

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, April 18, 2001

SUBJECT:

Regional Growth Strategy Update

BACKGROUND:

Nov 8, 2000: The Board authorizes Regional Planning Services (RPS) to prepare a draft RGS and to circulate it to member councils for review and comment prior to the introduction of the RGS bylaw for 1st and 2nd reading.

Feb. 28, 2001: The Board authorizes publication and distribution of the *Proposed Regional Growth Strategy for B.C.'s Capital Region* for pre-bylaw review and comment to the end of July, 2001.

Mar 28, 2001: The Board authorizes initiation of projects to develop a regional transportation strategy and a regional housing affordability strategy and allocates \$80,000 and \$50,000 to each project respectively from the 2001 RGS budget contingency. The Board further authorizes staff to enter into discussions with the proposed Capital Enterprise Partnership on terms of reference for preparation of a regional economic development strategy, and allocates \$35,000 from the 2001 RGS budget contingency as a contribution to cost sharing and contingency costs associated with the project.

DISCUSSION:

Review of the Proposed RGS:

The Proposed Regional Growth Strategy for the Capital Region has been distributed to all member councils, participating ministries and agencies of government, First Nations councils, neighbouring jurisdictions and others for information and comment. The deadline for comments back to the Board through the Regional Planning Committee is July 27, 2001. Copies of the Proposed RGS have been distributed to libraries throughout the region, the print and broadcast media, and has been posted on the CRD website at:

www.crd.bc.ca/regplan/RGS/Reports/draftrgs.htm.

At this time, presentations by RPS have been arranged with the City of Victoria (Thursday, April 19) and the District of Oak Bay (Monday, May 14). Another meeting with the Township of Esquimalt council is pending in early May. Shortly, RPS will circulate another letter to participants providing 11 X 17 subregional maps of the growth management concept map, along

with a request to identify any other custom map formats that may be required to undertake a review of the proposed RGS.

Regional Transportation Strategy:

As noted in the previous agenda item, contributory funding will be secured from BC Transit shortly for this project. Contributions to the project from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) and the BC Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) will be made through BC Transit. Staff from RPS will be working over the next several weeks with representatives of BC Transit to finalize the project description for presentation to Regional Planning Committee. As well, RPS will prepare a draft section 176 agreement (*Local Government Act*) for discussion with the other funding partners in the project. Once general agreement has been secured at the staff level from the partner agencies, a draft agreement will be presented to the Committee and the Board for review and approval.

The Regional cycling Strategy is also moving forward. The sub-committee is working on the following deliverables related to a cycling strategy as input into the Regional Transportation Strategy:

- Guiding Principles
- Objectives & Actions
- Regional Cycling Network Map
- Design guidelines
- Priorities
- Implementation & Monitoring

Regional Housing Affordability Strategy:

BC Housing has made a \$25,000 cash contribution to the project. Funding commitment from the Capital Health Region is still being sought and is expected shortly. RPS staff will prepare a draft section 176 agreement for discussion with the funding partners and eventual review and approval by the Committee and the Board.

Over the summer, staff will be working on the detailed work plan and on the description and structure of the Steering and Advisory Committees.

Regional Economic Development Strategy:

Glenn Tyrrell, CEO of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce has indicated that the Capital Enterprise Partnership expects to be established as a society by the end of April 2001. RPS staff will begin work to prepare a draft section 176 agreement for discussion with the new society once it is established.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

Mark Hornell, Acting Manager
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

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