

## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 2001

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### **SUBJECT**

Transport Canada Urban Transportation Showcase Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

This report provides Regional Planning Committee members with an overview of two proposals made to Transport Canada's Urban Transportation Showcase Program and the potential role of the CRD and area municipalities in this program.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Urban Transportation Showcase Program**

In June 2001 Transport Canada launched a Federal Government demonstration program as part of its "Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change" called the "Urban Transportation Showcase Program". The Urban Transportation Showcase program is a five-year program that invited Canadian municipalities to submit *an expression of interest* that demonstrate creative and innovative measures for reducing greenhouse gases. These expressions of interests will be assessed on their potential influence on reducing greenhouse gases by such measures as:

- reducing trips through options like telecommuting;
- changing the method of travel to choices such as cycling, walking and transit; and
- improving the efficiencies along road networks through measures such as intelligent transport technologies.

Information for the applications only were made available to municipalities in late August and the timeline of the Showcase Program required agencies to quickly form their ideas, partnerships and submit proposals to Transport Canada by October 31, 2001. This timeline did not allow adequate time to involve committees or councils for prior direction.

The winning proposals could see Transport Canada providing one-third funding contribution for their project up to a maximum of 10 million dollars per showcase project.

#### **Capital Region's Role**

The Capital Regional District was invited to partner with two expressions of interests. At this time the CRD is contributing morale support and technical input into the concepts being considered. Future participation may require both political and financial contribution.

The first proposal was initiated by the City of Nanaimo. This proposal involves regional and municipal jurisdictions throughout Vancouver Island and includes BC Transit, the province and

private partnerships. The Nanaimo proposal seeks to enhance the existing rail corridor from the CRD to Courtney as a viable passenger facility that links all major Vancouver Island communities. The potential of serving a population base of 800,000 more effectively could benefit both the goal of reducing greenhouse gases and strengthening the economic base of all regions on Vancouver Island.

The City of Victoria submitted the second proposal. Their partners in this submission include the CRD, BC Transit, area municipalities, the school districts and the province. This proposal seeks to build on the existing Douglas Street transit corridor that links downtown Victoria to the regional municipalities. The concept would build on the existing transit system by integrating other modes, improving the marketing of transit, introducing traffic management information systems and introducing a much-needed co-ordinated transportation management strategy for the region.

Both proposals are attached for this committee's review. These ideas offer exciting new transportation measures for this region that would complement any future regional transportation strategy and increase the profile of all municipalities in this region.

### **Next Steps**

At this time Transport Canada is considering all and will select 10 to 15 proposals for further development. These proposals will be announced in December 2001. Agencies that are selected will receive \$30,000 each to further detail their project and related business plan and will then have until April 30, 2002 to re-submit their proposal.

The final four proposals selected for implementation will be announced by July 2002 and would have up to March 31, 2006 to complete their projects.

At this time no decisions are needed by the CRD on this matter. If one of the two proposals that may involve the region are selected by Transport Canada, the existing working committees would further detail a business case for the selected project and advise the appropriate agencies of potential future impacts for resources and funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Regional Planning Committee receives this report for information.

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Regional Planning Services

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Mark Hornell, Director  
Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

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