

Costco eyeing Okotoks location

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Shoppers leave the Calgary Costco store off Heritage Drive. Costco has applied for a new location in Okotoks. photo by Candice Ward

Okotoks' shopping selection is about to get a whole lot bigger.

Costco Wholesale is looking to build a store on the Town's south side in the Southbank Business Park.

The company has submitted a development permit application to the Town and the proposal is on the agenda to be discussed at Thursday's Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) meeting.

Shane Olson, Okotoks economic development team leader, said it's a major win for Okotoks to get a Costco location.

"It's definitely a big coup because with it means more stores will follow," he said.

The proposal is for a 151,000-square-foot building with a gas bar, a tire centre and liquor store. The store will be located immediately north of Home Depot. The area's plans also include space for a number of other stores surrounding the Costco location.

Olson said he did not know when the store would be opening.

He has been working with the company on the proposal for about two years after the company first approached the Town.

Olson said the Town is already the region's shopping hub and having Costco in Okotoks only helps to broaden this position by attracting more people to town.

"This is definitely an exciting opportunity for Okotoks. We've been the regional trading centre for some time," he said. "It provides a new era of transition in terms of the other big box stores that will follow."

Okotoks' municipal planning manager Steve Hanhart said there has been no time line for the project submitted to the Town, but if Town approvals are granted, work could conceivably begin this year.

"The potential is there for them to start work this year, but we haven't been advised of what the construction schedule will be," he said.

If the MPC approves the permit application, the company would still require to submit detailed site and engineering plans to the Town.

No one from Costco could be reached for comment before press deadline.