

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, May 15, 2002

SUBJECT:

RGS Implementation Strategies Status

BACKGROUND:

- Oct. 24, 2001: The Board authorizes the execution of the Partnership Agreement for the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy (RHAS) and approves the project terms of reference.
- Jan. 9, 2002: The Board authorizes execution of the Partnership Agreement for the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS). The Board further approves the transfer of \$35,000 to the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society (the Society) as a financial contribution to the project subject to receipt of final confirmation of project funding approval from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD).
- Jan. 23, 2002: The Board authorizes the execution of the Partnership Agreement for the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) and approves the project terms of reference.
- Mar. 6, 2002: Telephone notification received from WD that funding for the REDS project has been denied under the joint federal/provincial Western Economic Partnership Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

Work is progressing on all three Board approved RGS implementation strategies. Current status of the projects is summarized below:

Regional Housing Affordability Strategy:

Phase 1 of the RHAS is underway. The Project Management Committee has approved the consultant's work plan and timeline. Work to date includes the following:

- Matrices for Data Assembly for Market Analysis; Local Government Policy, Legislation and Regulations; and Partnership, Financing and Tenure have been developed. Data and reports are being gathered for them here and in the Lower Mainland.
- The Consultation Process & Communications Plan has been developed.
- Notes on the Role of Housing Affordability Partnership (HAP)(with respect to RHAS) have been prepared and discussed, and will be discussed by HAP on May 21.
- Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee were developed, and a letter was sent from the CRD Chair to stakeholder groups regarding their potential membership on it.
- A letter was sent from Chairman Causton to Mayors and Councils regarding the initiation of the project (Attachment A – response from the City of Victoria).
- A News Release (April 27, 2002) was issued announcing project initiation.

- A preliminary design for Workshop #1 was developed, and stakeholders identified for the Focus Groups.

Regional Transportation Strategy:

Phase 1 of the RTS is underway under the direction of BC Transit and project consultants Urban Systems. The first phase will focus on the development of a long-term transportation strategy. Phase 2 will develop an implementation strategy once phase 1 has been completed. Both phases are part of the overall project budget approved by the Board.

Project consultants introduced the project to municipal representatives on the Inter-Municipal Planning Advisory Committee on April 12, 2002. IMPAC resolved to establish a Transportation Strategy Technical Working Group that will include transportation and planning professionals from member municipalities. The technical working group met on April 25th. Terms of reference for the technical working group are being drafted. Following input received from Regional Planning Committee on March 20th, BC Transit is proceeding to establish a Stakeholders Committee for the RTS. Initial contacts are being made to identify membership.

Under the current schedule, meetings with stakeholders and other participants to gather background information, and to identify local goals, objectives and challenges will be completed by June 30. All working papers proposed in the work plan are expected to be complete by December 31, 2002. A draft long-term strategy (completing phase 1) is expected by February 2003.

Regional Economic Development Strategy:

Further discussions with WD indicate that the federal government is prepared to fund the project up to \$100,000 under funds available through their urban development unit. The Society is preparing a further submission to formally apply for this new funding. The submission will include a full budget and list of deliverables for the project. WD has reiterated their concern that the REDS project must result in actions and initiatives that can be implemented.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director - Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: