



**REPORT TO THE
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012**

SUBJECT REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

ISSUE

To discuss the Terms of Reference and engagement plan for the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS).

BACKGROUND

As indicated in Report No. PPS-RP 2012-04 considered by Committee in March, a plan for communications and engagement on the RSS is underway in consultation with other Capital Regional District (CRD) departments and the Development Planners Advisory Committee (DPAC). Committee direction is sought regarding the Committee's role during the drafting of the RSS and on the broader community/stakeholder engagement phase.

Refinement of terms of reference (ToR) for the RSS is underway by staff to scope the project. Initial discussions on scope have been held with DPAC and other departments within the CRD. A presentation will be provided to Committee at the meeting of May 2 to illustrate the planned transition of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) to the RSS. Attachments to this report provide an indication of how the nine policy option topics will be worked into the existing five strategic initiatives of the RGS. Some detail is provided on the approach to the work, i.e. review of the RGS, linkages to other plans or sub-strategies. Committee's insights regarding this proposed scope will be sought during the May 2 workshop.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The ToR for the RSS are based on a review of the RGS past performance and account for new and current issues and relevant initiatives, such as changing demographics, climate action and regional transportation. The intent is to generally follow on the framework of the original RGS and update and elaborate as proposed through the policy option briefs, background studies and projections, initial consultations and input, with a view to satisfying legislative requirements and following direction provided by Committee, DPAC and the inter-agency committee (IAC).

The attachments summarize the five strategic initiatives of the RGS, including a very brief synopsis of indicator status relative to targets. This is followed by the proposed RSS structure and approach, showing proposed goals and strategies to be considered in the development of the RSS, as well as an indication of the approach to the strategies, i.e. review, develop new, derive from other CRD plans and strategies. On the right side of the page, is an indication of how the strategies and actions will unfold during the review and drafting phase, in terms of roles for the region, municipalities and other levels of government and agencies.

The presentation will highlight the scope of the balance of the document: context, vision, principles, implementation and enforcement and monitoring, with a view to showing the transition from RGS to RSS.

Committee discussion and direction regarding scope will assist staff in finalizing a draft for consideration by DPAC prior to tendering the project and commencing the review and drafting phase.

ENGAGEMENT

The RSS must be developed in accordance with Provincial legislation and in consideration of Committee direction and advice from DPAC and IAC. With the participation of Committee, DPAC and IAC in the review and drafting phase, the community engagement phase (Phase 2) will focus on improving public awareness and understanding and confirming policy direction, rather than policy development. In order to properly scope this phase, Committee's input is requested during the May 2 workshop regarding the following questions:

- Does Committee agree that the engagement phase of the RSS should be oriented to confirming policy direction?
- What outcomes would a successful engagement generate?
- What challenges and barriers to effective communications and engagement for the RSS might exist and how can they be overcome?
- Are there specific audiences or stakeholders that Committee feels are particularly important to engage on the draft RSS?
- In Committee's view, what methods of engagement would be most appropriate for stakeholder groups? The public?

CONCLUSION

This report and the accompanying presentation to be delivered at the May 2 workshop provide initial terms of reference to scope the transition from RGS to RSS. Committee's input is requested to inform the next draft of the terms of reference to be considered by DPAC prior to tendering and commencing the review and drafting phase. Committee input is also sought on RSS engagement to help inform the communications and engagement plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee receive Report PPS/RP2012-12 titled Regional Sustainability Strategy and authorize staff to proceed with finalizing the terms of reference, in consultation with Development Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC), prior to tendering the project.

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Concurrence