To Parks, Rec & Culture - Sep 27, 2005

To:	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee	**Date:**	September 12, 2005
From:	Kate Sparrow Director, Recreation and Cultural Services	**File:**	07- 3425 -02
Re:	**Youth Strategy Update**		

Staff Recommendation

1. That staff work collaboratively with community partners and stakeholders to proceed with the development of a 3-year Youth Service Plan and report back to Council with the completed Plan.

Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation and Cultural Services

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY TAG   YES ☑   NO ☐
REVIEWED BY CAO   YES ☑   NO ☐

Staff Report

Origin

At the January 24, 2005 Council meeting, the following motion was carried:

> *That a review of the City Strategy for Youth Services document be referred to staff with input by the Richmond Community Services Advisory Council and that the updated document be presented to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee prior to submission to City Council for endorsement.*

This report provides an update on the 1995 City Strategy for Youth Services, discussions with the Richmond Community Services Advisory Council (RCSAC) and the process for updating the Strategy.

Analysis

The City Strategy for Youth Services (herein referred to as the Strategy) was approved by Council on June 26, 1995 (Appendix 1). The Strategy commits the city to the meaningful involvement and contribution of resources for youth. As a planning tool, it has effectively shaped the way the city generates recreation, cultural and social experiences for its youth. What has significantly evolved from our commitment to youth involvement has been an increased level of youth engagement and tools to measure outcomes. Many of these outcomes are best expressed within the Developmental Assets framework, added to the Strategy in 2001 .

The 40 Developmental Assets (Appendix 2) are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to affecting youth. These assets have the power to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

The intentionality to create opportunities for *Asset Building* in each and every action taken with youth is key to fulfilling the City's vision to "*Be the best place in North America to raise children and youth*" which was adopted by Council in February, 2005. The Asset Building philosophy looks beyond singular "programs" and involves an entire community's capacity to build, bridge and nurture positive relationships with its young people. Asset building changes our language to refer to youth as *low asset* as opposed to *at risk*. This significantly alters the thinking to be less "fixing problems" to more building of individual assets. The long term potential of Developmental Assets is to establish qualities such as *social responsibility and personal wellness* so that they are ranked with the same priority as educational benchmarks of academic achievement.

PRCS Role
This Assets framework is helpful in defining our role as a complimentary service to address existing needs in the community. Youth, that are in the care of school counsellors, mental health workers and social service agencies, for example, have a need to be placed in mentoring situations with a secondary goal to transition them to a broader range of skill building and positive social structures.

In 2003 Council approved the hiring of 2 Youth Outreach Workers to enhance the commitment to supporting low asset youth. The outreach workers and city-supported facility based youth

workers have made significant gains in establishing these relationships that bridge the movement of youth with positive role models, safe environments and positive peer supports.

Aligning with Service Providers

A concentrated effort has been put into establishing working relationships with other community based organizations. To date, some of our external partners include: RCMP Youth Intervention Team, Station Stretch/Crossroads/McMath/McNeil/McRoberts and McNair Secondary schools, Touchstone Family Services, Richmond Addiction Services, Vancouver Night Hoops and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. These partners are in addition to the Community Associations. Of note is a very successful partnership with the RCMP and the "+ POS" positive ticketing program. To date over 10,000 tickets have been issued by RCMP members to youth being "caught" doing good things. The tickets are redeemable for a free admission to the City's aquatic, arenas and pitch and putt facilities. One factor key to these successful relationships is a shared understanding of outcomes based on the developmental assets framework. The language, which is becoming more and more universal, allows service providers to look at managing and measuring their work with youth from similar perspectives.

Investing in Youth
Youth involvement is commonly sought out for a host of opportunities such as Youth Week planning, late night programming, parks stewardship and special events such as the City Centre Celebration, Multi-Fest and Salmon-Fest. Youth are being afforded opportunities to develop leadership skills through initiatives based in community service and program planning (Appendix 3). The City is also pleased to have hosted its 7th annual youth recognition awards each May during International Youth Week. These awards, celebrated with friends and parents, serve to acknowledge those youth that make an impact in their community who would otherwise receive little or no recognition for it.

Common practices of soliciting youth input for instances of facility renovations, problem solving local issues and in human resource processes have become important steps in creating and sustaining a culture of youth excellence in the City.

Measuring Outcomes
The design of the Outreach or Roving Leader service is to target low asset youth, many whom are already in the care of existing service providers. These workers function as professional mentors in 1-1 and group settings. Baseline information is established with the referring agency to determine which assets the Roving Leader can best affect. All interactions are then geared towards influencing those assets. Progress reports indicate the responses and changes in developmental assets that occur over time with each youth. A wide and imaginative array of interactions are designed, usually with input from the youth. Anything from watching the shark feedings at the pet store, life skills sessions and even a knitting group are known to be big hits with youth. Significant events and progress are debriefed with each referee in order to maintain consistency in supporting that individual.

Other significant outcomes can be seen in the late night programming and the strength of the respective youth leadership groups in the community centres. Richmond has a reputation in the region for its support of performing artists including freestyle competitions, live bands and break dancing. Creating safe, supported environments provide youth with realistic alternatives to other negative risk taking activity.

Process for updating the Youth Services Strategy

The City met with the RCSAC to provide an update on the Youth Strategy and the impact that it has had on the delivery of youth recreation services since its implementation. Staff elaborated on the proliferation of its recreation, social and cultural opportunities for youth. The City expressed that there was a need to further establish common language and benchmarks among agencies to better serve youth. It was agreed that there is a continued need for a City wide policy to efficiently guide a range of services.

Members of the RCSAC also provided these comments:

1. That the RCSAC needs to determine its role in the future delivery of youth services
2. That the committee would like to have annual updates from the City
3. That the RCSAC be included in the Master Plan process
4. There is a need for a continuum of response to meet the needs of youth across the city

As part of the 2005-15 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan, there are a number of outcomes specifically related to youth services. The Master Plan specifically refers to youth services as follows:

Youth Services
The City of Richmond has declared that Richmond will be the "best place in North America to raise children and youth". The City is committed to building service capacities that can effectively address a range of recreational, social and cultural needs of youth to develop life long skills. Five strategic goals are critical ingredients to realizing a comprehensive and holistic model of service delivery:

1. *Building relationships with youth that are grounded in mentoring, role modeling and engagement*
2. *Creating a diverse range of recreational, cultural and social experiences*
3. *Investing in the recruiting and training of youth workers*
4. *Working effectively with other government and non-government agencies*
5. *Implementing intentional and standard approaches to influencing Developmental Assets*

The City is committed to working with other agencies delivering services to youth to update the Youth Strategy and provide a coordinated approach to Youth Services.

The current Strategy's influence around youth engagement and Developmental Assets will benefit the process in realizing the desired outcomes.

In the fall of 2005, PRCS will begin the process of facilitating the first Phase of the Master Plan to develop its 3 year Service Plan. Staff will work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to ensure the Youth Area plan reflects a service-based approach built upon priorities and trends that meet community need.

This process has been discussed with the RSCAC who have expressed interest in being involved in this process.
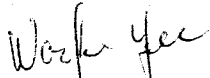
Financial Impact

No financial impact

Conclusion

The City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services has forged many new alliances where our defined role is one among numerous others that are aligned to provide opportunities for youth. These serve to develop youth to work toward being problem free, prepared and engaged individuals.

To achieve the LIVE-CONNECT-GROW quality of life outcomes outlined in the PRCS Master Plan, there will be an emphasis to develop the Youth Service Strategy in collaboration with other agencies. The goal is to achieve service capacities that can influence more youth with less reliance on pilot programs and quick fixes that benefit only a small percentage of youth. The foundation created within the 1995 City Strategy for Youth Services strongly positions us to move toward this goal.

Wayne Yee
Advisor, Youth Services

WY:wy

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

On September 26, 1994, City Council endorsed the establishment of a City Strategy for Youth Services. A working group, representing community associations, community agencies working with youth, City staff, School District, and youth, was formed to undertake the work. **Appendix C** lists those who participated in the Working Group.

This report presents for Council's consideration the City Strategy for Youth Services.

BACKGROUND

Why Do a City Strategy For Youth?

There are good reasons for developing a City Strategy for Youth Services:

1)   A City Youth Strategy implies that youth initiatives are as important as other community initiatives (eg. parks, economic development, seniors, etc.).

2)   The youth population of Richmond is 28,008 (20.4% of Richmond's population) of which 9,300 are pre-teens (10-14), 9,416 teens (15-19), and 9,292 young people (20-24) (Source: B.C. Ministry of Finance, 1995). This trend is expected to remain consistent for the foreseeable future.

3)   Youth and youth issues remain in the forefront of public discussion, debate and concern.

4)   The negative media image of youth in the community is resulting in young people not being considered as valuable members of the community and as an important resource.

5)   The City of Richmond and community associations are investing considerable resources in the form of services, programs and resources to youth as noted in **Appendix D**. While these services have evolved more or less independently of one another, the timing is right to review these services, to evaluate their service delivery systems, and to establish a coordinated approach to the provision of service to youth.

6)   The community is providing a range of programs and services to youth as noted in **Appendix E**. The City's identification of its role for youth, will further clarify a role for community and other institutional organizations to better respond and provide support services and resources to youth.

Development of the Youth Strategy

The Youth Strategy Working Group, co-chaired by Jason Antao and Shachi Kurl of the Richmond Youth Advisory Council, Bill Scott of Richmond Youth Service Agency, and Michael McCoy, Touchstone Family Association, identified four steps to develop the youth strategy. Each step was assigned to a task group to complete the work.

1) *Inventory and Research Group* developed an inventory of key concerns from existing reports and studies on youth. The inventory is available for review by contacting the Community Services Division. **Appendix F** lists the inventory of reports and studies reviewed.

2) *Philosophical Approach Group* defined a methodological approach for how the community should provide services to youth. This group also addressed issues such as youth advocacy and empowerment, involvement of youth in decision-making processes and agency networking. **Appendix A** lists the principles for philosophical approaches to youth, and a Code of Ethics For Youth Services.

3) *Promotion and Public Relations Group* mobilized support for a youth strategy amongst key community stakeholders. It also initiated a process for involving youth in the development of the youth strategy.

   Youth involvement occurred through focus group sessions at McRoberts Junior Secondary School (March 14th), McNair Senior Secondary School (March 16th), Station Stretch Re-Entry Program (April 27th) and Steveston Senior Secondary (May 10th). Copies of each focus group discussion are available by contacting the Community Services Division.

4) <u>Implementation Group</u> consolidated and operationalized the work of the other three groups, and prepared the City Strategy For Youth Services.

An immediate outcome of developing the strategy was that City Council dedicated April 30th to May 6th 1995 as "Youth Week". A youth TV panel show, a variety of community activities and events, and media articles celebrated the contributions made by Richmond's youth.

To date, approximately 250+ students (through focus groups, Youth Advisory Council, TV panel discussion, Health Youth Workshop, general discussions, etc.) have participated one way or another in providing advice, direction, assistance and information into the development of the City Strategy for Youth Services.

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What Are the Youth Telling Us?

Through several reports and studies on youth, the Richmond Youth Health Workshop (November, 1994), Community Cable TV youth panel program, the youth focus group discussions and youth event identified six priority areas of concern for Richmond youth were identified.

1)   **Youth want a place in the community,** a place where they have ownership and can participate in responsibility, feel welcome and safe, socialize, obtain information, and receive services. This point does not refer to any one type of place for youth, but rather to the idea of assuring adequate user-friendly places for youth. While community centres cater to a certain target of youth, another sector of youth desire more autonomy and independence from adult-like facilities. Hence, the call for a separate dedicated space, represents a normal stage in the development of youth in making social contact through hanging out. Suggestions noted include: youth friendly spaces in community centres; youth resource centre/space; convenient health and counselling services, special services for youth at risk (eg. safe houses, etc.).

2)   **Youth want a strong voice and involvement in decisions.** Youth want to be consulted regularly to ensure their views are considered, particularly in decisions that affect them. Creating a positive peer culture encourages youth to take on specific responsibilities and to see them through. Suggestions noted include: incorporating the views of youth in City/community decisions; consultation in the design and operation of youth programs and services (eg. recreation, health, police, etc.).

3)   **Youth want a support base to assist them in their growth and development.** Youth want institutions, like the City, School Board, Health Board, Library Board, community associations, and community groups and individuals to help and advocate with youth to become healthy adults. Youth acknowledge the need for support from adults, but they want this support provided through a cooperative approach. Suggestions noted include: better communications about services and programs; direct access to services (eg. health, recreation, police, etc.); more information and education on health matters; more media coverage of the positive contributions that youth provide to the community; and youth workers at community centres.

4)   **Youth want to be seen as positive contributors to the community.** Youth are involved in almost every aspect of Richmond life, from the arts to advocacy. They want the community as a whole to see them as a valuable resource for the community, instead of the negative images that appear in the media. At this time of their lives, acceptance, recognition and fair treatment by adults may be more important than participating in any particular activity. Suggestions noted include: promotion of youth activities; working with media for positive news; annual youth week festivities; creating opportunities for youth to gain an understanding of their City.

5)   **Youth want to know what programs and services are available to them.** Although
        there are many programs offered to youth in the community, many youth still do
        not have access to the activity/program or the opportunity to find out what is
        available. Suggestions noted include: less unstructured program delivery; direct
        information to the students in the schools, classrooms, youth organizations and
        clubs; information presented in a plain, simple, easy to understand, youth friendly
        manner.

6)   **Youth want more education/information about drugs, sex, and health matters.** Youth
        want more education/information about health and related matters, particularly in
        the schools. They believe that this program should begin at an earlier age, and that
        the information should be presented like it really is, and not censored or diluted.
        Many believe that grade 11 and 12 youth already have their minds made up about
        these issues. Coping skills and first aid for substance abuse would be more helpful
        to them. Suggestions noted: start providing education/information in the public
        libraries and schools, and beginning in pre secondary grades; provide the
        information on health issues the way it actually is in the community and
        uncensored.

Illustrative examples of other facilities and programs for youth are provided in **Appendix G**
(Source: Youth Services Alliance of B.C.'s "Focus on Youth: A Resource Manual for Youth
Practitioner")

CITY STRATEGY FOR YOUTH SERVICES

The City Strategy for Youth Services sets the direction for addressing the City's role with and for
youth. The Strategy includes the following six sections:

.   Guiding Principles
.   City Objective For Youth
.   Guides For Action
.   Implementation Committee
.   Interim Working Group
.   The Next Steps Program

The strategy is presented as **Appendix B** of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact will reported back as outlined in "The Next Steps Program" (Appendix B).

CS.05.9525

CONCLUSION

The City and community are already doing much for youth in Richmond. The City Strategy for Youth Services represents the foundation for a dedicated plan of action with and for youth in Richmond.

Kari Huhtala
Social & Community Planner

KEH:keh

Search | *Practical research benefiting children and youth*
INSTITUTE
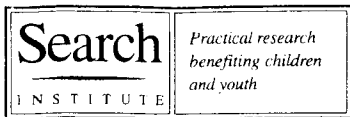
40 Developmental Assets™

Search Institute™ has identified the following building blocks of healthy
development that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

HEALTHY YOUTH®

Category	Asset Name and Definition

External Assets

Support

1. **Family Support**-Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive Family Communication**-Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other Adult Relationships**-Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring Neighborhood**-Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring School Climate**-School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent Involvement in Schooling**-Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

Empowerment

7. **Community Values Youth**-Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as Resources**-Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to Others**-Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety**-Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

Boundaries & Expectations

11. **Family Boundaries**-Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. **School Boundaries**-School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighborhood Boundaries**-Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. **Adult Role Models**-Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. **Positive Peer Influence**-Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. **High Expectations**-Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Constructive Use of Time

17. **Creative Activities**-Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. **Youth Programs**-Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. **Religious Community**-Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. **Time at Home**-Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Assets

Commitment to Learning

21. **Achievement Motivation**-Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. **School Engagement**-Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. **Homework**-Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. **Bonding to School**-Young person cares about her or his school.
25. **Reading for Pleasure**-Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

Positive Values

26. **Caring**-Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. **Equality and Social Justice**-Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. **Integrity**-Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. **Honesty**-Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."
30. **Responsibility**-Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. **Restraint**-Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

Social Competencies

32. **Planning and Decision Making**-Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. **Interpersonal Competence**-Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. **Cultural Competence**-Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
35. **Resistance Skills**-Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution**-Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Positive Identity

37. **Personal Power**-Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
38. **Self-Esteem**-Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. **Sense of Purpose**-Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."
40. **Positive View of Personal Future**-Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

Appendix 3

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Examples of Opportunities Created for and with Youth

Richmond Youth Basketball League
Tickle Me Pickle – Improvisational Drama Group
Plat-Phorm - Art-mentoring program
Girls Groups – Life skills group at McRoberts and McNeill Secondary
After school hip-hop – McNair Secondary
One to one Mentoring – City Wide
After school ice hockey – Richmond Ice Centre - free program
Youth dances –ages 9-12 and 13-18

Leadership Groups:
YTC – Youth Taking Charge – Cambie
MOSAIC – South Arm
SWAT – Steveston with Active Teens
YIA – Youth In Action – West Richmond
BLISS – Being Leaders in Super Spirit – Thompson
McNeill Leadership Group – McNeill Secondary

Mountain Biking Club – Thompson
STK – After school art drop-in
ACS Skateboard Competition
Night Hoops Basketball League
Band Nights – all community centres
Youth Lounge Renovations – South Arm, Steveston, Cambie
International Youth Week Celebrations – all community centres
Mayor's Task Force on Substance Abuse – Film Festival
Community Service Scholarships
Youth and Minoru Seniors Intergenerational opportunities
Hip-hop dances
Youth Culture Fest
Break dance and Freestyle competitions
Surgin' Sturgeons – Richmond Dragonboat Team (placed 1st at Richmond Festival!)
Night Shift – Friday and Saturday late night program
Young Adults Workshops
Environmental Youth Corps
Summer Camps
Free fitness training – West Richmond
Swing Dancing
Warm Clothing Drives

CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Services Committee   DATE: June 2, 1995

FROM: Mike Kirk   FILE: 2190
        Manager, Social Planning and Programs

RE: **CITY STRATEGY FOR YOUTH SERVICES**   **(95-023)**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1.   That the City Strategy For Youth Services (as set out in Appendix B to the report dated June 2, 1995, from the Manager, Social Planning and Programs), be adopted.

2.   That the Richmond School Board, Richmond Public Library Board, Richmond Health Board, and Community Association Boards be requested to endorse the City Strategy For Youth Services, and to participate in the development and implementation of the Strategy.

3.   That formation of an Implementation Committee with representatives from the City, Richmond School Board, Richmond Public Library Board, Richmond Health Board, Community Association Boards and the community's youth, which would comprise a formal structure to oversee and review the implementation of the City Strategy For Youth Services, be endorsed in principle, subject to its endorsement by the other participating organizations.

4.   That City staff, as well as the RCMP, in consultation with community agencies, be requested to prepare an action plan for pursuing the City Strategy For Youth Services, and that staff be directed to submit a report concerning present actions, to Council in 6 months time.

5.   That City staff, as well as the RCMP, in consultation with community agencies, be requested to prepare an action plan for pursuing the City Strategy For Youth Services, and that staff be directed to submit a report to City Council regarding potential actions and requirements for new initiatives, in 12 months time.

6.   That "The Next Steps Program" (as outlined in Appendix B to the report dated June 2, 1995, from the Manager, Social Planning and Programs, be endorsed.

Mike Kirk
Manager, Social Planning and Programs

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109100 /

Staff Report

Origin

TransLink provides shared funding for improvements to road, bicycle and transit-related facilities through three capital cost-sharing programs.

- *Major Road Network (MRN) Minor Capital Program* – Funding for capital improvements of approximately 2,100 lane-kilometres of major roads across the region that comprise the Major Road Network (MRN). MRN-designated roads provide access to important activity centres in the region and meet funding criteria related to trip length and traffic volumes of automobiles, transit vehicles and trucks.
- *Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost-Sharing (BICCS) Program* – Funding for the construction of bicycle routes and the removal of existing barriers to cyclists across the region.
- *Transit-Related Road Infrastructure Program (TRRIP)* – Funding for roadway infrastructure facilities required for the delivery of transit (bus-based) services in the region.

Each year, municipalities are invited to submit road, bicycle and transit-related improvement projects for 50-50 funding consideration from these programs. This staff report presents the proposed submissions from the City for cost-sharing as part of TransLink's 2006 capital cost-sharing programs.

Analysis

1.   Major Road Network (MRN) Minor Capital Program

1.1   MRN Elements in Richmond

Richmond's share of the MRN consists of 130 lane-kilometres, which represents about 6 percent of the entire MRN in the region. Richmond's components of the existing Major Road Network (MRN) are comprised of the following elements:

- No. 2 Road (Russ Baker Way to Steveston Highway including the No. 2 Road Bridge);
- Steveston Highway between No. 2 Road and Highway 99;
- Westminster Highway between No. 2 Road and Boundary Road;
- Alderbridge Way between No. 3 Road and Shell Road;
- Bridgeport Road between Highway 99 and Knight Street;
- Knight Street Corridor (Westminster Highway to south end of the Knight Street Bridge);
- No. 3 Road between Sea Island Way and Westminster Highway; and
- Gilbert Road between Westminster Highway and Dinsmore Bridge.

1.2   Capital Cost-sharing Arrangement

TransLink funding available for the 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program is $20 million as block funding for municipalities. Municipalities are required to match TransLink funding on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis up to a maximum funding level allocated for each municipality based on the following criteria:

- the percentage of MRN lane-kilometres in each municipality (50% weight);
- the municipal share of the combined regional population and employment growth over the 1999-2006 period (25% weight); and
- the municipal percentage of the regional travel growth over the 1996-2006 period (25% weight).

Based on these criteria, Richmond is eligible to receive 9.3% of the annual MRN capital funding (Richmond has 8.1% of the total GVRD population and 6% of the total MRN lane-kilometres), or $1,870,500 in block funding for 2006.

1.3   Submissions to 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program

Based on the current planned capital projects on major roads for 2006 and potential development-related road upgrades, staff have identified the following road improvements as candidate projects for submission to TransLink for inclusion in the 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program.

(a)   *No. 3 Road Restoration* – This project involves the restoration and improvement of No. 3 Road following construction of the RAV Line. The City's current No. 3 Road Streetscape Study will define the scope of the project. This phased project, which is part of the approved road improvements necessary to support to the RAV Line project, was submitted to and approved by the TransLink Board as part of its 2005 MRN Minor Capital Program. This 2006 application is the second year of a 3-year funding accrual request for 2005-2007.

(b)   *Westminster Highway Widening (Nelson Road to Hamilton Interchange)* – This project involves the widening of Westminster Highway from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, complete with bike lanes, between Nelson Road and the Hamilton Interchange (Westminster Highway at Highway 91) in order to serve existing and future traffic volumes, particularly from the Fraserport industrial area. This phased project was submitted to and approved by the TransLink Board as part of its 2003 MRN Minor Capital Program. The City is now seeking a 2-year extension of the funding agreement to 2007 (with construction to be completed in 2008) as well as increased funding to support higher project costs due primarily to escalating construction costs and greater property acquisition required for ditch in-fill compensation as per federal government regulations. This 2006 application will be followed by a similar application in 2007.

(c)   *Gilbert Road Widening (Lansdowne Road to Dinsmore Bridge)* – This project involves the widening of Gilbert Road from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, complete with bike lanes, between Lansdowne Road and the Dinsmore Bridge in order to serve existing and future traffic volumes and improve traffic flow within the City Centre area.

Staff are seeking Council endorsement for all three road improvement projects at this time but advise that the approval by the GVTA of both road widening projects for the 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program (i.e., Westminster Highway and Gilbert Road widening) may not be possible as the combined cost estimates would exceed the City's allocated 2006 MRN Minor Capital funding and the City lacks matching funding. Staff are currently awaiting revised cost estimates, based on a reduced or phased project scope, for the widening of Westminster Highway. Upon review of the revised cost estimates, two possible scenarios are anticipated:

(1)   the revised cost estimates bring the Westminster Highway project within the City's current budget but are still insufficient to undertake the Gilbert Road widening project, in which case the Westminster Highway project would be submitted to the 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program and the Gilbert Road project would be deferred; or

(2)   the revised cost estimates for the Westminster Highway project free up sufficient funding to undertake the Gilbert Road project, in which case both road widening projects would be submitted to the 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program.

Staff would report back to Council on the final program submissions following receipt and analysis of the revised cost estimates for the Westminster Highway project.

2.   Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost-Sharing (BICCS) Program

Total TransLink funding available to municipalities under the 2006 BICCS Program is $2.55 million, of which $1.7 million is dedicated to allocated funding (based on the municipality's proportion of population in the region) and $850,000 is reserved for cost-sharing of major projects of regional priority. Based on Richmond's proportion of the GVRD population (8.1%), the City is eligible for $137,793 in allocated funding for 2006.

The City would submit the construction of on-street bike lanes on Westminster Highway between No. 8 Road and Nelson Road, which would complete the provision of cycling facilities on Westminster Highway from Garden City Road east to Nelson Road. The City also intends to submit a cost-sharing application for this project to the provincial Cycling Infrastructure Partnership Program. The bike lanes on Westminster Highway would be extended to the Hamilton Interchange as part of the planned project to widen Westminster Highway from 2 lanes to 4 lanes between Nelson Road and the Hamilton Interchange, as discussed in Section 1.3.

3.   Transit-Related Road Infrastructure Program (TRRIP)

TransLink funding available for cost-sharing under the 2006 TRRIP is $3 million. As TRRIP has no block funding formula, there is no allocated amount of eligible funding for the City. Historically, however, the Program has been under-subscribed and thus all eligible projects submitted by municipalities have been funded. Eligible projects include HOV lanes, transit priority and traffic management measures, roadway modifications, and passenger facility improvements. As in past years, the majority of projects proposed to be submitted by the City for cost-sharing under the 2006 TRRIP are upgrades to bus stops along various routes to make them wheelchair accessible as well as crosswalk upgrades. It is anticipated that starting in 2007, the City will submit a number of roadway improvements to TRRIP to complement bus integration improvements associated with the RAV Line.

Financial Impact

The total estimated project cost of the above 2006 submissions to TransLink's three capital cost-sharing programs is approximately $5.58 million as summarized in the table below. These costs are comprised of $5.24 million for the MRN Minor Capital Program, $293,000 for the BICCS Program and $50,000 for TRRIP. As discussed in Section 1.3, the estimated MRN road improvement project costs are subject to further (downward) revision. Similarly, the estimated cycling improvement cost is preliminary and will be refined in the detailed design process.

Funding Program	Project Name	Funding Source for City's Portion	Estimated Total Cost for 2006
MRN Minor Capital Program	No. 3 Road Restoration	Proposed 2006 Major Capital Program ($1,300,000)	$2,600,000
	Westminster Highway Widening (Nelson Road to Hamilton Interchange)	Proposed 2006 Major Capital Program ($700,000)	$1,400,000
	Gilbert Road Widening (Lansdowne Road to Dinsmore Bridge)	Proposed 2007 Major Capital Program ($1,500,000)	$3,000,000
Sub-total			$7,000,000
Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost-Sharing Program	Westminster Highway Bike Lanes (No. 8 Road to Nelson Road)	Proposed 2006 Bicycle Program ($146,500)	$293,000
Transit-Related Road Infrastructure Program	• bus stop upgrades • crosswalk upgrades • connecting sidewalks	Proposed 2006 Transit Infrastructure Program ($25,000)	$50,000
Total			$7,343,000

If approved by TransLink, it is expected that the City will receive 50% of the project costs (construction and land costs) or up to a total amount of approximately $3.7 million. The City's portion for these projects will be incorporated in the City's Major Capital Works Program as part of the 2006 and 2007 Capital Budget review and approval processes. The various projects identified in the above proposed 2006 TransLink Capital Program cost-sharing submissions by Richmond are also subject to Council approval of the 2006 and 2007 Capital Program Plans.

Conclusion

A number of road improvement, bike and transit-related facility projects are proposed for submission to, respectively, TransLink's 2006 MRN Minor Capital Program, 2006 Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost-Sharing Program and 2006 Transit-Related Road Infrastructure Program. This report seeks to formalize Council support for the submissions and secure Richmond's allocation of funding for 2006.

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