

## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

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

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### **SUBJECT:**

Regional Transportation Strategy Planning Grant

### **BACKGROUND:**

- The Province of BC Planning Grant Program provides grants for Regional Growth Strategy projects covering up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$225,000 in any one year.
- A Board resolution is required to apply for a Planning Grant for the 2001/2002 provincial fiscal year for work to be undertaken for the Regional Transportation Strategy.
- On March 28, 2001, the board resolved that the CRD apply for a planning grant for the Regional Transportation Strategy after April 1, 2001.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **Overview:**

To date, six planning grants have been received for the CRDs Regional Growth Strategy project (the planning grants are provided on a provincial fiscal year basis rather than on a calendar year basis). One other grant has recently been approved (see agenda item 10a) for work scheduled between April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002. These provincial grants include:

1996:	\$222,390	received
1997	\$198,750	received
1998	\$25,000	received
1998	\$200,000	received
1999	\$153,395	received
2000	\$63,750	received
2001	<u>\$97,900</u>	approved
Total to date	\$961,185	

#### **Request for New Planning Grant:**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs, in discussion with the CRD and BC Transit, has agreed to be a one third contributor in the estimated cost of a Regional Transportation Strategy. This strategy would implement initiative 4.1 (Increase Transportation Choice), action 1 of the *Proposed*

*Regional Growth Strategy for BCs Capital Region*, currently the subject of pre-bylaw review by member councils. On March 28, 2001 the CRD Board approved allocating \$80,000 from the Regional Growth Strategy 1.330 budget contingency for 2001 for cost sharing/contingency costs associated with this project. BC Transit was invoiced on March 30, 2001 for \$67,000, which represents their share of the project costs. Subsequent discussions with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs indicate that the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) and the BC Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) have agreed to contribute \$33,000 of a total \$70,000 provincial government contribution to the project. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs initially proposed that all \$70,000 come through a planning grant application. With the participation of MOTH and BCTFA, the amount of the planning grant application would drop to \$37,000.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Regional Planning Committee recommend to the Board that application be made for a Regional Growth Strategy Planning Grant in the amount of \$37,000 for the preparation of a Regional Transportation Strategy.

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Mark Hornell, Acting Manager  
Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director