



Committee Report

To: Councilor Steve Hammell, Chair and
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Mark Paoli
Director of Planning and Development

Date: January 20, 2022

Re: Plan the Bruce: Connecting Discussion Paper

Staff Recommendation:

The Plan the Bruce: Connecting Discussion Paper is for information.

Background:

To date, a total of six discussion papers have been received by County Council or are nearing completion: Good Growth, Homes, Communities, Natural Heritage, Agriculture, and Business (also on this meeting agenda).

Two other Guiding Principles, Connecting and Heritage, are planned to be further explored through the Official Plan Review process itself; this responds to the interest expressed by Council at the Official Plan Special Council Meeting to both move forward with Official Plan policy work in a timely manner while providing some focused discussion on the Guiding Principles.

The Connecting Guiding Principle is about bring our communities closer together. The attached Discussion Paper identifies key 'Connecting' policy themes and considerations that will be subject to ongoing consultation and engagement as the policies of the new Official Plan are developed.

Discussion:

The County has done important work to inform an updated comprehensive transportation planning and land use framework. This includes the 2021 County Master Transportation Plan which includes recommendations and findings that can be given consideration through the Official Plan project.

Specific consideration should also be given to providing for a more robust and complete communications and telecommunications infrastructure system within the County.

On this basis, the following discussion topics are recommended to be further explored within the context of the 'Connecting' Guiding Principle and through the Official Plan Review process:

1. Explore and further refine the transportation and connectivity priorities of the County and its residents within the context of what can be achieved through land use policy.
2. Confirm which recommended strategies of the MTP are appropriate or desirable to advance through an updated land use and transportation policy framework through the new Official Plan.
3. Work closely with both County and Local Municipality staff to develop a transportation policy framework that is realistic and can be feasibly implemented over the planning horizon.
4. Consult with relevant utilities and service providers to inform a policy framework that will enable communication and telecommunication infrastructure and associated services to be coordinated and interconnected.
5. Give specific consideration to the relationship between the 'Connecting' Guiding Principle and the Good Growth, Communities, Homes and Business Guiding Principles when updating Official Plan policies.
6. Consider the role of asset management as established through policies of the new Official Plan, including implementation monitoring and evaluation considerations.
7. Broadly consult and engage on an updated Schedule B: Roads with County residents, local municipalities, and the Province.
8. Consider whether there is a role for 'Scenic Routes' and accompanying policies in the context of the new Official Plan

Next Steps:

This Discussion Paper has been prepared within the context of the Plan the Bruce project and to advance the 'Connecting' Guiding Principle of bringing our communities closer together. It is intended to serve as a preliminary basis for further consultation and engagement, and the discussion topics presented above will be further explored through the Official Plan Review process.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Transportation and Environmental Services department provided information and participated in discussions regarding development of transportation policy and guidelines including considerations arising from the Transportation Master Plan.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Plan the Bruce was identified as a major initiative in the 2021 Planning and Development Business Plan and development of the new County Official Plan is a major initiative in 2022.

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

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Approved for Submission:

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