

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT  
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, September 21, 2005

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**SUBJECT:**

A Partnership Agreement between BC Transit and the Capital Regional District (CRD)

**BACKGROUND:**

- April 2005      CRD Board approves the region's first transportation strategy – TravelChoices.
- May 2005      Agreement in Principle on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues under the New Deal for Cities and Communities signed on April 15, 2005 is presented to Regional Planning Committee. The agreement outlines a five-year funding plan where 50% of the monies will be released subject to submissions made by Regional Districts and other communities.
- May 2005      CRD Board approved that the region initiate discussions with the Greater Victoria Transit Commission regarding the negotiation of a partnership agreement for TravelChoices implementation and, in particular, the submission of joint funding proposals under the New Deal for Cities and Communities; and that the implementation of TravelChoices be identified as the CRD's first priority for funding from the Strategic Priorities Fund, once established.

**DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress to date to establish an agreement with BC Transit to jointly advance the goals of TravelChoices and to work together in setting priorities and annual work plans.

To implement the TravelChoices Strategy, the region needs an ongoing and sustained funding source. For the first five years, it is estimated that the region, its member municipalities, BC Transit and Ministry of Transportation will need to invest in the scale of \$50 million. The funding would focus on projects that service all modes – walking, cycling, transit and intersection capacity improvements.

Along with funding, cooperation between agencies is equally important. Many agencies will be competing for Federal and provincial funding for transportation projects. By working together, the CRD and BC Transit can maximize the opportunity for funding under the New Deal for Cities and Communities along with other funding programs from

senior governments. The draft agreement between BC Transit and the CRD is attached (Attachment A).

Once the agreement between BC Transit and the region is endorsed, work can begin on inventorying transportation priorities in this region, short-listing the priorities and recommending an action plan. Regional Planning Services has initiated a Request for Expressions of Interest to consultants for undertaking the inventory work. The inventory work will start in October and be completed by March 2006.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Regional Planning Committee recommends to the Board that:

- a) A Partnership Agreement Regarding the Implementation the Regional Transportation Strategy for the Capital Region with BC Transit be approved; and that
- b) The Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Capital Regional District.

**RGS CONSISTENCY:**

This agreement is required to further the implementation of the TravelChoices Strategy.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:**

Initial implementation of the agreement will be funded through existing program budgets. Any new programs or budgets that flow from the agreement in future years will require Board approval through the annual budget process

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Larry Roberts  
Manager, Transportation Planning  
Services

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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Director, Regional Planning

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:**

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Kelly Daniels  
Chief Administrative Officer