



STAFF REPORT

Title: Cold Lake First Nations (CLFN) Joint Meeting - Alberta Transportation

Meeting Date: May 14, 2019

Executive Summary:

At a joint meeting with Cold Lake First Nations (CLFN), a request was made for help in lobbying the Government of Alberta to assist with changes to Highway 28 near the entrance to Casino Dene and the Cold Lake First Nations Reserve 149.

CLFN felt that a joint approach to the request would be received more favourably by the Government of Alberta. With the recent change in Government, the meeting could be an opportunity to address both the concerns specific to CLFN's request, as well as to brief the current minister, the Honourable Ric McIver, about the region's historical concerns over the state of Highway 28 as a whole.

Background:

Cold Lake First Nations (CLFN) has expressed concerns about the intersection of Highway 28 and the Casino Dene industrial park, which has since grown to include an office building, a hotel and a gas bar.

It is of interest that there is a passing lane for north bound traffic after the Beaver River however this is no passing lanes on the south bound traffic after the Beaver River. The high speeds, traffic movements and lack of passing lanes is a growing concern.

It is understood that concerns were previously raised over the plan to build the entrance to the Casino where it now is. While this may complicate a request for change, it does not necessarily preclude a request for a conversation about the issues that CLFN now faces, given the additional development the area has seen in recent years.

In addition, municipalities throughout the Lakeland region have – for over a decade – been calling on the Provincial Government to recognize the need to improve the condition of Highway 28 from Edmonton to the City of Cold Lake. The region's message has consistently been that the highway should, at a minimum, be upgraded to include passing lanes at regular intervals and should be slated for twinning.



Highway 28 serves not only as a corridor for trade and industry from the Lakeland region to Edmonton, but is frequently used by residents to access healthcare and other government services not available in the region.

Alternatives:

- Council may pass a motion authorizing a letter from the City of Cold Lake to the Government of Alberta requesting a joint meeting between the Ministry of Transportation, Cold Lake First Nations, and the City of Cold Lake.
- Council may respectfully decline to pursue a joint meeting with the Ministry of Transportation at this time.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council pass a motion authorizing a letter from the City of Cold Lake to the Government of Alberta requesting a joint meeting between the Ministry of Transportation, Cold Lake First Nations, and the City of Cold Lake.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

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