

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, June 20, 2001

SUBJECT:

Regional Transportation Strategy Project Update

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 (RPC) 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
- January 17, 2001: BC Transit presents a status report to the Regional Planning Committee outlining the anticipated scope of work and identifying potential funding options and project management strategies. The Committee receives the report as information and clarifies that it wishes BC Transit to take the lead role in this process.
- February 23, 2001: Inter-municipal Advisory Committee is provided with a status report on the Regional Transportation Strategy. The Committee expresses support for the project and the terms of reference attached.
- March 21, 2001: Regional Planning Committee is provided with a draft project description and funding plan. The Committee approves project initiation and a budget allocation from CRD as well as a planning grant application

DISCUSSION:

The overall Regional Transportation Strategy process is viewed to have the following objectives:

- To develop a clear, publicly supported vision of the direction that transportation systems development should take over the next twenty years that is tightly integrated with the principles of the Metro Core and Major Centers growth strategy.
- To develop a multi-modal transportation systems management strategy that reflects the public expectations of the transportation system, and the values and policies of area municipalities including specification of the role of the various travel modes in regional transportation.
- To develop an understanding of transportation issues and transportation systems potential, identifying the barriers to achieving that potential and recommending strategies for overcoming those barriers in order to achieve the transportation vision.

The study process will be inclusive to ensure that the transportation vision and the resulting strategies to implement that vision clearly reflect the Regional Growth Strategy. It will be staged and make maximum use of the work already undertaken for various transportation or growth strategy projects. A revised project description is attached that takes into account comments made at the March RPC meeting. (Attachment A). Funding totaling approximately \$217,000 has been confirmed through the following means:

BC Transit	\$ 67,000
CRD	\$ 80,000
Provincial Planning Grants	\$ 37,000
BC TFA	\$ 33,000
Total	\$217,000

As indicated in previous reports, the Strategy project will be managed by BC Transit. A Project Management Committee (PMC) as outlined in Attachment B will provide overall direction to the project. This committee will consist of:

- Bob Irwin, BC Transit (Chair)
- Mark Hornell, CRD
- BCTFA/MOTH
- Dale Wall, Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

Liaison with municipal staff and regional agencies will be focused through the Inter-municipal Advisory Committee. This Committee includes senior staff from all municipalities, provincial agencies and provides an excellent forum for non-political commentary on the work of the project.

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A Stakeholders Committee is recommended to bring the input of transportation system users to the project team. This Committee will be limited to 15 members from business, development, neighbourhood and transportation system users. Recommended Committee membership is detailed on the table below. Agencies will be invited to designate a member for the Committee.

CRD Cycling Sub-Committee and the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition	Urban Development Institute	Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria S
Western Communities Chamber of Commerce	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce	BC Trucking Association
BC Automobile Association	Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce	Greater Victoria Airport Authority
CRD Round Table on the Environment	CARRIG	Saanich Community Association Network
Western Communities Association Network	Saanich Peninsula Community Associations	Victoria Community Association Network

The consultation process envisaged for this project would rely primarily on the two committees identified above to provide feedback and confirmation of the direction of the project. At major milestones of the project, information will be provided to local Councils or to the public through web-based information, newsletters or other appropriate mechanisms. As the project intends to make significant use of public input already collected through the Regional Growth Strategy Project.

There are two first steps recommended to be initiated immediately. Municipal input regarding transportation issues will be sought directly from Councils. Firstly, local councils will be receiving an initial presentation of the project objectives and work plan for information and comment. This process is likely to continue through the summer months given the reduced schedule for Council meetings at that time.

Secondly, the PMC will issue the Project Description to consultants as a Request for Expressions of Interest in order to receive proposals regarding the conduct of the project within the established budget. This process will lead to the development of a detailed work plan, identification of deliverables and schedule.

The project is estimated to require 10 to 12 months to prepare a Regional Transportation Strategy. A Draft Strategy could be provided to the Regional Planning Committee for its consideration by September 2002.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the regional planning committee

- 1) Receive this report as information
- 2) Approve the project description for a regional transportation strategy
- 3) Confirm the Project Management Committee **and associated Terms of Reference** for the project
- 4) Confirm the stakeholders committee membership for the project
- 5) Approve the initiation of the project and invite input from municipal councils

Bob Irwin, President and CEO
BC Transit

Mark Hornell, Acting Manager
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

Attachment
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