municipal partnership will advance the development of a common vision for the region that represents the joint interests of their municipalities while offering development opportunities for surrounding landowners.

Started in February of 2007, Stantec Consulting Ltd. has been working with all three municipalities, adjacent land owners and the general public. Public input has been received through a design Charette, several public Open Houses and general public correspondence. Based on comments from these meetings and through consultation with the Municipal partners, a draft document has been prepared and is nearing completion.

All parties have been working very hard to move forward and finalize the Area Structure Plan. Specifically, the Steering Committee has been incorporating public comment into the document and reviewing the approval process they will follow to approve this document. The original intent was to have a tri-municipal hearing, where all three Councils would approve this document. As the three municipalities have been working through the policy document process it has been determined that in moving this document forward Lacombe County will be adopting the Plan, with both the Town of Blackfalds and Town of Lacombe endorsing the ASP and agreeing to adopt this plan when lands are incorporated into their borders. Once the Plan has been adopted, work will begin on revising the existing Intermunicipal Development Plans between Lacombe County and each of the Towns to support the ASP.

The land use concept has also seen some revisions as the plan has went through the process. Once such change is to include more commercial and industrial lands on the southern border of the area. Revisions to the concept and the change of the land uses were initiated by the Town of Blackfalds to better meet their growth objectives. Additionally, there have been changes made within the policy document to better protect the shorelines of Lacombe Lake.

The objectives and intent of the Plan are still intact and have been designed to provide direction to Developers, residents, Council, and County Administration related to the development of this area. Although additional planning and developmental requirements may need to occur prior to developing land within this area, this is the first step to ensuring development of this area proceeds in a timely fashion, that development is sensitive to the environment and that the economy of the entire region profits.

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The next step in this process will be to allow the public an opportunity to review the latest ASP concept plan and policy document and provide final comments. To facilitate this, an Open House has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2008 at the Lacombe Memorial Centre for a presentation of the Area Structure Plan. In addition to the Open House, the draft Highway 2A Urban Corridor Area Structure Plan is available on Lacombe County's website at www.lacombecounty.com. Based on public comment, the Steering Committee will review the Area Structure Plan, make changes if necessary and set a time to go to Lacombe County Council for First Reading.

Future land use concept map attached.

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