

County of Newell & Cypress County

Intermunicipal Development Plan

Cypress County Bylaw No. 2019-30

Table of Contents

Part 1 Introduction	1
Executive Summary	1
Purpose of an Intermunicipal Development Plan	3
Alignment with the Municipal Government Act	3
Alignment with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan	4
Intermunicipal Development Plan Interpretation	5
Plan Preparation	6
Plan Boundary	7
Municipal Profiles	7
Intermunicipal Development Plan Area	8
Public Engagement Process	9
Part 2 Plan Policies	11
Intermunicipal Land Use	11
Part 3 Plan Administration and Implementation	15
Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee	15
Intermunicipal Referral	16
Plan Validity and Amendment	19
Dispute Resolution	20
Filing a Dispute or Appeal under the Municipal Government Act	21

Figures (located within the document)

Figure 1 - Plan Area Boundary	10
Figure 2 - County of Newell and Cypress County Intermunicipal Referral Process	18
Figure 3 - County of Newell and Cypress County Dispute Resolution Process	22

Figures (located in Appendix B: Background Maps)

Figure 4 - Land Uses

Figure 5 – Transportation Network

Figure 6 - Oil and Gas Wells and Pipelines

Figure 7 – Historical Resource Sites

Appendices

Appendix A Definitions

Appendix B Background Maps



Part 1 Introduction

Executive Summary

To meet the requirements of the Municipal Government Act and to work together for regional benefit, County of Newell and Cypress County have collaborated to develop an Intermunicipal Development Plan.

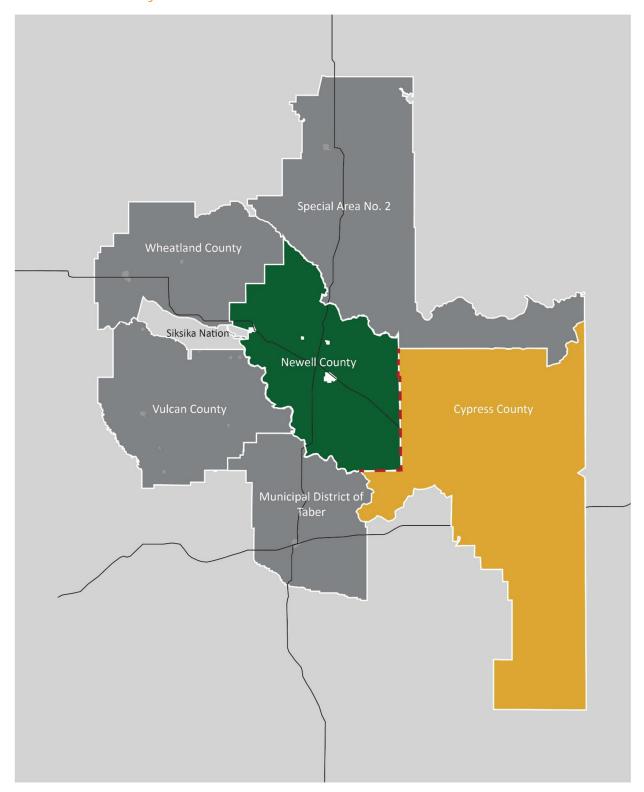
Section 631 of the MGA states:

"two or more councils of municipalities that have common boundaries that are not members of a growth region as defined in Section 708.1 must, by each passing a bylaw in accordance with this Part or in accordance with sections 12 and 692, adopt an intermunicipal development plan to include those areas of land lying within the boundaries of the municipalities as they consider necessary."

This Plan includes policy direction regarding future development, transportation networks, coordination of municipal programs and environmental matters, as well as procedural matters related to resolving disputes and initiating amendments to the Plan for the Counties of Newell and Cypress.



Plan Area Boundary





Purpose of an Intermunicipal Development Plan

Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs) are statutory documents approved by Council that help municipalities manage issues related to growth, changing land use and the coordination of services along their borders. The plans provide a policy framework that outlines how the municipalities can foster collaboration and cooperation to adequately identify and discuss land use issues and expectations.

The objectives of an IDP include:

- Identifying a plan boundary;
- Identifying future land uses, including lands suitable for recreational, residential, industrial, commercial and environmental opportunities;
- Identifying the long-term growth areas;
- Coordinating intermunicipal programs relating to the physical, social and economic development of the area;
- Integrating all participating municipalities' recreational amenities including greenspace, recreational facilities and trails;
- Addressing environmental matters;
- Addressing the provision of intermunicipal services and facilities;
- Determining a dispute resolution process to resolve any conflict between municipalities;
- Developing an Implementation Plan, including circulation and referral processes;
 and
- Developing a schedule for plan review and a procedure to be used by one or more municipalities to amend or repeal the plan.

Alignment with the Municipal Government Act

This IDP has been prepared under the legislative authority prescribed in Section 631(2) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) which states:

- (2) An intermunicipal development plan
 - (a) must address
 - (i) the future land use within the area,
 - (ii) the manner of and the proposals for future development in the area,
 - (iii) the provision of transportation systems for the area, either generally



- or specifically,
- (iv) the co-ordination of intermunicipal programs relating to the physical, social and economic development of the area,
- (v) environmental matters within the area, either generally or specifically, and
- (vi) any other matter related to the physical, social or economic development of the area that the councils consider necessary,

and

(b) must include

- (i) a procedure to be used to resolve or attempt to resolve any conflict between the municipalities that have adopted the plan,
- (ii) a procedure to be used, by one or more municipalities, to amend or repeal the plan, and
- (iii) provisions relating to the administration of the plan.

Alignment with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

This plan complies with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) which provides policy direction for municipalities to regulate environmental, economic and social outcomes within the South Saskatchewan Region until 2024.

The following Objectives and Strategies found in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan encourage an environment of cooperation and policy integration between neighbouring municipalities.

Objectives

- Cooperation and coordination are fostered among all land use planners and decision-makers involved in preparing and implementing land use plans and strategies.
- Knowledge sharing among communities is encouraged to promote the use of planning tools and the principles of efficient use of land to address community development in the region.

Strategies

- Work together to achieve the shared environmental, economic and social outcomes in the SSRP, and minimize negative environmental cumulative effects.
- 8.2 Address common planning issues, especially where valued natural features and



- historic resources are of interest to more than one stakeholder and where the possible effect of development transcends jurisdictional boundaries.
- 8.3 Coordinate and work with each other in their respective planning activities (such as in the development of plans and policies) and development approval process to address issues of mutual interest.
- 8.4 Work together to anticipate, plan and set aside adequate land with the physical infrastructure and services required to accommodate future population growth and accompanying community development needs.
- 8.5 Build awareness regarding the application of land use planning tools that reduce the impact of residential, commercial and industrial developments on the land, including approaches and best practices for promoting the efficient use of private and public lands.
- Pursue joint use agreements, regional services commissions and any other joint cooperative arrangements that contribute specifically to intermunicipal land use planning.
- 8.7 Consider the value of intermunicipal development planning to address land use on fringe areas, airport vicinity protection plan or other areas of mutual interest.
- 8.8 Coordinate land use planning activities with First Nations, irrigation districts, school boards, health authorities and other agencies on areas of mutual interest.

Intermunicipal Development Plan Interpretation

For the purpose of this IDP, names shall be referred to as follows:

 All reference in this document to the Intermunicipal Development Plan may be referred to as the IDP.

This IDP contains the operative words 'shall', 'should', 'may' and 'must'. The interpretation of these words is found below:

Shall - indicates that actions are mandatory.

Should – indicates the direction to strive to achieve the outlined action but is not mandatory.

May – is discretionary, meaning the policy in question can be enforced if the municipalities choose to do so. This is typically dependent on context and individual circumstances.

Must – indicates that actions are mandatory.



Policies

- 1.1 All references to a specific agency, body or department were accurate at the time of Plan development. Considering the possibility of an agency, body or department to change names, all references throughout the Plan shall therefore be considered to be applicable to the relevant agency, body or department currently in effect.
- 1.2 The information presented on the maps in the appendices of this Plan shall be considered an approximation only and not an entirely accurate portrayal of the geographical, physical or other variables included.
- 1.3 Notwithstanding 1.2 above, the boundaries of the Plan Area shall be considered as accurate.

Plan Preparation

The formation of this Plan was guided by the direction of the County of Newell and Cypress County, involving senior municipal administration.

The municipalities support the continuation of agricultural uses. Non-agricultural development may be considered if the use and form is appropriate for rural areas. Should a development be proposed on irrigated lands, the new development must support the local population and economy.

Key Issues

- Compatibility with existing uses.
- Municipal road network.
- Preservation of the natural environment including fire suppression and weed control, and protection of existing wetlands.

Statutory Documents reviewed:

- 1) Cypress County Municipal Development Plan
 - The Cypress County Municipal Development Plan was reviewed. Existing land use patterns in the Plan Area include grazing and dryland farming, with low density residential population. The policies of the IDP align with the goals and objectives of the MDP with regard to the support of agricultural purposes, ensuring the orderly development of non-agricultural land uses, and the conservation of the natural environment in the Plan Area.
- 2) County of Newell Municipal Development Plan
 - The County of Newell Municipal Development Plan was reviewed. Existing land use patterns in the IDP Area are primarily agriculture, including irrigated lands



and dryland farmlands. The policies of the IDP align with the goals and objectives of the MDP, to support agricultural purposes, minimize land use conflicts with future non-agricultural land uses, and coordinate transportation objectives in the Plan Area.

Plan Area Boundary

The municipalities share a boundary line of approximately 85 km. The Plan Area includes the lands within the fringe of this shared boundary by a line that extends, where possible, one mile (1.6 km) or one section from the shared border and consists of approximately 268.78 km². The Plan Area is illustrated in Figure 1 – Plan Area Boundary.

The established IDP area represents a shared agreement and dedication to cooperation by the County of Newell and Cypress County that will allow for the continued use for agriculture and where applicable, coordination of infrastructure.

Municipal Profiles

County of Newell

The County of Newell is located in south-eastern Alberta in the heart of the Palliser Triangle. The County holds 6,070.5 km² of land inhabited by 7,524 residents. The County surrounds four urban municipalities and governs eight hamlets. The County is bordered by five rural municipalities and the Siksika Nation. The economy is driven by irrigation agriculture due to its location in the Eastern Irrigation District, cultivated dry land, and the oil and gas industry.

Cypress County

Cypress County is a municipal district in south-eastern Alberta located along the Saskatchewan border to the east and the Montana, U.S border to the south. The County holds over 13,487 km² of land inhabited by 7,662 residents. The County surrounds two urban municipalities and governs nine hamlets. The primary land use and economic driver in Cypress County is irrigation agriculture, and intensive and extensive agriculture including dryland farming and grazing. Oil and gas activity are also prevalent in the County.

Intermunicipal Development Plan Area

The Plan Area has sparse physical features and infrastructure. A review of these elements identified the following characteristics within the Plan Area Boundary:

Transportation Infrastructure

Both municipalities recognize the importance of maintaining an efficient and coordinated transportation network. The policies within this IDP consider the impacts of development on municipal and provincial road infrastructure.

The Trans-Canada Highway is the predominant transportation corridor in the Plan Area, classified as part of the National Highway System (Class 2). Highway 544 is classified as a Collector (Class 3) and intersects the northern border of the Plan Area. Highway 525 is classified as a Collector (Class 3).

Transportation Canada has one bridge crossing in the Plan Boundary along Highway 1. One Canadian Pacific Railway rail line passes through the Plan Boundary.

Natural Environment

The County of Newell and Cypress County recognize the importance of the natural environment and will promote land use decisions that protect, preserve and enhance natural systems. Lands within the Plan Area along the County of Newell are part of the Eastern Irrigation District; it is encouraged that these lands remain dedicated to agriculture in the future.

Environmentally Significant Areas

Both municipalities understand the value of the natural environment and the contribution of natural areas to the Plan Area; therefore, both Counties agree to conservation efforts for environmentally significant natural areas that are necessary to maintain natural processes and healthy physical landscapes long-term.

Native Grasslands on Public Lands

The municipalities acknowledge the importance of conservation and preservation of the native grasslands that span the County boundaries. The Counties agree to joint



efforts in fire suppression and weed control to mitigate the devastating effects of grassland fires.

Resource Extraction

Oil and gas activity is prevalent in both municipalities with a significant number of oil and gas wells, and pipelines located in the Plan Area. The municipalities recognize the importance of resource extraction to the local economy and the maintenance of transportation routes and other infrastructure.

Agriculture

The municipalities agree that agriculture and grazing will continue to be the primary use of land in the Plan Area, and non-agricultural uses should be considered only in such areas where they will not negatively impact these uses.

Telecommunications Tower and Utilities

The continued demand for the location of telecommunications infrastructure and utility servicing has the potential to impact land use within municipalities; however, the municipalities recognize that the jurisdiction of utility approvals is outside of their direct control. This Plan provides policies to guide municipalities responding to applications within the Plan Area.

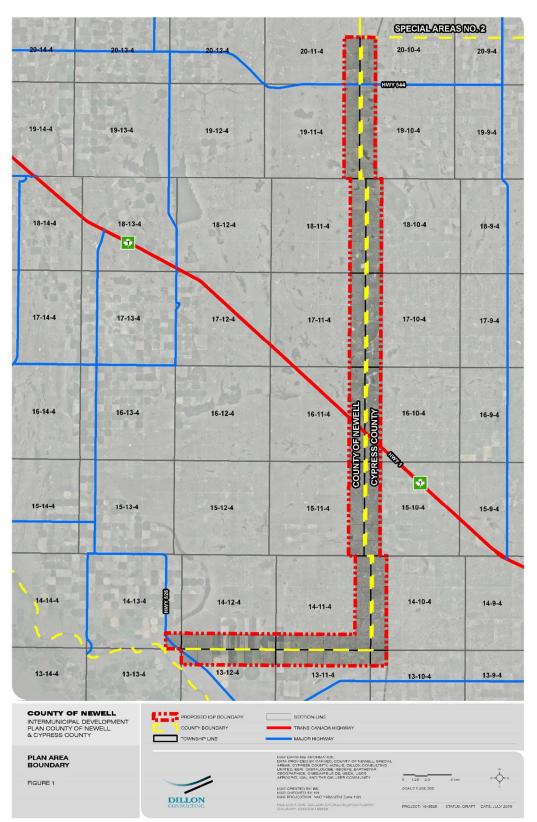
Residential Development

The Plan Area contains some existing rural residential dwellings; however, little population growth is expected to occur within either County border in the future. Existing residential development is considered approved and may continue to exist. Residential development in the County of Newell and Cypress County is encouraged to occur within established hamlets, urban municipalities, farms, and first parcel out homes on agricultural lands.

Public Engagement Process

The County of Newell and Cypress County held an Open House on September 11, 2019. Staff from both administrations were present to discuss the purpose of the plan and policy considerations with affected landowners, stakeholders and the general public

Figure 1 - Plan Area Boundary





Part 2 Plan Policies

Intermunicipal Land Use

The policies in this IDP are intended to assist decision-making by the County of Newell and Cypress County administrations and Councils regarding land use matters within the Plan Area. Policies were developed to sufficiently meet the future needs of both municipalities while protecting important agricultural, physical and social elements valued by both.

Policies

General

- 2.1 The municipalities shall engage in effective dialogue to build partnerships and foster a collaborative relationship to promote regional interests and shared environmental, economic and social outcomes.
- 2.2 The municipalities will jointly consider land use and matters along municipal borders while maintaining jurisdiction on lands within their own boundaries.
- 2.3 The municipalities agree to jointly discuss ways to cooperate with provincial and federal agencies and utility providers to help facilitate the efficient delivery of infrastructure and services that are of a mutual benefit.
- 2.4 Where a municipal project including municipal infrastructure occurs within the Plan Area on either side of the intermunicipal boundary, the initiating County will refer notice of the project to the neighbouring County.
- 2.5 The County of Newell and Cypress County shall notify the other municipality of major municipal infrastructure or public works projects in the Plan Area (e.g., bridge construction or major road upgrades).

Transportation

- 2.6 Should an application for subdivision or development occur, which requires access from the bordering municipality, the application must be circulated and approved in writing prior to the issuance of the subdivision or development approval by the host municipality.
- 2.7 Where development occurs and Alberta Transportation has identified the need



- for traffic studies or improvement to a highway or its access, the developer carries the sole responsibility for the cost and implementation to the satisfaction of Alberta Transportation.
- The municipalities should endeavor to maintain open dialogue with Alberta Transportation regarding the provincial highways in the Plan Area, including any changes to the highways that may have impacts on each of the municipalities.
- 2.9 Each municipality will attempt to minimize the impact of development on intermunicipal roads, and subject to intermunicipal referral and consultation shall keep roads open to facilitate intermunicipal traffic.
- 2.10 To provide reasonable access between the two municipalities the County of Newell and Cypress County will coordinate the planning and construction intermunicipal transportation infrastructure including roads and bridges.
- 2.11 The municipalities may refer to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework regarding the construction, repair and maintenance of any municipal roads in the Plan Area.

Natural Environment

- 2.12 Lands that have been identified to contain a historic resource value (HRV) may be required to conduct a historical resource impact assessment (HRIA) and the proponent should consult the Historical Resources Act and Alberta Culture and Tourism.
- 2.13 Both municipalities should consider the provincial Wetland Policy when making land use decisions with the goal of sustaining environment and economic benefits.
- 2.14 Both Counties agree to contribute to fire suppression, and mitigation and weed control efforts to protect native grasslands spanning the Plan Area, as specified in the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework.

Naturally Significant Areas

- 2.15 If an application for development is located within an environmentally significant area, a biophysical or wetland assessment may be required to comply with Municipal and Provincial Policies.
- 2.16 All applications for development located within an environmentally significant area shall be circulated to the other municipality for review and to provide comment.



Native Grasslands

- 2.17 Future development of public lands in the Plan Area should avoid disturbing intact native grassland. Where avoidance is not possible, disturbance shall be minimized through the consideration of wildlife habitat use, vegetation and a review of cumulative effects of all surrounding development operations.
- 2.18 All applications for the conversion of intact native grassland areas on public lands shall be circulated to the other municipality for review and to provide comment.

Resource Extraction

- 2.19 The municipalities shall consider the effects of visual intrusion, dust, noise, traffic, and air and water pollution when evaluating applications for new or expanded extractive activities, including gravel pits, where they maintain jurisdiction.
- 2.20 Each municipality must be notified of any resource development including resource extraction and aggregate extraction proposal in the other municipality.
- 2.21 Where development proposal occurs that will result in access being required from a road under a municipality's control or management, the affected municipality must give its approval or decision in writing prior to the application being considered as complete by the other municipality.
- 2.22 The municipalities may refer to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework regarding the construction, repair and maintenance of any municipal roads which may be impacted by resource development, when the development requires access from the other municipality's road.
- 2.23 Resource extraction uses including aggregate operations may be considered an acceptable use in the Plan Area if the development is deemed to not have negative impacts on environmentally sensitive areas or historical resources, and complies with Federal and Provincial regulations. All applications involving aggregate extraction will be referred to the neighbouring County for review and comment.

Renewable Energy Development

- 2.24 The municipalities may consider renewable energy developments and other industrial development where compatible with existing land uses.
- 2.25 Either municipality shall refer any application for a renewable energy development within the Plan Area to the other municipality.



Agriculture

- 2.26 Agriculture will continue to be the predominant land use in the Plan Area. The impact on agricultural uses should be a consideration when determining suitability of non-agricultural land uses in the Plan Area.
- 2.27 Both municipalities shall limit the fragmentation of good quality agricultural lands with residential development.
- 2.28 Both municipalities will strive to work cooperatively to encourage good neighbour farming practices, such as dust, weed and insect control, adjacent to developed areas through best management practices and Alberta Agriculture guidelines.
- 2.29 If disputes or complaints in either municipality should arise between ratepayers and agricultural operators, the municipality receiving the complaint shall strive to direct the affected parties to the appropriate agency, government department or municipality for consultation or resolution wherever necessary.
- 2.30 The municipalities shall refer applications for new or expanded confined feeding operations that impact the Plan Area.

Telecommunications Towers and Utilities

- 2.31 Where there is an application for a new, expanded or retrofitted telecommunications tower within the Plan Area, each municipality will notify the other for comment.
- 2.32 It is the preference of both municipalities that co-location of telecommunications facilities be undertaken where technically feasible.
- 2.33 The location of telecommunications towers in proximity of irrigated crop production should consider the potential impact to aerial application.
- 2.34 When providing comments to Provincial and Federal departments regarding utility development, the municipalities will request that consideration be given to the establishment of utility corridors with multiple users.



Part 3 Plan Administration and Implementation

Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee

This Plan is a living document that requires ongoing review to ensure its applicability. To ensure continued dialogue and communication between the County of Newell and Cypress County, an Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee (the Committee) will be established. The committee will strive for census with an approach that focuses on cooperation and conflict resolution.

Policies

- 3.1 To administer and monitor the IDP, the County of Newell and Cypress County will establish the Committee.
- 3.2 Both Councils agree the Committee will act as an advisory body. Though the Committee does not have decision-making powers in either the County of Newell or Cypress County, it may provide comments or recommendations to each municipality with respect to planning matters that impact the Plan Area.
- 3.3 The Committee shall be comprised of two members of Council from both the County of Newell and Cypress County.
- 3.4 Each municipality may appoint an alternate Committee member in the event a regular member cannot attend a scheduled meeting. Alternate Committee members shall have standing.
- 3.5 Quorum shall consist of one voting member from each Council as a minimum.
- 3.6 At least one member of each municipality's administrative staff shall attend each meeting in a non-voting advisory role.
- 3.7 Members of the Committee shall be appointed by each of their respective Councils. If a Council wishes to appoint a new member to the Committee (including the alternate), they must do so by motion of Council at a regular Council meeting.
- 3.8 The municipalities shall notify one another upon appointing members and alternate members to the Committee.
- 3.9 Any matter deemed appropriate by both municipalities may be brought before the Committee by administrative staff of either County.



- 3.10 Where quorum exists, and both Councils agree, the IDP Committee meeting may be held via video or phone conference.
- 3.11 The main purpose of the Committee shall be to:
 - a) Provide a collaborative space for discussion of land use matters within the Plan Area:
 - b) Discuss and address issues regarding the Plan;
 - c) Make recommendation(s) for proposed amendments to the Plan;
 - d) Make recommendation(s) on intermunicipal issues to their respective Councils;
 - e) Review and provide comment on referrals for matters such as land use changes, subdivision and/or development proposals; and
- 3.12 To engage in conflict resolution with regards to intermunicipal issues. Either municipality may initiate a meeting. That municipality is charged with hosting the meeting and responsible for the preparation and distribution of agendas and meeting minutes.
- 3.13 A municipality shall not give less than five (5) working days' notice of the meeting being given to all members of the Committee and support personnel unless there is consent by the Committee members.
- 3.14 Where a matter has been referred to the Committee and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the Committee, the Committee shall initiate the conflict resolution process outlined in Figure 3 County of Newell and Cypress County Dispute Resolution Process.

Intermunicipal Referral

The goal of this section is to provide a referral framework to establish the circumstances so that a municipality has the opportunity to provide comments or make recommendations on proposed statutory or non-statutory amendments or applications in the Plan Area. Municipalities are encouraged to respond to referrals regardless if there are no objections or comments to foster an environment of communication and transparency.

Policies

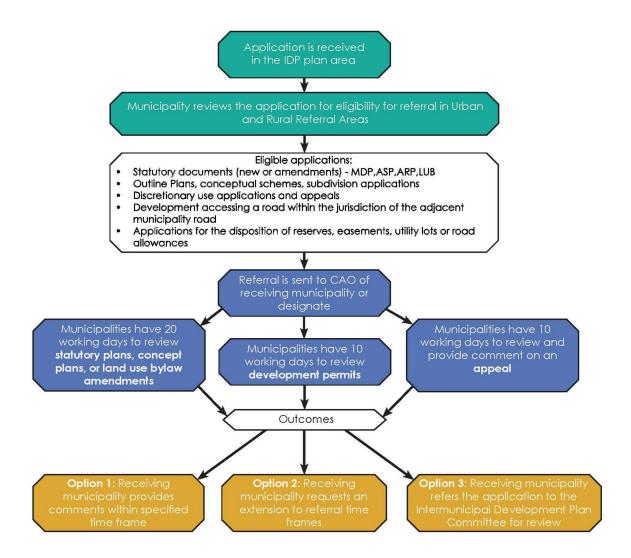
3.15 All referrals shall be directed to the CAO of the receiving municipality or a designate.



- 3.16 Where an intermunicipal referral is required by the policies contained in this Plan, both municipalities shall share information regarding mailing address and property ownership information to facilitate circulation to the adjacent municipality.
- 3.17 The following shall be referred to the other municipality prior to public hearing:
 - a) New MDPs or amendments to an existing plan by either municipality;
 - b) Proposed statutory plans (other than a MDP) or amendment that impacts the Plan Area;
 - c) Newly proposed Land Use Bylaws; and
 - d) All Land Use Bylaw amendments that impact the Plan Area.
- 3.18 The following shall be referred to the other municipality prior to a decision being rendered:
 - a) All subdivision applications for lands within the Plan Area; and
 - b) All discretionary use applications that require Municipal Planning Commission/Council approval for lands within the Plan Area.
- 3.19 Any subdivision application within 1.6 km of the centreline of a provincial highway shall be referred to Alberta Transportation for comment.
- 3.20 Each municipality shall have ten (10) working days from receipt of a referral for subdivision application or discretionary use application to review and provide comment.
- 3.21 Each municipality shall have twenty (20) working days from receipt of a referral for a statutory plan to review and provide comment.
- 3.22 Each municipality shall have ten (10) working days from receipt of a referral on an appeal to review and provide comment.
- 3.23 Should a municipality not reply within, or request an extension by the response times outlined in this section, it may be presumed that the responding municipality has no comment or objection to the planning matter or application.
- 3.24 Comments received by the responding municipality or Committee regarding a referral shall be considered by the other municipality prior to a decision being made.



Figure 2 - County of Newell and Cypress County Intermunicipal Referral Process





Plan Validity and Amendment

The municipalities recognize that this Plan may require amendments in order to accommodate future needs and ensure its applicability remains current.

Policies

Meeting Provincial Regional Planning Requirements

3.25 The municipalities agree that they will comply with the adopted regional plan strategies, and are of the opinion this Plan aligns with strategies of the SSRP.

Adoption of the Intermunicipal Development Plan

- 3.26 This Plan comes into effect on the date it is adopted by both the County of Newell and Cypress County and remains in effect until:
 - a) Either Council rescinds the Plan by bylaw after giving six months' notice to the other municipality; or
 - b) There is mutual agreement of both municipalities to rescind the bylaw.

Amendments to the Intermunicipal Development Plan

- 3.27 Amendments shall be adopted using the procedures outlined in the MGA.
- 3.28 No amendment shall come into force until such time as both municipalities adopt the amending bylaw.
- 3.29 Amendments to this Plan initiated by parties other than the County of Newell or Cypress County shall require an application for amendment submitted to both municipalities with the applicable fee for processing amendments to a statutory document.
- 3.30 Administrative staff should review the policies of the Plan annually and discuss land use matters, issues, and concerns on an on-going basis. Based on this discussion administrative staff may make recommendations to their respective Councils for amendment to the Plan.
- 3.31 A formal review of the Plan shall occur within ten (10) years from the date the IDP is adopted by both municipalities.



Dispute Resolution

Municipalities are encouraged to avoid intermunicipal conflict by adhering to this Plan and its referral policies in this Plan to encourage collaborative dialogue on planning matters that impact the Plan Area.

Policies

- 3.32 Generally the municipalities agree that:
 - a) The IDP shall be adhered to as adopted, including full circulation of any permit or application that may affect the municipality will help avoid disputes;
 - Prior to the meeting of the Committee, each municipality will be transparent with facts and seek clarification of information circulated; and
 - c) The Committee should utilize meetings to discuss the issue or dispute with the intent to seek a recommended solution by consensus.
- 3.33 Should a dispute arise regarding a technical or procedural matter including technical errors in the policies of this Plan, misinterpretation of this Plan or Plan policies, inadequate notification, or with regards to any other statutory plan affecting lands in the Plan Area, the following process shall be implemented to achieve consensus.
 - a) The issue will be directed to the administrators of each municipality. Senior municipal administrators will review the matter and if both administrators are in agreement, take action to rectify the matter.
 - b) Should either municipality identify an issue that may result in a dispute that cannot be administratively resolved, a Committee meeting will be scheduled. The Committee will review the issue and attempt to resolve the matter by consensus.
 - c) If the Committee is unable to arrive at a consensus, the administration of each municipality will schedule a joint meeting of the two municipal Councils to discuss possible solutions and attempt to reach consensus on the issue.
 - d) Should the Councils be unable to resolve the matter, a formal mediation process to facilitate resolution of the issue shall be initiated with costs shared by both municipalities.
 - e) Should mediation prove unsuccessful in resolving the matter, an arbitrator may be selected to hear the dispute and render a decision.



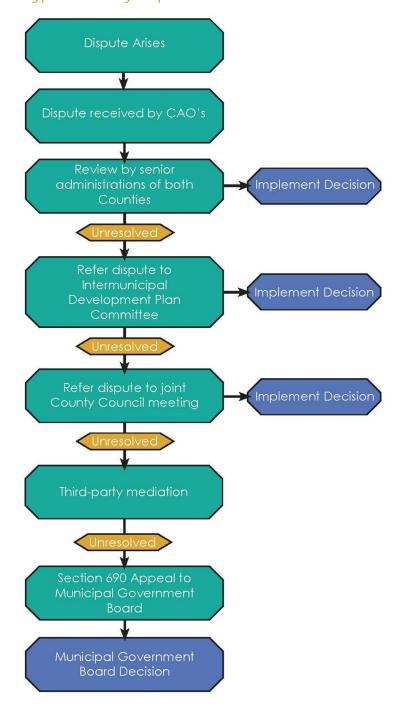
Filing a Dispute or Appeal under the Municipal Government Act

Policies

- 3.34 To resolve a dispute with regards to the adoption of a statutory plan, Land Use Bylaw or amendment to such, within thirty (30) days of adoption, the municipality initiating the dispute may, without prejudice, file an appeal to the Municipal Government Board under section 690(1) of the MGA so that the provincial statutory right and timeframe to file an appeal is not lost.
- 3.35 If a solution is reached between the municipalities prior to the Municipal Government Board meeting, the appeal may be withdrawn.



Figure 3 - County of Newell and Cypress County Dispute Resolution Process



Appendix A Definitions

Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA): the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, Statues of Alberta 2009, Chapter A-26.8, as amended.

Aggregate Extraction: the activities and processes use to extract aggregate materials including gravel, rock and sand.

Confined Feeding Operation: an activity on land that is fenced or enclosed or within buildings where livestock is confined for the purpose of growing, sustaining, finishing or breeding by means other than grazing and requires registration or approval under the conditions set forth in the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), as amended from time to time, but does not include seasonal feeding and bedding sites.

Council(s): the Council of the County of Newell and the Council of Cypress County.

Development: the activities listed in the Municipal Government Act in Part 17, section 616:

- a) an excavation or stockpile and the creation of either of them;
- b) a building or an addition to or replacement or repair of a building and the construction or placing of any of them on, in, over or under land;
- c) a change of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the use of the land or building; or
- d) a change in the intensity of the land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or building.

Discretionary Use: the use of land or a building in a land use district for which a development permit may be approved at the discretion of the Development Authority with or without conditions.

Energy Industry or Development: an industry that uses some form of alternative energy either as the source of its operation or the result of its operation, such as, but not limited to, wind farms, solar farms, hydroelectric dams, among others.

Extensive Agriculture: the general raising of crops and grazing of livestock in a non-intensive nature.

Extractives or Extractive Industry: a land use governed by the location of a natural resource such as, but not limited to oil and gas, or logging which involves the extraction

or on-site processing and/or storage of a natural resource.

Historical Resource Value (HRV): the lands that contain or are believed to contain historic resources, including primarily archeological and paleontological sites, Aboriginal traditional use sites of a historic resource nature, and historic structures.

Intact Native Grasslands: tracts of grassland plant communities that have not been substantially altered by land-use practices. These are native plant communities that exhibit their normal ecological processes and functions (plant species diversity, nutrient cycling, soil and site stability, capture and beneficial release of water and productivity).(SSRP, 2014-2024)

Intensive Agriculture: if not defined in the respective municipalities' Land Use Bylaw, means any purposeful method used to raise crops or to raise and/or keep livestock, animals, poultry or their products for commercial purposes. May include, but is not limited to, such operations as horse riding stables, poultry farms, pastures, rabbitries, fur farms, greenhouses, tree farms, sod farms, apiaries, dairies, nurseries, and similar specialty uses conducted as the principal use of a building or site.

Intermunicipal Border: the shared border between the County of Newell and Cypress County.

Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP): statutory document, adopted by bylaw in accordance with section 631 of the Municipal Government Act, which is used by municipalities as a long-range planning tool.

Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee (the Committee): the members assigned by each respective Council for the purposes of administering and monitoring the Intermunicipal Development Plan.

Municipalities (the municipalities): the municipalities of the County of Newell and Cypress County.

Municipal Government Act (MGA): the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statues of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended.

Municipal Development Plan (MDP): a statutory plan, adopted by bylaw in accordance with section 632 of the Municipal Government Act and used by municipalities as a long-range planning tool.

Municipal Projects: include such undertakings as the construction of municipal buildings (i.e., fire stations or rec centres), infrastructure (i.e., water, sewage, waste power and telecommunications), as well as the preparation of lands for such uses.

Non-Intact Native Grassland: on public land is defined as currently being cropped or invaded by aggressive agronomic species that have significantly altered the site characteristics, i.e. altered soils and plant communities. (SSRP, 2014-2024)

Permitted Use: the use of land or a building in a land use district for which a Development Authority shall issue a development permit with or without conditions providing all other provisions of the bylaw are conformed with.

Plan: the County of Newell and Cypress County Intermunicipal Development Plan.

Plan Area: the lands defined in this document to which the policies of this document pertain.

Renewable Resource/Energy: a natural resource or form of energy that can replenish on its own with time.

Soil Classifications: the classification of soils in accordance with the Canadian Land Inventory on the basis of soil survey information.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP): the regional plan and regulations established by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to the Alberta Land Stewardship Act.

Stakeholder: a person with an interest or concern in matters pertaining to this Plan.

Statutory Plan: as per Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act, means intermunicipal development plans, municipal development plans, area structure plans, or area redevelopment plans adopted by a municipality under Division 4 of the Municipal Government Act.

Study Area: the area identified by both municipalities in this Plan that identifies areas of importance and concern.

Subdivision and Development Authority: the County of Newell Subdivision and Development Authority and/or Cypress County Subdivision and Development Authority, respectively.

Working Day: Monday to Friday, excluding general holidays, as outlined in the government of Alberta's employment standard.

Appendix B Background Maps

Figure 4 – Land Uses

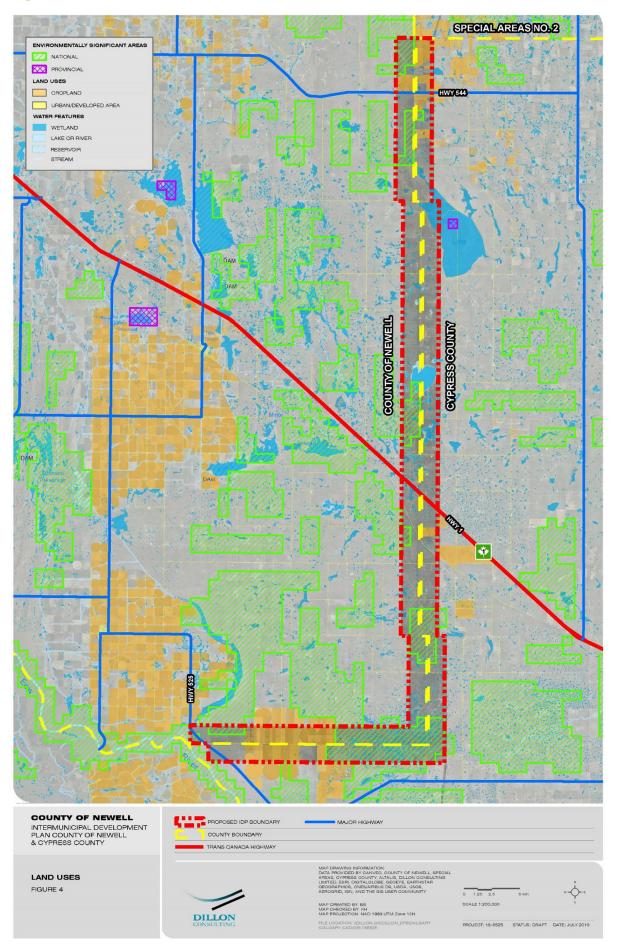


Figure 5 – Transportation Network

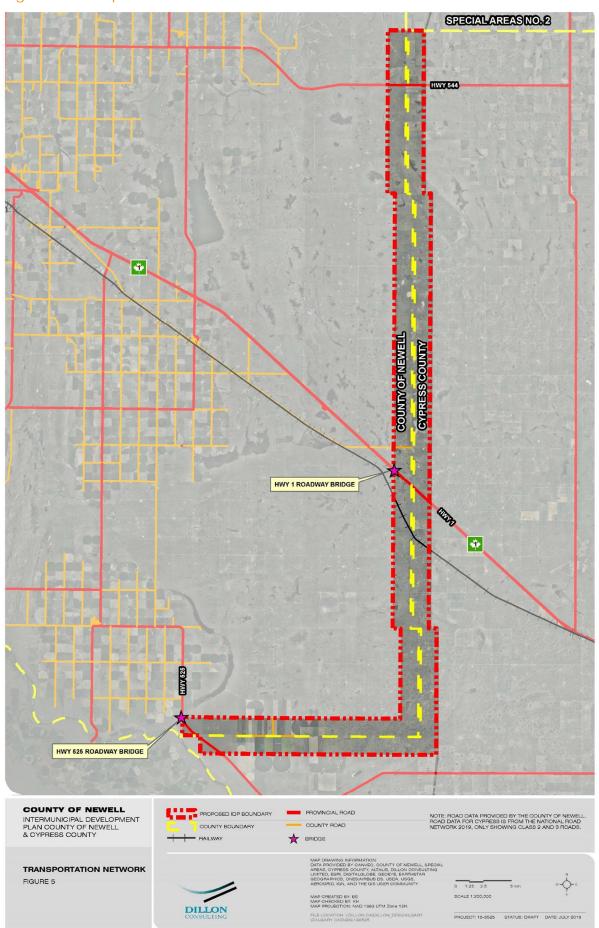


Figure 6 - Oil and Gas Wells and Pipelines

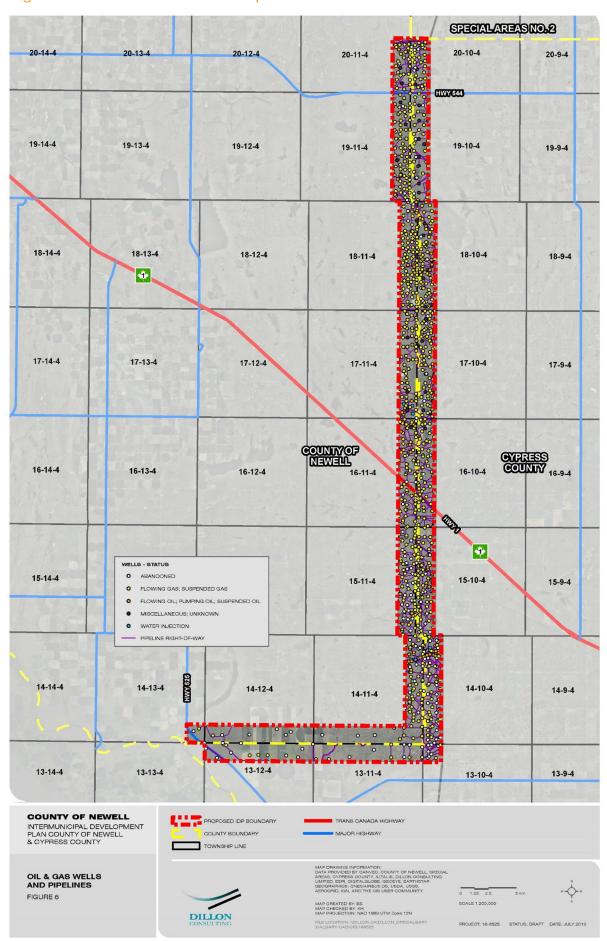


Figure 7 – Historical Resource Sites

