

CastleGlenn Consultants have been invited to undertake a traffic study ...

Council recently agreed to ask CastleGlenn Consultants Inc. to undertake a traffic impact assessment for the Lacombe/Blackfalds Area Growth Study. The Growth Study has tentatively identified several areas in the Highway 2/2A corridor which could be considered for multi-lot residential development.

the purpose of the traffic study will be to identify what improvements are required to the local road system to accommodate this growth. CastleGlenn will advise us on when these improvements will be necessary, and the costs associated with the required improvements. Developers will be expected to pay their fair share of the costs of the needed improvements.

in addressing the future road requirements, CastleGlenn will be taking into consideration the long-range transportation plans that have been developed by Lacombe and Blackfalds, as well as the improvements proposed to Highway 2A by Alberta Transportation to ensure that our roadway plans are coordinated with those of these other authorities.

earlier this fall, Alberta Transportation commenced a functional planning study of Highway 2A between Blackfalds and Lacombe. CastleGlenn has been retained by the Province to investigate ways of improving traffic operations along the highway. Recommendations may be made to realign portions of Highway 2A to accommodate future twinning of the highway, not to mention intersection modifications to improve traffic operations. These improvements will impact the development areas that have been designated within the Lacombe/Blackfalds Area Growth Study, and could significantly change future traffic patterns on local roads.

CastleGlenn is expected to complete the traffic impact assessment for the Lacombe/Blackfalds Area Growth Study by March 2005. A copy of their study proposal has been posted on the County's web site. Click on *News & Notices: What's New* for information on the *Lacombe/Blackfalds Area Growth Study* and the associated *Traffic Impact Assessment Study*.

the undertaking of this traffic impact study means that the completion of the Lacombe/Blackfalds Area Structure Plan will be delayed until next spring to allow the results of the Highway 2A Functional Planning Study and the County's own traffic study to be properly considered before Council decides on expanded residential development opportunities