Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan (IRTMP) Task Force

Friday, May 1, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Public Access via YouTube

Task Force Members:
Gale Katchur, City of Fort Saskatchewan (Chair)
John Stewart, City of Beaumont (Vice Chair)
Tim Cartmell, City of Edmonton
Nicole Boutestein, Town of Morinville
Justin Laurie, Town of Stony Plain
Bill Tonita, Strathcona County
Alanna Hnatiw, Sturgeon County
Michael Botros, Alberta Transportation

Working Group Members:
Kevin Cole, Strathcona County
David Hales, City of Edmonton
Shawn Olson, City of Leduc

EMRB Staff:
Karen Wichuk, Chief Executive Officer
Sharon Shuya, Director of Regional Growth Planning
Debra Irving, Senior Project Manager
Stephanie Chai, Project Manager
Taylor Varro, Project Manager
Ron Cook, Manager of GIS and Business Intelligence
Dan Rose, Senior Communications Advisor
Carol Moreno, Project Coordinator
Joseana Lara, Municipal Planning Intern

Consultants:
Stephen Power, HDR
Charlene Wilcock, HDR
Karen Gilchrist, Karen Gilchrist & Associates
Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies Inc.
Anna Iannucci, Urban Strategies Inc.
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

Quorum achieved; 7 of 7 voting members present.

1.2 Call to Order

Chair Katchur called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

1.3 Opening Remarks

Chair Katchur welcomed members of the Task Force members and regional stakeholders. Chair Katchur thanked Task Force members for their flexibility over the last couple months and acknowledged the current environment in light of COVID-19. She commented on how communities in the Region are supporting one another and learning how to navigate new waters together.

Chair Katchur welcomed Working Group representatives to the table, including Kevin Cole, David Hales and Shawn Olson, to offer a regional technical perspective.

Lastly, Chair Katchur highlighted the importance of the work of this Task Force to provide leadership in the Region at a time where technology, innovation, and a new fiscal reality will challenge all to think differently about efficient transportation and transit systems and affect a mode shift to achieve the outcomes of the Growth Plan.

2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force approve the May 1, 2020 meeting agenda.

**Moved by:** Mayor Stewart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force approve the January 10, 2020 meeting minutes.

**Moved by:** Mayor Hnatiiw

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

4. Progress Update

Mr. Power noted slowed progress due to the pandemic but indicated that the project is still on schedule. The Project Team continues work on completing the regional transportation scenarios and are confident these will be done this summer. The Project Team is currently
working on systems performance metrics and base case scenario which will assist in identifying preliminary projects. Mr. Power also briefly reviewed discussion points from the last Task Force meeting, which included scenario development, future technologies, commuter mode shift, and how to maximize mode shift.

5. Environmental Scan

Ms. Wilcock led the Task Force in a review of each section of the Environmental Scan. The Scan includes a snapshot in time, not only within the boundaries of the Region, but also looks at other regions and their valuable lessons for the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Ms. Hare highlighted the importance of ensuring alignment with the Growth Plan, as this is the guiding policy document, and ensuring the land use model and modal shifts reflect the intent of the Growth Plan.

Overall, member municipalities’ plans are generally aligned with the Growth Plan. There have been regional advancements since the adoption of the Growth Plan and the first IRTMP, which may justify or explain these inconsistencies. The Scan also includes a section for best practices for sources of transportation funding (municipal, provincial and federal funding), land use, public transit, active transportation, road congestion management, goods movement, trends and future forward, project prioritization, as well as monitoring and reporting.

Members of the Task Force enquired about considerations around COVID-19 and potential impacts on the applicability of this work given the current and possible future scenarios. Ms. Hare emphasized that the work of this IRTMP must keep an open mind, learn to question assumptions, and focus on the need to be resilient and adaptable to change in our planning. Comments from the Task Force touched on broadband issues related to COVID-19 responses, inhibiting food producers to respond to demand, and that the Region should consider steps and staging of infrastructure to support this Region. While the Scan does not specifically mention broadband, a Task Force member suggested that potential broadband investments could drive economic development and perhaps decrease the need for roadway infrastructure.

The Project Team acknowledged a couple of non-substantive amendments, brought to their attention by Alberta Transportation and other members of the Task Force, that will be corrected in the Environmental Scan prior to submission to the Board for approval.

IRTMP 20-05

Motion: That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan (IRTMP) Task Force endorse and recommend the IRTMP Environmental Scan to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board for approval as amended.

Moved by: Councillor Laurie
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

Break from 11:15 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
6. **IRTMP Work Plan Amendment**

Ms. Irving provided a brief history of the IRTMP and described the modelling capacity issues at Alberta Transportation that came to light following the adoption of the project charter. She outlined the data challenges that have also impacted the development of the 2020 Regional Transportation Priorities Report. Ms. Irving concluded that the proposed work plan has amended this deliverable to be completed in 2021.

Mr. Power noted that by removing the 2020 Regional Transportation Priorities Report, the Project Team have been able to focus on a more fulsome review and provide a better quality report that incorporates the updated model and a more current policy framework.

Comments from the Task Force included an emphasis on input and consensus from all member municipalities, the importance of a single model to ensure alignment with Alberta Transportation, concerns about the pandemic’s possible effect on transit patterns over the long term, recognition of the potential funding trade-offs between transit and roadway investments, and a general discussion on the Growth Plan’s criteria and timelines for achieving its objectives.

**Motion:** That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force endorse and recommend the Work Plan, as amended, to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board for approval.

*Moved by:* Councillor Cartmell  
*Accepted by:* Chair  
*Decision:* Carried unanimously

7. **Next Meeting**

Chair Katchur reminded those in attendance about Charlie Hales’ presentation and noted that webinar information will be distributed soon.

**Presentation by Charlie Hales**
May 15, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Online Webinar

8. **Adjournment**

Chair Katchur declared the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.