

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

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

SUBJECT:

Regional Growth Strategy Planning Grant 01021 – Deadline Extension

BACKGROUND:

- The former Province of BC Planning Grant program provided grants for Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) projects covering up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$225,000 in any one year.
- A Board resolution is required to obtain approval for a one-time only deadline extension to an approved planning grant.
- Planning grant 01021 was approved in April 2001, and provides \$97,900 toward costs related to the adoption and implementation of the RGS, with a deadline for request for final payment of March 1, 2003.
- Request for partial final payment totalling \$52,900 of the grant total has been made in 2002, for four of seven project deliverables completed, with the remaining three project deliverables scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.
- The final approved RGS planning grant (RP 02003) provides \$37,000 towards the costs of the *TravelChoices* Regional Transportation Strategy, with a deadline for request for final payment of March 1, 2004.

DISCUSSION:

To date, eight planning grants have either been approved or received for the CRD's RGS project (the planning grants are provided on a provincial government fiscal year basis rather than a calendar year basis).

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	97,900	approved (RP 01021)
2001	37,000	approved (RP 02003)
Total to Date	<u>\$998,185</u>	

Planning grant RP 01021 has seven deliverables:

1. Process to approve the Regional Growth Strategy (excluding any dispute resolution process);
2. Consultation process to approve the regional cycling strategy and initial implementation;
3. Public consultation materials and reports relating to the RGS;
4. Fund second year CRD contribution to the Sustainable Development Research Institute's *Georgia Basin QUEST* model;
5. Develop first draft RGS indicators, benchmarks and monitoring program;
6. Develop first draft Master Implementation Agreement and corporate implementation strategy;
and
7. Process to develop a *pro-forma* outline and approval process for Regional Context Statements.

Unanticipated tasks and delays that added nearly 11 months to the RGS work plan, mean that deliverables 5, 6 and 7 will not be completed by the current grant payment deadline of March 1, 2003. These delays included:

1. the Board's addition of a pre-bylaw referral period into the RGS work plan running from February 28, 2001 to October 24, 2001; and
2. the Provincial Facilitator's extension of the end of the statutory referral period for the RGS Bylaw No. 2952 from August 6, 2002 to October 31, 2002.

RPS will shortly request partial final payment of \$52,900 for the completion of deliverables 1 – 4. RPS expects to complete work and request final payment on the final three deliverables by the end of 2003. As such, the remaining \$45,000 of RP 01021 has been shown as revenue in the 2003 RGS budget.

Since the final three deliverables will not be completed by the current deadline, a request must be made to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services for a one-time extension of the final payment deadline for the remaining \$45,000. The Ministry requires a Board resolution to this effect.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee recommend to the CRD Board, that it request the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to extend the deadline to apply for final payment of Planning Grant No. RP 01021 to March 1, 2004.

Mark Hornell, Director
Regional Planning Services

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES'S COMMENTS:

Diana Lokken, Director
Finance & Corporate Support Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director