Integrated Community Sustainability Plan & Municipal Development Plan

Medicine Hat – South East Alberta Watershed Alliance
November 4, 2016

PLAN YOUR CITY
Introduction

• Something about Myself – Senior Community Planner/Plan Your City Project Manager from 2007

• Plan Your City was the public engagement/writing of the City’s Long Range Plan- ICSP/MDP adopted in July 2010…40 year municipal plan to the Year 2050

• Now legally in place and guides all Lethbridge’s planning decisions under the Alberta MGA.
Something About Lethbridge

• Acknowledge like Medicine Hat, Lethbridge is part of Treaty 7 - Blackfoot country
• First settlers came to Lethbridge circa 1885 to farm & mine coal
• Settlement increased when the railroad was extended from the Medicine Hat area – some rode on top of the rail cars
• Current population is 94,804, an increase of approx. 1.94 % from 2014
• Most people (35,377) live west of the Oldman River
Municipal Development Plan

• Purpose of the ICSP/MDP
  – Long range plan for the City (2050)
  – Expected population of 130,000 by 2040
  – Will provide a long term vision that represents community aspirations
  – Will provide policies to achieve the vision
    • Land use
    • Transportation
    • Growth management
    • Downtown
    • Environmental Stewardship/Management
    • Social/Cultural Policies including Housing
    • Economic Policies
ICSP/MDP Phases

- Phase 1 - Project Initiation
- Phase 2 - Background & Assumptions
- Phase 3 - Community Visioning
- Phase 4 - Policy Development
- Phase 5 - Policy Review
- Phase 6 - Draft City Plan/Bylaw Preparation/Approval
- Phase 7 - Implementation & Monitoring
QUESTIONS Asked About the Future?

• What will the social, cultural, environmental and business climate of Lethbridge be like within the next 40 years
• What economic sectors will be our strengths
• What economic sectors will likely be weak and declining?
• What will affordable housing look like? What type of units? Where will it be located?
• What will our environment be like within the next 40 years?
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE?

• What will the downtown be like within the next 40 years?
• What type of uses will be in future communities/neighbourhoods?
• What can we do to attract & retain the brightest and best of our university, college and high school students?
Major Challenges

• Community Vision
  – Community Values
  – Match Lifestyle to Design
  – Live, work, play & get around

• Public Engagement
  – Meaningful
  – Thoughtful
Major Issues in Community

- Housing Affordability
- Housing Types
- Car Travel
- Commute Time
- Greenhouse Gas
- Developed Land
- Municipal Costs
- Sustainability
- River Valley
- Stormwater Management
Visioning Tool

• Envision Inc. constructed a visioning tool that was used at public workshops and was placed on the City of Lethbridge website.

• Metro-Quest is based on Sim-City, it is not a plan but a computer graphic based on the City’s geography & data, that shows various long term growth options based on individual’s choices today, and their long term consequences.

• 5 workshops held across Lethbridge …approx. 300 residents took part in the discussion, an additional 900 on line for 1,200 participants.
Metro Quest

• Visioning Tool
  – Interactive group workshops
  – Computer graphic simulation of group choices
  – Data on implications of community values
Choices and Outcomes

- Development Density
- Development Location
- Road Network
- Transit System
- Transportation Priority
- Resource Policy

Current Trend

- Lower density: 4%
- Maintain current density: 13%
- More compact density: 59%
- Mostly compact density: 24%
Choices and Outcomes

Where should the development of new homes and businesses be encouraged?

- **Current planning model**
  - Growth is encouraged in all areas of the City of Lethbridge.
  - **36%**

- **New growth is restricted**
  - 40% of expected residential growth is diverted to neighboring communities.
  - **10%**

- **North & South Lethbridge**
  - Encourage growth in North and South Lethbridge.
  - **27%**

- **West Lethbridge**
  - Encourage development primarily in West Lethbridge.
  - **27%**
Choices and Outcomes

- **No more major roads**
  - Don't build any more major roads.
  - 18%

- **Moderate road expansion**
  - Moderate expansion of major roads to accommodate automobiles and alternative transportation.
  - 53%

- **Significant expansion**
  - Significant expansion of the road network to accommodate automobiles (current planning model).
  - 28%
Choices and Outcomes

How should the city expand the transit system?

- **Existing transit service**
  - Maintain current transit service per capita.  
  - 14%

- **Moderate transit expansion**
  - Moderately expand the city’s transit system and improve transit service frequency.  
  - 50%

- **Significant expansion**
  - Significantly expand the city’s transit system and increase transit service frequency.  
  - 36%
Transportation Priority

How much should alternative transportation be encouraged? (walking, biking, transit, etc.)

- **Primarily automobiles**
  Primary priority to private automobiles.
  - 3%

- **Maintain current mix**
  Primary priority to private automobiles. Secondary priority to alternative transportation.
  - 10%

- **Equal priority**
  Equal priority to all transportation modes.
  - 36%

- **Primarily alternatives**
  Primary priority to alternative transportation. Secondary priority to private automobiles.
  - 41%
Environmental Management

How much effort should be put into the mgmt of energy, air quality, GHG, waste and water?

- **Less effort**: Reduce our current efforts. 3%
- **Current effort**: Maintain existing efforts. 7%
- **More effort**: Improve our efforts. 23%
- **Highest effort**: Achieve municipal best practices or better. 66%
Plan Your City - Vision Statement

• We will continue to work together to ensure that Lethbridge is a leader in environmental stewardship, innovation and active leadership. We are recognized as being safe, healthy, vibrant, prosperous economically viable, and a place where all people can fully participate in community life.

Principles
There are five key principles that will enable us to achieve Lethbridge’s vision:

1. Lethbridge is an inclusive community that celebrates the diversity and contributions of all its residents.
2. Lethbridge balances the cultural, social, economic, built and natural environment dimensions of sustainability; together we are building a city that is a community – a legacy we are proud to pass on to future generations.
3. Lethbridge is a resilient community that will continue to be successful due to our foresight and our ability to be adaptable and responsive to change.
4. Lethbridge is a community that values open dialogue on all aspects of its public life, encouraging citizen engagement and grassroots leadership, and celebrating the contribution of our numerous volunteers.
5. Lethbridge values the efforts of our collective ancestors and recognizes the strength of our history which has provided a solid foundation to learn, grow, and change.
Goals
In order to develop effective and responsive policies a number of community goals were identified which reflect a broad cross-section of interests across the City. These goals directly address the key principles and together uphold Lethbridge’s vision, providing the fundamental direction for policies that will guide future development within the City.

- To cooperate with our municipal and First Nations neighbors; strengthening our region
- To promote active involvement of residents in all facets of governance and community life
- To ensure that recreation, transportation, housing, education and employment opportunities are economically and physically accessible to all residents
- To balance cultural, social, economic, and environmental policies and programs to achieve a high quality of life for all residents
- To strengthen and revitalize the downtown
- To retain our friendly community atmosphere which instills a civic sense of pride and contributes to our cultural vibrancy
- To ensure a high standard of living and excellent quality of life for all residents throughout the community
- To promote acceptance and diversity, and foster inclusivity for all community members
- To foster community identity and pride
- To promote and encourage the development of cultural and social services that benefit all residents within the City
- To promote, preserve and celebrate our collective history
- To develop a knowledge based community by building on the strengths within postsecondary and cultural institutions and research facilities
- To ensure that the community remains safe and that residents perception of safety is effectively addressed
- To accommodate population growth using responsible and balanced strategies that recognize the full costs of growth
- To promote holistic healthy living for all residents
- To ensure continued economic prosperity by building on key strengths and opportunities within the economy
- To enhance economic and housing opportunities throughout Lethbridge
- To ensure the development of varied and effective transportation options for all residents
- To conserve and enhance the natural environment within the City
- To be a leader in viable renewable energy use and adoption which includes, but is not limited to, solar wind and geothermal energy
The Vision

- The Vision reflects broad long term principles and goals for the City of Lethbridge to the year 2050
- The Vision is unique/made for Lethbridge, based on public values as expressed from Metro-Quest workshops/web portal engagement. It was written by the Community Advisory Group
- The Vision (statement, principles and goals) were approved by City Council on June 15, 2009 as recommended from the Plan Your City Community Advisory Committee.
Plan Your City – Community Advisory Group

• Public Engagement
  – Community Advisory Group
    • Initially created for use with Metro Quest to help review results
    • 20 representatives from community organizations
    • 6 general community members at large
    • 4 aldermen
  – Purpose is to ensure thoughtful community debate
    • Vision statement
    • Policy alternatives
    • Ambassadors for public engagement
City Circles for Policy Development

• Public Engagement
  – 54 City Circles…..48 reported out
    • Encouragement of informal community debate
    • Targeted towards existing groups & organizations
    • Supported by initial seminar & documentation
    • Encouragement of Facebook discussion
    • Results displayed at Idea’s Fair on Oct. 17, 2009
    • Developed “Ideas Fair Awards” program
Policy Development

• Public Engagement
  – Public Open Houses
    • October 14 - Park Meadows School - North Lethbridge  7:00 pm
    • October 15 – Children of St. Martha School - West Lethbridge   7:00 pm
    • October 17 – Ideas Fair at City Hall 10:30 to 4:00 pm– Concurrent Public Meeting starting at 1:30 pm
Role of City Council

• 4 Alderman on PYC Organizing Committee
• Approved Work Plan in Sept. 2008
• Vision approved on June 15, 2009
• Formal Adoption Process under Alberta’s Municipal Government Act
Policy Development Work Plan

• Time Schedule: Key Completion Dates
  – Visioning: June 2009
  – Policy Alternatives: October 2009
  – Draft Plan: May 2010
  – Council Adoption: July 5, 2010
Plan Your City Progress Report

• 3 Year review of the ICSP/MDP – Jan.2013
• Special Committee of Council
• Used Green/Yellow/Red evaluation of all 120 policies
• Green – High Priority – more work needed
• Yellow – Medium Priority – keep doing what we are doing
• Low Priority – Not broken – longer range policies
Findings

• Conserve & Enhance the River Valley was rated green & subsequently has been the subject of a new Master Plan for the River Valley public lands adopted in 2016
• Restrict Development near Hazard Land – Green
• Linear paths on Valley Crest – Green
• Water Quality/Water Conservation – Yellow (we still irrigate a lot of vegetation)
• Water Quality/Brownfield Sites – Yellow – (identified, but not cleaned up)
• Water Quality/Build Artificial Wetlands – Yellow (identified North Regional Park)
Findings cont.

- Water Quality (Erosion Control) rated Yellow, but now Green — mandatory on all new construction site including infill in 2016.
- Reduce/ReUse/Recycle rated yellow — household recycling rejected by City Council in 2016 based on $$$.
- (should be rated red in 2016) — although gains have been made on construction & industrial wastes.
- Energy/Greenhouse Gases rated Yellow — gains made in public buildings (i.e. new Arts Centre/Public Works HQ) — Green in 2016.
Findings cont.

- Watershed the foundation of regional planning – was Yellow now with SSRP – rate Green
- Intermunicipal Planning - Plan with County of Lethbridge (IDP) approved by the City & County in October 2016 - now Green
- 5 year review to Council – this document completed – Green
Stormwater Management Master Plan

• Part of the Parks Master Plan
• Encourages Storm Ponds to be integrated with parks spaces
• Identifies Wet & Dry Ponds
• Artificial Wetlands such as the SunRidge Pond
• Bio-swales…which have not been successful in Lethbridge
South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP)

- Now the second regional plan in Alberta now in legally place – 2014 to 2024 came into effect Sept. 1, 2014
- Two themes on-going:
  A) Traditional Lands & Historic Places
  B) Intensification of Land Use
Both are at the Inventory Stage…working on mixed committees of city staff/councilors/public with private consultants

Intent is to implement the SSRP
SSRP Implementation cont.

- Plans for older central neighbours underway: London Road & Westminster
- Integrated Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP’s)
- Key issues currently being addressed are:
  a) Opportunities for mixed use; Identify sites for relatively higher density housing;
  b) Best practices for Stormwater management;
  c) Upgrades to underground utilities
  d) Minimize construction waste by conserving/improving existing buildings
  e) Neighbourhood engagement
Transportation

Transit Master Plan – currently under review
100K Plan

- new ICSP/MDP to be completed by 2018
- On going – “Kitchen Table Conversations”
- Challenge to …..as down stream neighbours tell us how you think we are handling part of our mutual shared watershed????
- Will we have more annexations???
- Recent Discussion on the Lot Levy’s have concluded in the immediate future no more new urban area…finish what we have started. (October 24, 2016)
100K- Kitchen Table Conversations

• On-going at the moment

• River Valley is the No. 1 concern in Lethbridge – 55% of the population wanted more information; compared to 38% on the Transit Master Plan; & 15% on the SSRP
100 Paddlers
Climate Change
Questions and Comments

2010

Vision
Policy
Build City Program
Ideal Lethbridge

2050

PLAN YOUR CITY