

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting for the purpose of Administration of Wednesday, September 21, 2022** at **9:07 A.M.** held in County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to Order by the Reeve Mr. Lorne Halisky, in the presence of the following persons:

ATTENDANCE		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Wednesday, Sept.21, 2022</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
3	Dominique Cere	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Present in Chambers
Assistant CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present @ 9:20 a.m.
Legislative Svcs/R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present

No Members of the Media were present.
No Members of the Public were present.

Delegation: Jesse Sopko, MPA, CIAPP-C, CLGM (he/him) General Manager, Corporate Services, was present in Council Chambers.

2. Agenda:

1031-22: Cere

That the Agenda for the Smoky Lake County Council Committee of the Whole Meeting for the purpose of Administration, of September 21, 2022, be adopted, as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Smoky Lake County’s Top 4 Unique Issues Under Provincial Jurisdiction to Advocate For.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

No Minutes.

4. Request for Decision:

No Request for Decision.

5. Issues for Information:

No Issues for Information.

6. Correspondence:

No Correspondence.

7. Delegation:

RMA 2022 Member Visit

Present before Council from 9:08 a.m. to 10:34 a.m., was Jesse Sopko, MPA, CIAPP-C, CLGM (he/him) General Manager, Corporate Services, Sturgeon County, to share the following slide show in respect to Sturgeon County’s broadband strategy and to provide insight on the challenges and successes of the project.



Smoky Lake County Committee of the Whole Presentation

September 21, 2022

It's time to get connected

Sturgeon County Broadband Fibre Network



sturgeoncounty.ca/GetConnected



sturgeoncounty.ca/GetConnected



Presentation Overview

- Sturgeon County - State of Broadband Connectivity
- Broadband Initiative Goal & Principles
- Broadband Initiative Phase 1 Overview
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps
- Questions



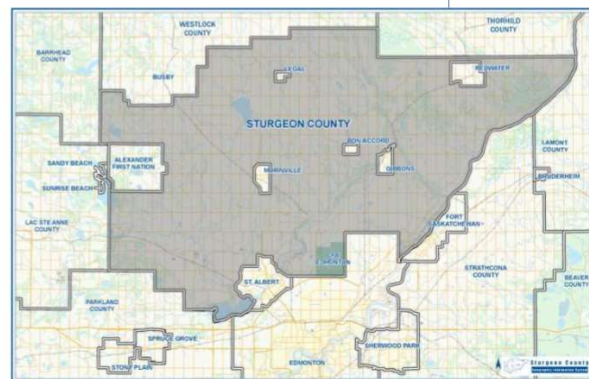
sturgeoncounty.ca/GetConnected



Sturgeon County – State of Broadband Connectivity

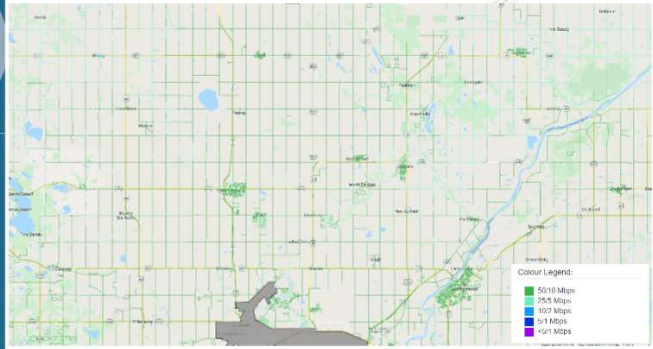


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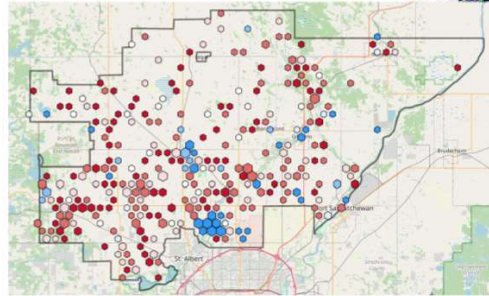




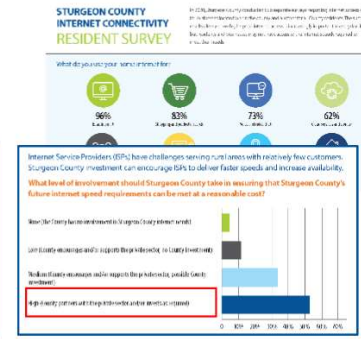
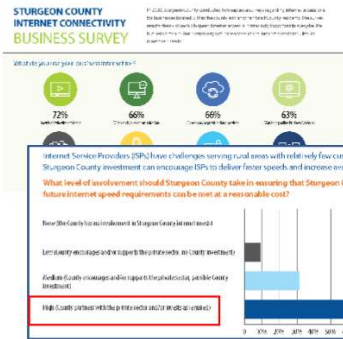
National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map



Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) Speed Tests



Dark Blue = Minimum federal standards or better
Dark Red = 6 Mbps or less
Source: cira.ca, May 6, 2022



Municipalities	Households	Benefits, \$/year
Counties		
Leduc County	6537	2,287,950
Parkland County	14034	4,911,900
Strathcona County	37559	13,145,650
Sturgeon County	7830	2,740,500
Cities		
Beaumont	6433	2,251,550
Edmonton	387950	135,782,500
Fort Saskatchewan	10675	3,736,250
Leduc	12556	4,394,600
St. Albert	26541	9,289,350
Spruce Grove	14120	4,942,000
Towns		
Devon	2622	917,700
Morinville	381	1,330,350
Stony Plain	7149	2,502,150
Region Total:		\$188,232,450/year

Source: Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board
Broadband Situation Analysis Final Report August 2020



Broadband Initiative Goal & Principles

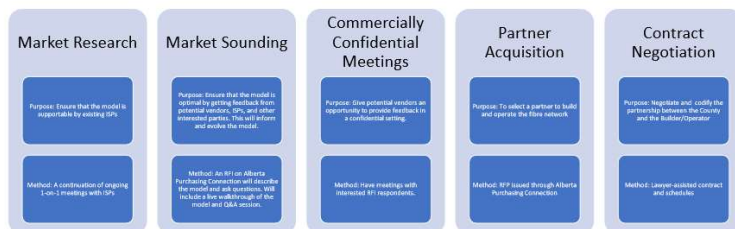


Broadband Initiative Goal

Build and operate a fast, reliable and affordable broadband network through:

- a partnership where the County and a Network Provider contribute financially to the creation of the network,
- the Network Provider builds, operates, and maintains the network, and
- retailers offer services to residents and businesses.

Industry Engagement

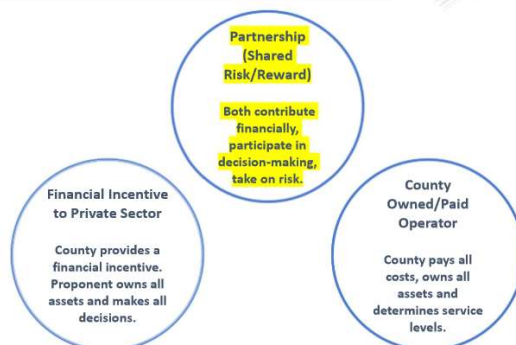


Key Inputs from Industry

- Leverage lower interest rates
- “Open” Network
- Leverage industry experience
- Improve wireless service through fibre backhaul



Vendor Models





Shared Investment with CFOC



- **Phase 1**
 - Sturgeon County's contribution: \$7.55 million
 - CFOC contribution: \$1 million
- **Future Phases**
 - Will be based on learnings from Phase 1 and within the context of other priority capital projects in the County.



Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned



- **Accessing Funding**
 - Inflexible grant program eligibility criteria
 - Provincial government piggy-backing on federal grant program
 - Need for shovel-ready project with a private sector partner
- **Engagement is Critical**
 - Resident and business engagement through speed tests and surveys
 - Industry engagement through procurement process
- **Addressing Concerns of Equity**
 - Perpetuation of serving densest areas first (economies of scale)



Lessons Learned



- **Determining Appropriate Governance Model**
 - Municipally-owned and operated
 - Subsidize private sector only
 - Public-private partnership
 - Utility model
 - Other
- **Funding Considerations**
 - MGA is inflexible (municipalities cannot lend money)
 - Using borrowing for long-term strategic initiatives
 - Considerations of equity – paid through municipal tax or other (Local Improvement Tax, split residential tax rate, other)



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Execute Phase 1 (2022)
- Planning and engagement for Phase 2 (2023)
- Continue advocacy to provincial and federal governments for grant funding
- Continue to share our experience with others, share information, and collaborate

Questions?

Jesse Sopko
General Manager, Corporate Services
Sturgeon County

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

Addition to the Agenda:

Smoky Lake County's Top 4 Unique Issues Under Provincial Jurisdiction to Advocate For
1032-22: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council **recommend** the following issues which are unique to Smoky Lake County, be brought forward to the September 22, 2022 Council Meeting, to be proposed as the top four priorities unique to Smoky Lake County which are under provincial jurisdiction:

- Lowering the speed limit to 70km/hr., improving intersections, adding passing lanes, and adding turn out lanes, on Highway 28 from hill to hill alongside the Town of Smoky Lake,
- Resurfacing Highway 857 and sections of Highway 28,
- Funding failing and end-of-life, former provincial bridges within Smoky Lake County, and
- Reopening the Smoky Lake Courthouse.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

1033-22: Cere

That the Smoky Lake County Council Committee of the Whole for the purpose of Administration Meeting of September 21, 2022, be adjourned, time 11:25 a.m.

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER