



To: General Purposes Committee

Date: June 27, 2006

From: Terry Crowe
 Manager, Policy Planning

File:

Re: **Update: 1996 City- Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD)**
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Staff Recommendation

That the report entitled: Update: 1996 City-Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), from the Manager, Policy Planning, dated June 27, 2006, be received for information.

Terry Crowe
 Manager, Policy Planning

TTC:cas
 Att: 1

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Law	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
Engineering.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
Building Approvals	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to update Council regarding the status of the 1996 City-Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU).

Background

1996 City-GVRD MOU

In 1996, after the City and GVRD disagreed on how City's 1996 - 2021 growth, land use and transportation issues would be managed in the 1996 Livable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP0, the City and GVRD entered into a MOU, to address and co-ordinate their City and regional planning interests.

In the 1996 MOU, the City and GVRD agreed in part that:

- The City would prepare improved implementation plans for flood and seismic protection, to which the City and Province [not the GVRD] would agree,
- If the City did the above, the GVRD would:
 - Promote light rapid transit to Richmond [which Richmond now has], and
 - Consider a LRSP amendment to include Richmond in the LRSP "Growth Concentration Area" (GCA).

Analysis

City Flood Management Protection – Update

The City has prepared a proposed Richmond 2006-2031 Flood Management Protection Strategy which addresses improved City flood and seismic protection for the dikes and flood protection structures. In a separate report, City staff recommend that the Strategy be referred to the Province [e.g., BC Ministry of Environment [MOE]], for comment and approval.

Provincial Flood Protection Legislation changes

The Province recently changed its flood protection legislation, which affects the Province's and municipalities' flood protection and dike management roles and responsibilities.

Currently, it is unclear what the Province's approving role will be regarding the City's proposed Strategy and it is seeking legal clarification regarding whether or not it has the authority to approve the City's proposed Strategy. If the Province cannot formally approve the Strategy, City staff anticipate that the Province may agree with it, as the City has prepared it in close consultation with the Province and a wide range of stakeholders. City staff will advise Council, once the Province responds.

City Seismic Dike and Flood Protection Standards - Update

Richmond applies the latest Provincial and progressive City seismic standards for its buildings, dikes and flood protection structures.

In Richmond, seismic protection for new and existing buildings, “post disaster” buildings, dikes and flood protection structures [e.g., pumping stations] is achieved through a combination of:

- the Provincial Building Code which applies throughout BC, and
- City bylaws, policy requirements and standard practices.

In this regard, the City progressively meets Provincial seismic requirements and intends to continue doing so.

Next Steps

City staff recommend waiting until a Provincial response is received [e.g., fall 2006] regarding the proposed Richmond 2006-2031 Flood Management Protection Strategy, before they bring forth a report advising Council regarding how the City can inform the GVRD that it has, or can meet, the terms of the MOU.

No Regional Hazard Land Management Strategy

It is to be noted that the GVRD does not have a regional hazard lands protection strategy [e.g., to regionally manage floodplain; mud and rock slide; subsidence; global warming/sea level hazards], upon which the GVRD can, on an objective regional basis, assess and approve or reject a municipality’s flood protection management requirements.

Summary

Staff anticipate that, in the near future, Richmond will:

- have met its 1996 City-GVRD MOU undertakings [e., the Richmond 2006-2031 Flood Management Protection Strategy, and seismic related bylaws, policies and practices for buildings, dikes and flood protection structures] and
- be able to advise the GVRD accordingly.

The completion of these City undertakings will enable the City and GVRD to discuss, on a “clean slate”, how the City’s and GVRD’s growth, land use and transportation issues can be accommodated in a mutually beneficial manner, in the upcoming City 2031 OCP/RCS update and GVRD 2031 LRSP update,

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Staff have outlined an approach regarding how Council can advise the GVRD that it can meet the terms of the 1996 City GVRD MOU.



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning [4139]

Attachment 1 - 1996 City GVRD MOU

Memorandum of Understanding Between Richmond and GVRD Regarding Resolution of Objections to the Livable Regional Strategic Plan

The Greater Vancouver Regional District and the City of Richmond agree:

- a) that historic growth patterns in Richmond are established and Richmond will continue to grow under the guidance of Official Community Plans, which when modified shall continue to be complementary to regional plans adopted under the Growth Strategies Statutes Amendment Act;
- b) that these historic patterns have already concentrated growth in Richmond and established Richmond as a major centre for residence as well as business in Greater Vancouver; that the conditions for those growth patterns are unique to Richmond (i.e., the location of the international airport within the City, the culturally diverse population, the existing concentration of employment particularly in areas related to international trade, visitor services, and hi-tech activity, the strategic geographic location between downtown Vancouver, the airport, and the U.S. border, and the island amenity and quality of life) and will continue to shape Richmond and benefit the region's well-being; that Richmond should develop as a complete community, balancing job growth with housing opportunities while protecting the Agricultural Land Reserve;
- c) that the "Livable Region Strategic Plan" recognizes that rapid transit to Richmond, which will shape and serve the growth in the Richmond Regional Town Centre, is a fundamental requirement for the success of the plan;
- d) that the Board will continue to press the Province and BC Transit for commitments to construct all three transit lines on the basis that all those lines are necessary for the full realization of the Livable Region Strategic Plan's objectives;
- e) that West Richmond is a strategic growth area and should Richmond and the Province agree on a mutually acceptable implementation plan for flood and seismic protection, and should Richmond have adopted land use policies and bylaws consistent with the achievement of a future Richmond population comparable to objectives for growth within the Growth Concentration Area, then West Richmond would be considered as an area qualifying for priority in transportation services and facilities, as described in the Livable Region Strategic Plan policy;
- f) that should the condition in (e) be fulfilled, then an amendment to the Livable Region Strategic Plan to include West Richmond in the Growth Concentration Area shall be prepared and brought forward for consideration by the GVRD Board; and
- g) that the City of Richmond withdraws its objection to the Livable Region Strategic Plan on the basis set out in this agreement.

Approved by Richmond City Council, January 22, 1996
Approved by GVRD Board January 26, 1996