



STAFF REPORT

Title: Government of Alberta - Economic Activity Map

Meeting Date: September 17, 2024

Executive Summary:

His Worship Craig Copeland received a letter from Mr. Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul regarding apparent inaccuracies in a project being worked on by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors.

The project's end result will be a map depicting the value of commodities being transported on major roads throughout Alberta.

MLA Cyr has brought it to the City of Cold Lake's attention that Highway 28 and Highway 55 could be underrepresented on the current draft of the map in terms of their importance and the value of the economic activity that they support. Mr. Cyr notes that the project could have implications for future planning and investment by the Government of Alberta, as well as investment decisions made by the private sector.

MLA Cyr's letter provides the City of Cold Lake with a staff contact to reach out to with any concerns regarding the current draft.

Depending on the committee's discussion, a letter with a request to meet can be sent to the contact to better understand the data being used so that the City can assess whether the economic activity is being accurately represented, or whether additional data should be brought to the government's attention in the context of this project.

Background:

Mr. Cyr notes in his letter, dated September 6, 2024, that the representation of economic activity along Highway 28 is "significantly underrepresented," and that, in his estimation, the activity depicted should equal that depicted along the economic corridor to Grande Prairie.

He also notes that Highway 55 appears to be underrepresented, leading Mr. Cyr to believe that there could be data from our region which has not been considered.

Mr. Cyr encourages a collaborative but firm approach to understanding the project and ultimately believes that the City of Cold Lake should request that the region's economic activity be more accurately depicted.



His Worship has stated publicly on many occasions that he feels the City of Cold Lake and the surrounding region does not receive enough investment from the federal or provincial governments, given the significant natural resources that come from the region. This initiative aligns with those statements, given the impact that the final mapping project will likely have on transportation investment and likely on awareness and investment from the private sector, as noted by Mr. Cyr in his letter.

Alternatives:

- The Committee may accept MLA Scott Cyr's letter as information.
- The Committee may recommend that correspondence be sent to the government of Alberta staff, requesting a meeting and a better understanding of the data being used.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that the Corporate Priorities Committee recommend that Council pass a motion directing correspondence be sent to the government of Alberta staff requesting a meeting and a better understanding of the data being used.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer