

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** May 25, 2020

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Dave Dyer, General Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works

**SUBJECT:** Asset Management Strategy Update

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Asset Management 2019 Year in Review  
Asset Management Strategy Update PowerPoint

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated May 25, 2020 from the General Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works titled “Asset Management Strategy Update”.

## PURPOSE:

To provide an annual update on the City’s progress with the actions identified in its Asset Management Strategy & Improvement Plan (Roadmap). These actions allow the City to carry out Council’s Asset Management (AM) Policy and meet UBCM Gas Tax funding agreement requirements.

## BACKGROUND:

AM continues to be the avenue for local governments, in BC and across the country, to make informed decisions about the services they provide to their communities and the infrastructure that delivers them now and for future generations.

Municipalities in BC are required to show progress in their AM practices. One of the ways this is enforced is through the UBCM Renewed Gas Tax agreement that provides annual funding the City uses towards renewing its infrastructure. Under this agreement, the City has committed to a variety of actions to improve in AM and will be required to report on the outcomes at the end of the Council term, in 2022. These actions also align with the City’s newly updated AM Strategy & Roadmap.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

AM assists with two of Council’s Focus areas: prioritize infrastructure reinvestment and renewal to ensure the delivery of critical recreation, emergency, transportation, and utility services AND maintain fiscal sustainability and balance service levels with the affordability of City services, facilities, and operations.

The 2020 Workplan Priorities include implementing initiatives related to the AM Strategy so that decisions about infrastructure re-investment can be informed by cost, risk and service levels.

**PROGRESS MADE IN 2019:**

The City completed an update to its AM Policy, Strategy & Roadmap in 2019, with financial assistance from the Climate & AM Network grant program administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). This new roadmap provides the basis for moving towards resilient and sustainable service delivery.

In 2019, several actions were completed in the AM roadmap that also meet some of the commitment obligations in the City's Gas Tax Agreement with UBCM. The table below attempts to align the City's AM Policy principles with UBCM's AM Progress Areas and lists the completed actions:

CPG AM Policy Principle & Roadmap Objective	UBCM AM Progress Area	Action Completed
Sufficient Resources	Leadership	Creation of AM Steering Committee
	Integration	Civic Facilities Cityworks Implementation
		Water Pumpstation Cityworks Implementation
	People & Information	Two Staff Received the Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning
		56 New Cityworks Users
Engagement		Talktober 2019 - Infrastructure
Appropriate Information		Asset Data Governance Standards
Informed & Transparent Decisions	Assets	Civic Facilities Assessment Report, Dashboards & Renewal Strategy
		Wastewater Treatment Centre (WWTC) Condition Assessment
		National Water & Wastewater Benchmarking (NWWBI) 2019
		Infrastructure Report Cards 2019
		Sewer Liftstation Condition Assessment and Risk Register
		Water Network Risk Data for GIS
	Planning	Draft AM Plans for Water, Roads, Stormwater, & Parks
Continuous Improvement	Implementation	Indicators of Progress Dashboard

The AM Steering Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis to review progress and provide direction on initiatives and priorities in the AM Strategy & Roadmap and to ensure the City carries out its commitments under the Gas Tax Agreement. For further details on each action, see the Asset Management 2019 Year in Review Report attached.

**NEXT STEPS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND:**

An important action item identified in the AM Roadmap is to define and document current levels of service for each major infrastructure asset category (i.e. drinking water, sewer, transportation). The Level of Service Development project began in early 2020 and will be completed this year. Council and public engagement activities are expected to occur in the Fall of 2020.

Asset condition data is a crucial piece of information to use when deciding on where and when to spend funds and to keep the City's assets in good working order. It is best practice to conduct condition assessments every 3-5 years. This also helps determine how long assets are lasting. Condition assessment of paved roads and street signage inventory collection is occurring this summer, as well as, civic buildings including the Bob Harkins Library, City Hall, Elksentre, Civic Centre, and CN Centre. Civic parking lots will also be inspected this year to determine condition and prioritize pavement renewal.

An item in this year's Corporate Workplan is to develop an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) that will provide the data necessary to identify the City's stormwater management and infrastructure current reality and its importance. This project is expected to complete in 2021 and will include Council and community engagement.

Developing a risk management framework that outlines the types of risks to meeting service levels is another critical action item identified in the AM Roadmap. As seen in the table on the previous page, a risk register has been developed for the City's sewer liftstations. This development will continue for the other major asset categories and provide information on the probability of an asset failing, what the consequences would be if it failed, and action items to help reduce or eliminate the risk. There may be an opportunity to obtain grant funding from FCM to help pay for this project. This work is planned to start in 2021.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The City needs to continue progressing in AM, not just because it is a requirement to receive funding, but because it allows us to answer the fundamental question: How do we best care for the assets that deliver services to our residents; the very services that they rely on every day?

The community wants safe and sustainable services delivered in a predictable, cost-effective manner. In truth, Prince George residents don't want to have to think about it. They want it to happen without any unpleasant surprises or inconvenient disruptions. This is the main reason why continuous improvement in AM is crucial. The City will continue to apply the concepts and actions identified in Council's AM Policy and the AM Strategy & Roadmap and report back to Council and the community on its progress annually.

#### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Dave Dyer, General Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works

**PREPARED BY:** Kristy Bobbie, Asset Manager

#### **APPROVED:**

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/06/15