

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

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

SUBJECT:

Regional Transportation Strategy Project Update.

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2002 the Board approved initiating the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) project. Final funding was secured and the major stakeholders were identified prior to March 27 allowing for the project to proceed.

This report is intended to provide RPC with an update on the RTS and its schedule and primary reports.

DISCUSSION:

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

- to develop a clear, publicly supported vision of the directions 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, and
- to develop an understanding of transportation issues and transportation systems potential; to identify the barriers to achieving that potential and to investigate strategies for overcoming those barriers in order to achieve the transportation vision.

In June 2002, the RPC considered the first working paper produced by the study. This report outlined the transportation issues facing the region. The report documented the goals of the strategy in support of the Regional Growth Strategy, the overall primary goal being to increase the proportion of travel in the region by transit, cycling, ridesharing and other alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel. This report has been circulated to all regional municipalities.

Two committees are assisting the strategy – a stakeholders committee comprising of transportation system users and agencies and a working group comprised of planners and engineers from local municipalities. These two groups have met to assist in the preparation of working papers on the various areas of interest to the strategy.

The Truck Network Strategy and Bicycle Strategy are nearing completion and draft working papers will be available prior to Christmas. Other components are less well developed. It is expected that the Transit Strategy working paper will also be well developed by that time. Issues such as Funding and Administration will become the focus of the strategy work after the new year.

It is expected that all working papers will be prepared by February, 2003 with a final strategy report following later in the spring. The project is on budget.

	Progress (% complete)
Long-term Strategy	
- Start-up & Issues (Working Paper 1)	100%
- Goals, Objectives & Challenges (Working Paper 1)	100%
- Increasing Travel Choices Strategy	10%
- Bicycle Strategy	90%
- Pedestrian Strategy	10%
- Transit Strategy	30%
- Road Network Strategy	20%
- Truck Network Strategy	90%
- Funding & Administration Strategy	10%
- Land Use – Transportation Strategy	5%
- Summary Document	0%

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receive the attached report as information.

Bob Irwin, President and CEO
BC Transit

Mark Hornell, Director
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director