



2003 BOARD ORIENTATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Regional Planning Services (RPS) Department Mandate, Mission Statement and Goals were prepared in 1996 and are scheduled for review and update in 2003. The Department's current mission statement reads as follows:

Using a regional perspective and our strong local knowledge we:

- *Help the public and private sectors of the regional community to access and understand past, present and future regional issues, trends, and indicators by gathering, analysing and reporting information.*
- *Support a process to develop, implement and monitor a Regional Growth Strategy.*

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

RPS is a regional service jointly funded by the member municipalities and electoral areas of the Capital Regional District, responsible for the following three programs:

1. Regional Information Service (RIS)

- provides a regional perspective of population, employment, economic, development and land use trends.
- Regional, sub-regional and municipal statistics, trend analysis and projections are made available in both published (print and web-based) and unpublished forms to users as varied as elected officials, public agencies, business and others.

2. Regional Transportation Planning (RTP)

- provides the ongoing management of the Capital Region Transportation Information System and Model and a broad range of professional transportation planning

expertise to assist in large projects related to the Regional Growth Strategy or those of local agencies.

- analyses the impacts of actual or projected changes to the transportation system related to local land development and patterns and agency policies for all modes of travel.

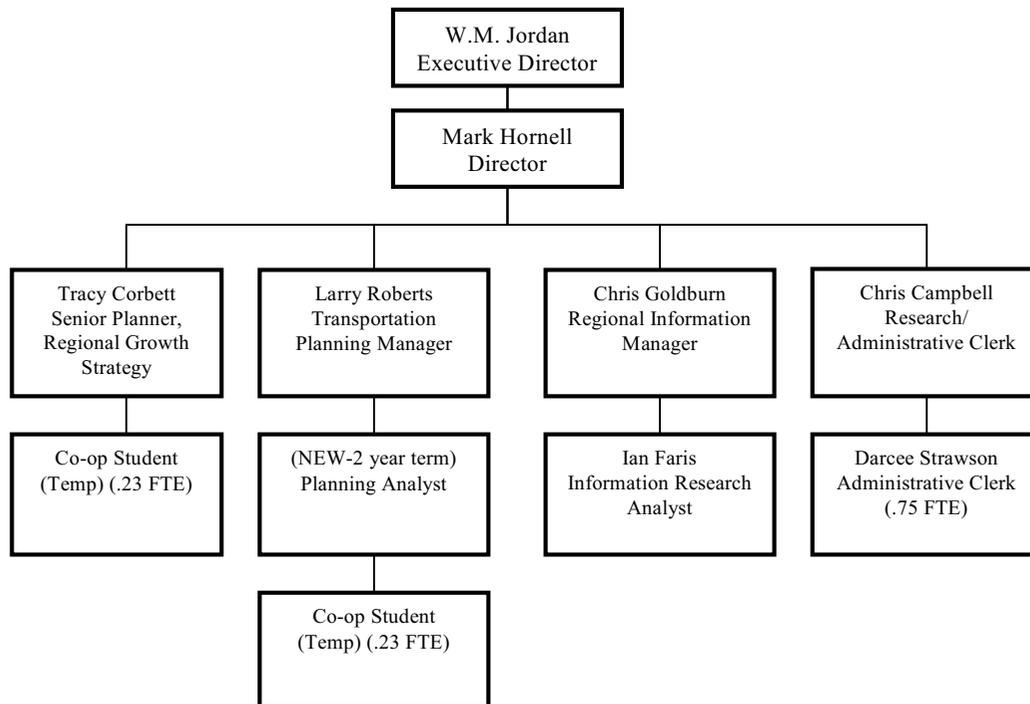
3. Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

- co-ordinates with member municipalities and other partners the development and implementation of a regional growth strategy.
- provides advice and information to the CRD Board and other departments on policies and issues related to the RGS including the ongoing monitoring of its implementation.

INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

RPS is located at 510 Yates Street – on the second and third floors – above Restaurant Matisse. There is an extensive public information display area on the second floor and staff are available to respond to specific requests for information about the region. Included in the display area are numerous fact sheets and reports, both free and for sale. RPS can be reached by telephone at 360-3160, by fax at 360-3159, or through our website at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/regplan/index.htm>

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING SOURCES

Regional Planning Services' primary funding source is the municipal requisition. Between 1995 and 2001 the Department received annual planning grants from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services in support of the Regional Growth Strategy and related activities (to a maximum of 50% of the cost of eligible projects).

Additional revenues are received annually for fee for services provided by staff and for sales of publications including subscriptions to the *Development Review* and *Trends*. Occasionally RPS gets special funding from other government ministries and agencies for projects it undertakes (eg. from BC Transit for work on the Regional Transportation Model).

GOALS FOR 2003

Regional Growth Strategy:

- Completion of dispute resolution process and adoption of the final RGS bylaw.
- Initiation of the RGS implementation process under the slogan, Building Our Future.
- Completion of draft regional strategies for transportation and housing affordability.
- Completion of a draft regional economic blueprint by the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society.
- Completion and approval of the RGS Implementation Plan.
- Preparation of a Master Implementation Agreement.
- Initiation of work on the RGS Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Research and analysis for a Corporate RGS Implementation Strategy.
- Background work and support to the development of regional context statements by member municipalities.

Regional Transportation Planning:

- Data development and reporting on inter-municipal and inter-traffic zone travel including a report subregional travel behaviour, developed from the Regional Origin and Destination Household Travel Survey results.
- Initiation of work to begin the two year project to undertake the 10-year update of the Regional Transportation Model.
- Conversion of 2002 transportation data to digital formats and programming to enable access to transportation data through the Regional GIS.
- Revision of mapping and technical reports on cycling to reflect the recommendations of the Regional Transportation Strategy.

Regional Information Service:

- Analysis and publication of 2001 census information in a variety of product formats including the 2001 Demographic Atlas.
- Initiation in partnership with the City of Victoria and others of an Industrial/Commercial Land Inventory.
- Comparative analysis of 1997 and 2001 employers data and the possible website posting of geocoded data.
- Customer/market survey on RIS and RPS products and the probable implementation of a new marketing program for the department.

General Regional Planning Services:

- Revision and update to the department mandate, mission statement and goals.
- Update of department policies and procedures.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Completion and Publication of Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No 2952: The publication of the bylaw marked a significant milestone in the long and difficult process to adopt a regional growth strategy. The RGS defines a new vision for managing growth a generation into the future, building on and extending the Capital Region's original 1959 regional plan strategy. The bylaw was given 1st and 2nd reading and went to public public hearing early in 2002. Eleven of thirteen member councils, plus the Cowichan Valley Regional District, have accepted the bylaw. The Board has sought direction from the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services on a process to reach final agreement on the bylaw with Sidney and North Saanich.

Negotiation of partnerships and the initiation of regional strategic initiatives for transportation, housing affordability, and economic development: RPS negotiated partnerships to fund and deliver the three RGS implementation strategies. These partnerships include: federal agencies (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation); provincial agencies and ministries (BC Transit, BC Housing, Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services); regional authorities (Vancouver Island Health Authority, Capital Regional Hospital District, Capital Region Housing Corporation); and, the private sector (Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society). All three strategies are currently in process with drafts scheduled for completion in the Spring 2003.

Publication of Regional Transportation Strategy Working Paper No. 1: Recommendations to make cycling a more effective transportation choice in the Capital Region: This publication was prepared with the participation and input of a wide range of cycling stakeholders including staff and elected officials for member municipalities, and represents a significant contribution to the *TravelChoices Regional Transportation Strategy* process.

Completion of a Regional Origin/Destination Household Travel Survey: This project was the first 24-hour household travel survey undertaken in the Capital Region. Data gathering was completed in January and the report published in April. Data analysis for input to the TravelChoices Strategy was undertaken to year-end.

Completion of an update the Employer Database: This project compiled a database of all licensed companies in the Capital Region. Data developed included the number of employees and the mapping of their locations.

Update of the Urban Capacity Inventory Database: New digital linework and polygon boundaries were completed for this inventory of regional development capacity for different housing types, to ensure comparability with the 2001 Canada Census.