

Request for Decision

Title	General Municipal Servicing Standards Vision Statement and Guiding Principles
Proposed Motion	That Council approve the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles to provide Administration with direction required to complete the rewrite of Sturgeon County’s General Municipal Servicing Standards.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council approve the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles to provide Administration with a pathway for completing a rewrite of Sturgeon County’s General Municipal Servicing Standards.
Previous Council Direction	None.
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Municipal Servicing Standards (GMSS) are intended to provide specific guidelines to assist Sturgeon County and Developers in the design, preparation and submission of plans and specifications for construction of municipal improvements and systems that will meet the servicing requirements for commercial, industrial and residential subdivision development (multi-lot and single lots) within Sturgeon County. • Infrastructure assets included in the GMSS rewrite include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Distribution System; ○ Sanitary Sewer System; ○ Storm water Management System; ○ Subdivision Roadways; and ○ Landscaping. • The current version of GMSS was created in 2009 and was intended to focus mainly on servicing for multi-lot subdivisions. • The GMSS were last amended in December of 2012, though were not formally adopted. • Engineering Services identified the GMSS update project as a Department initiative in 2016. • Given that land development in Sturgeon County entails aspects from residential (Subdivision of 2.47 acres) to agriculture to industrial (World-class petrochemical projects), having clear and consistent servicing standards and requirements is critical. • On January 17, 2017, during a briefing to Council, Administration presented an update on the GMSS project. During the discussion, it was clear that members of Council wanted an opportunity to provide feedback on issues

and opportunities with the current GMSS, both based on their experience as Municipal Planning Commission and Subdivision and Development Authority Board members, along with feedback from residents.

- On April 18, 2017, Council held a facilitated workshop on the GMSS to discuss:
 - Role of GMSS in Sturgeon County;
 - Scope of Sturgeon County influence on municipal servicing standards; and
 - Sturgeon County's vision and guiding principles.
- The intent of the GMSS rewrite is to provide Administration with well-balanced tools and solutions to meet the diverse needs of our residents and ratepayers by introducing servicing standards to support urban, rural, agricultural, commercial and industrial development.
- After the workshop, Administration took away the following:
 1. A greater understanding of the issues/concerns/opportunities Members of Council have of the current GMSS; and
 2. Opportunity to refine the Vision and Guiding Principles discussed with Council.

External Communication

- None.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- The GMSS rewrite will reflect all Federal and Provincial Environmental legislation and other regulations including but not limited to the following:
 - *Alberta Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) and *Alberta Environment and Parks* (AEP)
 - Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) and the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE).
- The GMSS will support Sturgeon County's Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw Re-write, as well as regulations stipulated within the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA).
- The GMSS will be congruent in supporting other initiatives currently underway such as the Sustainable Roads Infrastructure Strategy (SRIS), the Local Road Reconstruction Program, Sturgeon County Competitiveness Study and 4-Stage Capital Plan.
- The GMSS rewrite will be completed in accordance to present day standards and guidelines published under APEGA, utilizing current Engineering Best Practices, methodologies, and technology as well as implementing Best Management Practices using a practical, affordable approach to servicing land without sacrificing our long-term infrastructure investments, and essential servicing (i.e. Asset Management).
- The GMSS will be congruent and competitive with current industry standards being utilized in neighboring municipalities in the Capital Region.
- *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c.M-26, Section 654(1)(b) prohibits the approval of a subdivision application unless the proposed subdivision conforms with the provisions of any statutory plan.
- Sturgeon County Municipal Development Plan, Policy 1.4.9: (p. 31) Enacting Responsible Subdivision and Development Practices, "Shall ensure that both subdivision and development meet or exceed the standards outlined

	<p>within the Sturgeon County General Municipal Servicing Standards. Standards should be reviewed and updated along with other County regulatory policies to coincide with innovations in the industry.”</p>
<p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Consistent with most focus areas in Sturgeon County’s Strategic Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership by promoting consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes. • Planned Growth and Prosperity by encouraging varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. • Maintain and enhance strong communities by committing to a safe, secure community through the implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). • Respect the Environment by supporting a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems. • Operational Excellence by consistent delivery of defined service levels to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient and cost effective manner. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GMSS rewrite will provide specific guidelines to assist the County and Developers in the design, preparation and submission of plans and specifications for construction of municipal improvements and systems that will meet the servicing requirements for commercial, industrial and residential subdivision development within Sturgeon County. • The GMSS rewrite will ensure effective and efficient maintenance of future municipal improvements through the implementation of modern and consistent standards and specifications. • Many of our current policies and procedures are linked to the GMSS. As such, the project will need to ensure alignment with other Sturgeon County policies and procedures. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The budget for the GMSS Update Project has been included in Engineering Services’ 2016 and 2017 workplan.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>That Council not approve the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not approving the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles may be inconsistent with the Municipal Development Plan Section 1.4.9 “Standards should be reviewed and updated along with other County regulatory policies to coincide with innovations in the industry,” as well as Section 1.4.13 “Should establish general development design guidelines for Residential and non-Residential developments.”

Organizational:

- Not approving the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for re-writing Sturgeon County's General Municipal Servicing Standards would result in the County being non-compliant with current Federal and Provincial standards and guidelines.
- Not approving the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles will impede Administration's ability to successfully complete the GMSS rewrite project.

Financial:

None.

Follow up Action 1. Administration will use the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles to guide the GMSS rewrite project.

Attachment(s) 1. Proposed GMSS Vision Statement
2. Proposed GMSS Guiding Principles

**Report Reviewed
by:**



Brian Hartman, Manager, Engineering Services



Stephane Labonne, General Manager, Integrated Growth



Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>