

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, July 16, 2003

SUBJECT:

Draft Regional Transportation Strategy (~~RTS~~) Update and the associated short-term Implementation and Recommendation Strategy.

BACKGROUND:

The ~~work plan for the development of a~~ Regional Transportation Strategy project ~~was outlined to Regional Planning Committee at its January 2003 meeting. The~~ deliverables ~~for this work plan~~ include: 1) a series of working papers on key elements of regional transportation, 2) a long-term TravelChoices Strategy, and 3) for the next five year period, a short-term implementation strategy.

The reports respond to the key directions of the Regional Growth Strategy by proposing a broad strategic direction for transportation planning for such regional issues as:

- expanding transit service,
- protecting and expanding the multi-modal role for all major inter-municipal roads,
- expanding the inter-municipal cycling network,
- managing travel demand growth,
- integrating transportation with land use, and
- managing and funding regional transportation.

The purpose of this report is to introduce the final consultant reports titled Draft TravelChoices Strategy (Attachment A) and the Implementation and Recommendation Strategy (Attachment B).

Note: Attachments A and B will be distributed to RPC members prior to meeting.

~~attempt to bring to light potential goals, and direction for mode choices, supporting infrastructure, operating and capital costs and administration of the strategy. Key parts of these working papers will then form the foundation for the overall TravelChoices Strategy. This consolidated strategy will need to balance competing elements. Based on the recommended TravelChoices Strategy, the final report will contain recommend implementation priorities.~~

~~This report provides an update on the work to date on the TravelChoices Strategy. A presentation will be made at the committee meeting by the project consultant who will request input on the draft working papers.~~

DISCUSSION:

Regional Planning Committee has now reviewed all of the working papers associated with developing a Regional Transportation Strategy, which included:

- Goals and Objectives for the TravelChoices Strategy – working paper #1,
- Commercial Vehicle Strategy – working paper #2, ~~and~~
- Bicycle Strategy – working paper #3.
- Transit Strategy – working paper #4.
- Network Strategy – working paper # 5

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- Transportation Demand Management Strategy – working paper #6
- Land Use Strategy – working paper #7
- Managing and Funding Regional Transportation – working paper #8

The Draft TravelChoices Strategy consolidates the key principles from the working papers that are needed to advance the regional transportation objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy. The TravelChoices Strategy provides a vision and a broad direction for the next 25 years.

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Given the goals of the growth strategy, the status quo for transportation was not viewed as an option. The TravelChoices Strategy proposes a future for transportation in this region that would see a significant increase in the demand for walking, cycling, transit and ride-sharing while still supporting the use of the automobile. The TravelChoices Strategy is intended to build on the efforts of the many jurisdictions in this region that have been working to reduce the demand for driving alone.

The strategy also identifies other changes to the status quo. It seeks to establish a more consistent funding base for transportation in this region and to establish a better method of managing regional transportation.

Accompanying the broader 25-year TravelChoices Strategy is a proposed 5-year Implementation Strategy. This report focuses on the more important components of the TravelChoices Strategy needed to initiate the long-term strategy and includes a range of multi-modal priorities that were identified during the consultation process.

~~The project management team is working with the Inter-Municipal Planning Advisory Committee (IMPAC), the community-based stakeholder committee and a municipal working group comprised of planners and engineers in the preparation of these working papers. The Regional Cycling Committee has also contributed to the review of the draft cycling strategy. Once each report has cleared the committee review process and is released for review by RPC it is also circulated to all municipal councils as information.~~

~~Each committee has contributed valuable information to these reports. To date there has have been no formal responses from the municipal councils on these reports.~~

~~The Regional Cycling Committee has raised a number of concerns with the draft cycling strategy that have been forward to the project management team. These issues will be addressed in the completion of the Transportation Strategy. The primary issues relate to the standards for regional cycling routes, priorities for improvement and the potential market which may be attracted to cycling.~~

~~Subsequent to the presentation of the roads, transit, and land use working papers, a working paper with respect to the necessary funding and administration efforts necessary to achieve the goals of the strategy will be prepared for discussion.~~

~~The primary components of all working papers and the direction resulting from CRD and municipal consideration of these documents will be summarized in an overall Travel Choices Strategy document. LARRY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE DETAILS OF THE COMMENTS ARE TOO SPECIFIC FOR A REPORT TO RPC. IN ALL CASES, WE ARE GOING TO BE ADDRESSING ISSUES FROM A RANGE OF GROUPS ON THE ENTIRE STRATEGY. THIS APPROACH KIND OF ISOLATES ONE GROUP AS HAVING MORE INPUT. YOUR CALL. cover many topics. The key issues relate to the:~~

- ~~• preferred standard for upgrading major cycling routes;~~
- ~~• potential market and promotion of cycling;~~
- ~~• analysis and recommendation of the priority routes;~~
- ~~• relationship to other strategies; and~~
- ~~• recommendations submitted by the sub-committee in March 2002 and not included in the draft strategy.~~

RECOMMENDATION:

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That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information and provide comments on the Draft TravelChoices Strategy and the Implementation and Recommendation Strategy.

That the Regional Planning Committee make suggestions for any items requiring further work, and for any points that could be prepared as part of a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' for use by councils and the wider community.

That the Regional Planning Committee recommend to the CRD Board that the Draft TravelChoices Strategy and the Implementation and Recommendations Strategy be circulated to the councils of member municipalities and provincial agencies for review and comment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Larry Roberts, Manager Transportation Planning
Regional Planning Services

Mark Hornell, Director
Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director
Attachments (2)
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