

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, February 20, 2002

SUBJECT:

Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw and Implementation Initiatives Status Update

BACKGROUND:

Oct. 24, 2001: The Board reviews comments received on the pre-bylaw referral of the Proposed Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and recommendations for revision from Regional Planning Committee (RPC). The Board directs Regional Planning Services Department (RPS) to prepare a draft RGS bylaw for review by Committee of the Whole early in 2002. The Board also refers four items to the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) for comment and recommendations back to Committee of the Whole.

The Board approves execution of a partnership agreement with BC Housing Management Commission, Capital Region Housing Corporation, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Capital Health Region, and the Capital Regional Hospital District and a funding contribution of \$50,000 to undertake preparation of a regional housing affordability strategy (RHAS) for the Capital Regional District.

Jan. 9, 2002: The Board approves execution of a partnership agreement with the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society and a funding contribution of \$35,000 to undertake preparation of a regional economic development strategy (REDS) for the Capital Regional District.

Jan. 23, 2002: The Board approves execution of a partnership agreement with BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services and a funding contribution of \$80,000 to undertake preparation of a regional transportation strategy (RTS) for the Capital Regional District.

Jan. 25, 2002: The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) and the Inter-Municipal Planning Advisory Committee (IMPAC) passed a unanimous resolution requesting the Board to give the draft regional growth strategy bylaw 1st and 2nd reading (Attachment A: Minutes of Jan 25/02 meeting).

DISCUSSION:

Partnership agreements have been signed for the RHAS and the REDS and execution is expected shortly of the partnership agreement for the RTS. Consultant selection processes are underway for the RHAS (expected to conclude by March 1, 2002, with contract going to the Board for

approval on March 13, 2002) and the REDS (down to two finalists, expected to conclude by February 15, 2002). BC Transit has concluded the consultant selection process for the RTS and has confirmed Urban Systems as the project consultant.

BC Transit and RPS staff met with Urban Systems project managers on February 11, 2002 to identify agency roles and resources, finalize the project workplan, discuss the scope of consultation, set general project timeline expectations and determine final contract language.

Following the meeting of the IAC on January 25th, RPS completed final revisions to the draft RGS bylaw (CRD Draft Bylaw No. 2952) and sent it to regional solicitor Colin Stewart for review. The draft RGS bylaw and any comments from the regional solicitor will be presented to Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 27, 2002 with a staff recommendation that the draft bylaw be received and given 1st and 2nd reading by the Board. Following 1st and 2nd reading, the RGS bylaw will be formatted and printed for distribution and publication on the CRD website, scheduled currently for the first week of March.

RPS is currently working to define a timeline and notification process for the statutory public hearing and the 120 day referral to member municipalities, the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services required by statute. Part of this includes the preparation and distribution of a project newsletter regarding the RGS bylaw and the three sub-strategies (Foundations 11), formal advertisement of the public hearing, and preparation of press releases regarding the release of the RGS bylaw and the initiation of the three sub-strategies. RPS will also develop a process to deal expeditiously with issues and disputes that arise through the process of council review of the RGS bylaw.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director - Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director
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