



AGENDA ITEM

Telus – Letter of Support

February 25, 2021

BACKGROUND

Telus is seeking to submit an application to the Universal Broadband Fund for funding to improve mobile coverage in the Lacombe County area. As part of this coverage Telus will launch high speed internet access to these enhanced areas.

At this time Telus is seeking a letter of support from the County to accompany the application. The deadline for applications is March 14th, 2021.

Telus has not asked for any financial support from the County as part of this request.

ANALYSIS

The request from Telus is for a letter of support.

The County has repeatedly heard from our residents and business owners regarding the lack of adequate internet service. It is an inconvenience at best and a deterrent to economic growth at worst. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance for reliable high speed internet for all residents regardless of location.

This is a positive move for the enablement of broadband connectivity in rural areas which otherwise would remain underserved.

Administration is supportive of the request.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council can support project through letter of support.
2. Council can decline to provide letter of support.
3. Council can direct Administration on a different course of action.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The request is limited to a letter of support.



LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are: 1) to provide good government, 2) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and 3) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: “An attractive, balanced and progressive community”.

Our Mission: “To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships”.

Key Principles: “Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork”.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council pass the following resolution:

That Lacombe County provide Telus with a letter in support of its application to the Universal Broadband Fund.

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