
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 8, 2007

FILE: 0230-20

TO: City Manager

FROM: Transportation Manager

RE: **Applications for Senior Government Funding – Transportation Planning**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council supports a joint application with the City of Vernon to the UBCM Innovations Fund for capacity building funds to undertake an integrated inter-regional transportation planning initiative.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this project is to develop and apply an integrated land use/transportation analysis model to evaluate alternative land use and transportation strategies for the Cities of Kelowna and Vernon. The land use and transportation management strategies should reflect Smart Growth principles, that is principles which promote sustainable development and encourage travel by modes other than single occupancy vehicles. To be multi-modal, the strategy must consider alternative travel modes including walking, cycling and public transit, as well as goods movement, apply travel demand management principles and practices to support sustainability, define land use and transportation measures to monitor performance of the management strategies, and develop a transportation funding strategy to sustain the mobility for this inter-regional area.

Over the past 10 – 15 years, the two municipalities have undertaken a number of transportation studies. In 1995, the City of Kelowna developed a transportation plan for the city which, although focused on road requirements, provided broader recommendations for public transit, walk and cycle improvements, as well as travel demand management (TDM) measures. A few years later in 2001, the City of Vernon also developed a transportation plan for the city which also focused on road requirements, but contained guidelines for development of non-auto modes of travel.

The City of Kelowna's transportation planning model is now in need of updating. The current planning model was developed in 1998 and was the basis of many long-range planning initiatives including the Okanagan Valley Transportation Plan Phase B and the City of Kelowna's 20 Year Road Network Plan. The need to create a new and longer term Official Community Plan beyond 2020 comes with the need to update our City and/or regional transportation model.

The area for which the land use and transportation model is to be developed includes the greater Kelowna and Vernon areas. This area supports a population approaching ¼ million persons, is the third largest municipal region in the province and one of the fastest growing regions in BC. The population of the combined region is projected to double in 20 – 25 years.

As the regions experience high levels of growth, land use development and transportation requirements will become more and more intertwined. Transportation improvements will encourage longer commuter trips, while expansion of such land use activities as the UBC Okanagan, the Interior Health Authority and the Kelowna Regional Airport will extend the need for improved road and regional transit systems to provide access to these facilities.

In recognition of larger inter-regional mobility interests and common urban transportation interests, Transportation Division staff recognizes the need for integrated land use and transportation planning strategies developed at an inter-regional scale. These strategies need to be truly multi-modal, that is include plans for regional transit systems, walk and bicycle networks to meet travel demand in addition to the automobile mode.

The preparation of a Sustainable Mobility and Inter-Regional Transportation Strategy will build on such initiatives as the Okanagan Partnership Metro Quest Project currently underway, the Central Okanagan Smart Transit Plan recently completed, and the Travel Demand Management Principles for the Central Okanagan Region developed in 2004. These initiatives have proved very successful in encouraging smart growth in the Central Okanagan Region, and have achieved national recognition. Incorporating and expanding these smart growth principles throughout the region will benefit the larger region.

Partnership(s)

During 2006, we became aware of the **City of Vernon's** interest in developing a transportation model and working with the City of Kelowna. Joint discussions have continued and there are mutual interests to not only work together on model development but also on applying the model to **integrated and sustainable inter-regional transportation planning**. Work will commence shortly to undertake household travel surveys that are required for model development.

We are fostering additional partnerships in this initiative with other agencies including BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and other local/regional governments.

Project Phases

The project is currently proposed to be broken into phases as follows:

1. Comprehensive land use and travel surveys, selection and development of an integrated land use / transportation demand forecasting model. \$700,000 (2007)
2. Application of the integrated land use transportation demand forecasting model to test alternative land use/transportation strategies leading to selection of a preferred, multi-modal, sustainable transportation management strategy for the region. \$600,000 (2008)
3. Evaluation and selection of sources of funding to sustain the development of the transportation plan. \$200,000 (2008)

The first phase encompasses both the North and Central Okanagan Regions. Partnerships will be sought with other local governments for the second and third phases but as a minimum it would be advantageous for the two Cities to proceed with this work.

This inter-regional planning initiative fits under UBCM's category of capacity building. The initiative is intended to look at sustainable funding programs for all modes of inter-regional transportation. **The deadline for funding applications is February 16, 2007.**



Ron Westlake, P.Eng.
Transportation Manager

Approved for inclusion:
John Vos
Transportation Manager

RW/ms

cc. Director of Financial Services