

**MEETING DATE: MARCH 26, 2019**

# **REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COUNCIL**

## **SUBJECT**

**REGIONAL AREOTROPLIS FEASIBILITY STUDY – MOTION REQUIRED**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the County of Vermilion River approve a partnership with the City of Lloydminster on completing a Regional Areotropolis Feasibility Study by applying for a Community and Regional Economic Support Program grant and contributing \$37,500 from Planning and Development reserves and/or existing budget.

## **DETAILS**

### **Background:**

In August 2014, the City of Lloydminster and the County of Vermilion River signed a Memorandum of Understanding in regards to developing a Regional Airport Plan. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure land is protected for airport use; to set out certain principles relating to the airport and develop a plan for the cooperative ownership, management and development of a regional airport; and to establish an initial working relationship relating to the Regional Airport Plan.

Since 2014, general discussions regarding airport development have taken place at the Inter-municipal liaison committee. In order to move forward and fully realize the potential of the regional airport concept, the Economic Development teams from both municipalities are recommending the completion of a Regional Areotropolis Feasibility Study. This study would identify:

- a. Economic Cluster Analysis;
- b. Economic Impact;
- c. Airport Facility Review and Masterplan;
- d. Land Use Allocations;
- e. Development Targets and Typologies; and
- f. Zoning and Land Use recommendations and amendments.



The City of Lloydminster is willing to take the lead on the project, apply for the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program and manage the project resources. The partnership would be 50% funded from CARES, and then 50% from equal contributions from the City and CVR. The portion for CVR would be \$37,500 and would be allocated from a combination of Planning & Development reserves and/or existing budget. The project would not proceed if the CARES grant application is not successful. This application deadline is May 1, 2019.

**Discussion:**

The Strategic Plan identifies Partnerships and Economy as two of the six Strategic Priorities. This project falls under both these priorities and was also identified in the draft Economic Development Road Map. This project will guide efforts in developing a long-term plan for the Airport as a regional asset for economic development and growth. It will allow our region to capitalize on commercial air service, expand commercial and industrial activity, and encourage business investments and opportunities for land development. Significant progress since 2014 includes the attraction of WestJet as a flight service provider for the region.

**Desired Outcome (s):**

That the request to partner with the City of Lloydminster and contribute financially to the Regional Areotropolis Feasibility Study is approved.

**Response Options:**

THAT the County of Vermilion River approve to partner with the City of Lloydminster to complete a CARES grant application and the subsequent Regional Areotropolis Feasibility Study, and contribute \$37,500 to be funded from Planning and Development Reserves and/or existing budget.

## IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

**Organizational:** Planning and Development will be the lead on this project

**Financial:** Confirm funds assigned appropriately

**Implementation:** Work collaboratively with the City of Lloydminster Economic Development team



## ATTACHMENTS

1. Request Letter Funding Support Regional Areotropolis Feasibility Study

**PREPARED BY:** Corinne McGirr, Community Development Coordinator

**APPROVED BY:** Roger Garnett, Director of Planning & Development

**DATE:** March 20, 2019