

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, April 21, 2004

SUBJECT:

Regional Transportation Governance Considerations: A Discussion Paper

BACKGROUND:

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| Jan. 23, 2002 | The CRD Board authorizes initiation of a project to prepare a regional transportation strategy. |
| Sept. 17, 2003 | The Regional Planning Committee directed staff to prepare a project description for a consultant study into transportation governance and funding options for the Capital Region, for review and discussion. |
| Oct. 15, 2003 | A proposed project description was reviewed by the Regional Planning Committee. Committee members concurred that such a study should wait until FY 2004 and the municipal review of the <i>TravelChoices</i> Strategy. |

DISCUSSION:

The regional transportation strategy, prepared as an implementation component of the Regional Growth Strategy, contains a comprehensive range of objectives, policies and actions for meeting future transportation needs and growth strategy objectives. Implementing such a strategy will require complementary decision-making and investments. Current transportation roles and responsibilities are shared among various agencies, the province, the regional district and the member municipalities. This particular arrangement is not adequate to manage and fund an integrated and multi-modal transportation system – as envisioned through the *TravelChoices Strategy*. As such, the *TravelChoices Strategy* contains some recommendations regarding the management and funding arrangements for regional transportation.

The *TravelChoices Recommended Implementation Strategy* contains the following recommendation pertaining to governance:

- 8.1 It is recommended that the CRD Board establish a Committee to investigate the long-term opportunities for funding and managing regional transportation facilities, services and programs as presented in the *TravelChoices Strategy*. The Committee should develop in more detail optional organizational models that could be implemented in the Capital Region. The Committee should also be responsible for consulting with

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municipal, regional and provincial agencies during the process of developing a Capital Region solution.

Attachment A is provided as information for any future discussions on transportation governance. The report is not a governance report: it is intended as a discussion paper on governance issues, and to provide members of the Regional Board and Councils with some background information on various governance models.

Options for addressing the governance requirements for future transportation planning may range from modest changes to existing decision-making bodies to the establishment of a separate transportation authority with responsibility for all transportation modes, and every variation between these two. Additional work will be required to assess the costs and benefits of various governance arrangements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report and refer it to the Board for information.

RGS CONSISTENCY:

Yes. The regional transportation strategy was prepared as an implementation component of the Regional Growth Strategy. The proposals within the regional transportation strategy, referred to as *TravelChoices*, are intended to implement many of the RGS objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Tracy K. Corbett, MCIP
Senior Planner, Regional Planning Services

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director, Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director