

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, January 19, 2005

SUBJECT:

Final 2005 Budget Considerations: Smart Growth BC Corporate Membership; Proposed CRD MetroQuest Model; and Economic Blueprint Funding Request

BACKGROUND:

Nov. 17/04: As part of the review of the draft 2005 budget, the Committee added \$1,000 to the 1.324 budget for the cost of a corporate membership in Smart Growth BC, with the request that staff obtain information on the cost of corporate membership in Smart Growth BC, and report back to the Committee in January 2005. Further, that the removal of \$150,000 in single supplementary funding from the 1.330 budget for the MetroQuest model, be reconsidered in light of a presentation comparing the functionality of the proposed MetroQuest model with the ESRI Community Viz extension tool, at the January 2005 meeting.

Nov. 24/04: The Board referred the revised Economic Opportunities Blueprint to RPC for review and comment. In the oral presentation to the Board, Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership representatives indicated that they hoped the board would be able to contribute funding in the order of \$35,000 towards the completion of an implementation plan for the Economic Blueprint.

DISCUSSION:

Smart Growth BC Membership:

As indicated on membership application form shown in Attachment A, a municipal membership for the Capital Regional District would cost \$1,000 per annum based on a population for the region greater than 50,000.

MetroQuest/Community Viz:

By the agenda deadline for this meeting, information on the functional attributes costs of the CommunityViz GIS extension tool have not yet been received from ESRI Canada. The CRD's GIS coordinator is currently seeking this information, which if submitted prior to the meeting, will be presented to the Committee along with a pro/con comparison with Envision Sustainability Tools' MetroQuest model.

Economic Opportunities Blueprint Funding Request:

The Board has referred the revised Economic Opportunities Blueprint to RPC for review and comment, which is scheduled for the February 16, 2005 meeting. Following a verbal request made to the Board on November 24, 2004, for funding in the order of \$35,000 as a contribution to the implementation of the blueprint, the society has submitted a letter to the Chair and Board requesting this funding contribution, for which Western Economic Diversification has committed matching funds, contingent upon the CRD's approval of the funding request (Attachment B). At this time there are no funds budgeted in the 2005 RGS (1.330) budget for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

RGS CONSISTENCY:

N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director of Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director