

AGENDA ITEM

Road Construction Project Co401-Amendment

March 11, 2021

BACKGROUND

Policy OP(2) Road Construction Programs establishes that Lacombe County will maintain a long-term road construction program. When the Long-Term Construction Program is updated road evaluations are completed to determine priorities based on the following criteria:

- a) Public safety
- b) General condition of existing road
- c) Traffic volumes and type of traffic
- d) Traffic patterns and alternative roads available
- e) Service for new developments
- f) Maintenance concerns
- g) Cost of construction

Range Road 4-0 south of the Rainy Creek Road to Township Road 39-5 (Project C0401) has been on the Long-Term Construction Program since 2017 at the request of local landowners. This project would coincide with C3951 which was included in the program in the same year.

Work on project C0401 includes approximately 1,050 meters rehabilitation of the existing road and 550 meters of new construction through the undeveloped portion that would tie in the Rainy Creek Road.

Public engagement for this project included advertising in the County News of the Long-Term Construction Program each year since 2017, landowner notification letters to all adjacent landowners mid-summer of 2020 and more recently, direct communication by County staff to discuss the project in detail and secure the necessary agreements to complete the works.

ANALYSIS

Upon initiating contact with the landowners along Range Road 4-0 it became apparent that the portion of the project that would see Range Road 4-0 pushed through to the Rainy Creek Road had become less desirable. In spite of some

reluctance, administration was able to sign up all of the landowners along the project except for one. Unfortunately, this remaining landowner is required to be on board in order for the undeveloped portion of this project to be feasible.

Without proper backsloping through this section the road cannot be adequately constructed due to the existing terrain. Additionally, shifting the road structure away from this property would require the purchase of a substantial amount of additional right-of-way as well as new environmental approvals. Neither of these items has been accounted for in the project budget and in regards to the new environmental approvals they would not be obtainable for the 2021 construction season.

Council could consider the expropriation of the property to facilitate the construction of the project through the undeveloped portion. The timelines surrounding this option are uncertain but would take at minimum one year. There would still be additional costs as the expropriated lands must still be purchased from the owner as well as the costs associated with all legal proceedings.

The remainder of the rebuild along Range Road 4-0 and Township Road 39-5 is still required as these existing roads are low grade, the ditches are below standard and they see fairly intense seasonal traffic which cause maintenance concerns and condition issues for the travelling public.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Amend the Long-Term Construction Program, by removing that portion of project C0401, Range Road 4-0 from the Rainy Creek Road south 550 meters.
2. Expropriate lands required to facilitate the construction.
3. Remove all of C0401 from the program.
4. Other action as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There will be no budget implications as it relates to capital projects as other projects will be shifted up the list as required. A refund of monies paid for the environmental damage as outlined in the wetland assessment would be realized. This is estimated to be \$8,500.00

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Lacombe County Policy OP(2) Road Construction Programs

Section 18(1) of the Municipal Government Act states that Subject to this or any other Act a municipality has the direction, control and management of all roads within the municipality.

Section 2 of the Municipal Government Act states that if a council wants to acquire an estate or interest in land, inside or outside the municipality it may acquire the estate or interest in the land by expropriation under the Expropriation Act.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Our 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 team work.

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 has taken place:

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

The Long-Term Construction Program is printed in the County News and posted on the website every year.

- *Consult:* To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Projects, when warranted, may be added to the program if requested by local landowners. Additionally, direct communication with affected landowners is completed leading up to the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the following resolution:

Amend the 2018-2023 Long-Term Construction Program to modify project C0401 by removing the north 550 meters from the program.

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REVIEWED BY: Bill Cade, Director of Operations



REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

