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Project Description – A Study of Transportation Funding and Governance Options for the Capital Region

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October 6, 2003**

INTRODUCTION

On January 23, 2002 the CRD Board authorized initiation of a project to prepare a regional transportation strategy, under the direction of BC Transit and through a funding partnership involving the CRD, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. The purpose of the regional transportation strategy is to promote development of a balanced and sustainable transportation system providing the region with reasonable and affordable transportation choices that:

- Support the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS);
- Enhance regional quality of life;
- Supports the region's economy;
- Minimizes negative impacts on the environment and associated resources;
- Ensures the needs for mobility are provided in a manner that is consistent with community objectives and funding resources; and,
- Maximizes the usage of non-auto mode choices in the region.

The project also set out to investigate general funding and governance options for regional transportation, in support of the direction contained in the RGS to establish a permanent and durable framework and mechanism for short, medium and long term transportation planning, governance and funding in the Capital Region, within three years of the adoption of the RGS bylaw.

This project description outlines a proposed study into regional transportation governance and funding that builds on the work already completed for the regional transportation strategy, and supports further Board discussion of this matter.

BACKGROUND

Regional Context:

The CRD occupies 2,420 square kilometres (934 square miles) of southern Vancouver Island and is home to approximately 330,000 people, the majority of whom live in the southeast corner of the region around Victoria, the provincial capital. Greater Victoria is the largest urban area on Vancouver Island and the second largest metropolitan area in British Columbia. The Capital Region is forecast to grow to a population of approximately 418,000 over the next 25 to 30 years.

Regional Growth Strategy:

The CRD's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) was adopted by the Board in August 2003. The RGS Bylaw sets forth a growth management vision focused on rural protection and urban containment, articulated through the establishment of a series of major urban centres, and the accommodation of future growth through infill and intensification along transit corridors and proximate to established multi-use centres. A key implementation initiative of the RGS is the preparation of a regional transportation strategy, and the development of a stable integrated model of transportation governance and funding for the Capital Region.

***TravelChoices* Regional Transportation Strategy:**

The *TravelChoices* Regional Transportation Strategy project, is a key implementation initiative of the RGS. The project was prepared for the CRD under the direction of BC Transit, and a project management committee that included representation from the following funding partners: BC Transit, CRD, Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. The project consultant was Urban Systems Ltd., and the consultant's final report and recommendations have been approved for circulation for review and comment by the CRD Board.

In support of the stated goals of the RGS, the mission of the *TravelChoices* Strategy is "...to increase the proportion of walking, cycling, transit and ridesharing and the use of other alternatives to driving alone." *TravelChoices* presents an integrated transportation strategy that focuses on three strategic themes: integrate land use and transportation, enhance alternatives to driving alone, and manage roadway investments.

The project included within its terms of reference, the identification of funding, governance and authority necessary to implement the strategy's priority actions. This was directly addressed in working paper No. 8 (Managing and Funding Regional Transportation), and through the identification of funding and organizational principles,

potential sources of funding, and the identification of general organizational models for managing regional transportation.

The final consultant's report recommends that to implement the TravelChoices Strategy beyond the next five years, the CRD Board should establish a committee to investigate the long-term opportunities for funding and managing regional transportation facilities, services and programs, including the development in more detail, of optional organizational models that could be implemented in the Capital Region.

Information Available:

Copies of the CRDs Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw, the final consultant report for the *TravelChoices* long term transportation strategy and short term recommendations, and other background reports are available for viewing on the CRD web site at: www.crd.bc.ca/regplan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to build upon the work completed by Urban Systems in the *TravelChoices* Regional Transportation Strategy by:

1. Undertaking a review of the recommendations and research completed for the *TravelChoices* regional transportation strategy project, in particular research and recommendations related to transportation governance and funding;
2. Providing additional and more detailed information to the CRD Board and other partners regarding workable options for regional transportation governance and funding in the Capital Region; and,
3. Providing a basis of research and analysis of existing transportation governance models that could serve as a starting point for any Board appointed committee struck to investigate long term opportunities and defined, practical models for planning, funding and managing transportation in the Capital Region.
4. Identifying principles for the development of a "made in the CRD" transportation governance and funding model, and a short list of options for consideration.

PROJECT TASKS

Pending the development of a detailed work plan, the following project tasks have been identified:

1. Prepare and circulate a call for expressions of interest to qualified consultants and evaluate submissions received and define a short-list of qualified consultants.

2. Finalize the project terms of reference, budget and proposed timeline.
3. Prepare and distribute a full request for proposal (RFP) to short-listed consultants, evaluate proposals received and retain a preferred consultant to carry out the project.
4. Undertake a review of the *TravelChoices* Strategy and implementation recommendations, focusing on work related to transportation governance and funding, aimed at confirming and where necessary revising or enhancing the research findings completed.
5. Meet with *TravelChoices* funding partners, Regional Planning Committee and other stakeholders as necessary to refine principles for transportation governance and funding consistent with the scope and recommendations of *TravelChoices*.
6. Identify a range of existing transportation governance and funding mechanisms that in general terms, meet the principles identified for the Capital Region in *TravelChoices* and through this project, evaluating them for their strengths and weaknesses as possible models for the Capital Region.
7. Prepare a draft report to Regional Planning Committee and the Board that summarizes the findings of the research and the evaluation, and which recommends a short list of possible models (including modifications if necessary) for consideration for the Capital Region.
8. Present the findings of the report to *TravelChoices* funding partners, project stakeholders and Regional Planning Committee and the Board.

MANAGEMENT

CRD Regional Planning Services Department (RPS) will manage the project on behalf of the CRD, reporting to the Board's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) on project status and progress. RPS will:

1. Coordinate the project work plan through RPC;
2. Retain project consultants following the Board's adopted policies and procedures;
3. Coordinate all consultants and resources needed for this project;
4. Facilitate any coordination with provincial ministries and agencies, member municipalities and other stakeholders; and,
5. Advise the Board through RPC at key milestones or as key decisions are needed to advance the project.

FUNDING

Funding for this project comes from the budget established by the CRD Board and project partners for the *TravelChoices* Regional Transportation Strategy. A final project budget will be established following the review of consultant expressions of interest received, prior to the issuance of a full request for proposal.

TIMELINE

This project will be initiated before December 31, 2003. A final project timeline will be determined following a review of consultant expressions of interest received, and identification of a successful consultant.