

Monthly Report

Planning & Strategic Initiatives

May-2019

Staff continue to refine the results of the Council's Strategic Priority Planning Day held in December. Priority themes, and Potential Outcomes have been through multiple reviews with management staff. A Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles have also been developed, with the goal to provide them for Council's consideration through the budget process.

The VIA Station renovation passed a major hurdle in early May and is now proceeding unimpeded. Although delayed, it is intended that the restaurant will be operational by December. Planning continues to transition responsibility to Facilities Management within the Operations Department.

Project planning for the NSPI Smart Grid Implementation Project is ongoing with a second funding announcement being considered for May. The Solar for Community Buildings program awarded for the Stadium was provided to Council for consideration as part of the Capital Budget.

Further work on implementing the PACE Bylaw revealed a need to make changes to the Bylaw enacted in October 2018, and to create supporting policy for the program. Bylaw amendments, a PACE Policy, a sample PACE Customer agreement, and draft agreement with Clean Foundation are all included in the agenda for this meeting. Staff feel these new documents make the program parameters and processes clearer.

With regard to planning matters, staff held a Public Participation Session on May 1st to get public input on a potential amendment to the Land Use Bylaw that would allow non-electrified, off-lot signage in the Core Area District of the Downtown Zone. A subsequent meeting of the PAC was held May 13th where a recommendation was made to not amend the Land Use Bylaw. This matter will be included in the agenda at the May regular meeting of Council.

Planning also continues to provide planning and development services for the Town of Oxford.