

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, January 17, 2001

SUBJECT:

Status of Discussions Regarding the Preparation of a Regional Transportation Strategy

BACKGROUND:

- Oct 11, 2000: Committee-of-the-Whole reviews the findings of Capital Summit 2 and recommends to the Board that staff be authorized to prepare a draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) on the basis of the findings.
- Oct 18, 2000: Regional Planning Committee reviews preliminary project descriptions and implementation options for regional strategies for transportation, economic development and housing affordability (Agenda Item #5). The Committee directs staff to initiate discussions with prospective partners in the three strategic initiatives and report back to the Committee beginning in January 2001.
- Nov 8, 2000: The Board authorizes Regional Planning Services (RPS) to prepare a draft RGS.
- Nov 15, 2000: RPC directs staff to send a letter to BC Transit requesting their assistance in the development of an outline of a collaborative and inclusive process to prepare a regional transportation strategy. Project management structure, budget, funding and timelines required to conduct the process are also to be developed (Attachment A – letter to BC Transit; Attachment B – BC Transit response).

DISCUSSION

Chairman Causton's letter was received by BC Transit in mid-December. Since that time BC Transit and CRD Regional Planning Services staff have met on December 15, 2000 to discuss the approach to the project and its relationship with the Regional Growth Strategy. Meetings with Provincial agencies regarding appropriate levels of involvement and funding participation are scheduled. This report is intended to provide a status of this work at the January 17, 2001 meeting of the Regional Planning Committee.

The next step in the process is developing a work plan and project management plan. The overall process is viewed to have the following objectives:

- To develop a clear, publicly supported vision of the directions that transportation systems

development should take over the next twenty years that is tightly integrated with land use development and the regional growth strategy.

- To develop a multi-modal transportation management strategy, that reflects the public vision of the transportation system, and the values and policies of regional municipalities and articulates the role of the various travel modes in regional transportation.
- To develop an understanding of transportation issues and transportation systems potential; to identify the barriers to achieving that potential and to investigate strategies for overcoming those barriers in order to achieve the transportation vision.

The study process should be inclusive to ensure that the transportation vision and the resulting strategies to implement that vision clearly reflect the public goals. It should be staged and make maximum use of the work already undertaken for various transportation or growth strategy projects.

The project team that would develop the strategy would report to the CRD Board through the Regional Planning Committee under terms of reference established by the Board. The project management structure envisaged for the project would include three primary directing bodies:

1. A project management committee (up to 5 individuals) including BC Transit, CRD staff and representatives of other critical or funding agencies would be responsible for the on-going management of the project and associated consultants;
2. Standing CRD committees, such as the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC), Advisory Regional Transportation and Planning Committee (ARTPC), and the Intermunicipal Planning Advisory Committee (IMPAC), would provide the liaison to regional municipalities and agencies; and,
3. An Advisory Committee of 15 to 20 individuals representing transportation systems users and affected groups including for example, the Greater Victoria Cycling Association, trucking and automobile associations, community association representatives, social agencies, the development industry and business representatives. This committee would provide advice on the development of the vision and related strategies and comment regarding the impact of various strategic alternatives

Over the next month efforts will be directed to developing a work plan to achieve these objectives and the development of a proposed project management and advisory structure. These items, together with project deliverables, time-lines, budget and funding proposal will be returned to the Committee for its consideration by its March meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

R.H. Irwin, President and CEO
BC Transit

Mark Hornell, Acting Manager
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director