

Agenda No:	6-1
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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

For the Governance and Services Committee March 8, 2012

TO: Chair & Members of the Governance and Services Committee

FROM: David Widdis, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator

DATE: March 1, 2012

SUBJECT: Regional Growth Strategy Review – Youth Consultation (File 6430-40)

PURPOSE:

To provide the Governance and Services Committee with the results of a Youth Survey (attached as Appendix A) for the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) review.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Board adopted a consultation plan in December 2010 to provide an overall guide for the review of the region's RGS. The goals of the consultation plan are to:

- Raise the level of awareness of the RGS;
- Obtain input to the future regional vision;
- Identify issues of concern to regional growth management; and
- Present input and feedback that helps update the current RGS.

The RGS review process wants to encourage a thoughtful consultation that reflects regional values and help refine the regional vision. A cornerstone of this entire process is to have widespread consultation. It is important in this process to reach out to the many faces of the region and request their input in which to create policies to help guide growth decisions. To date, the RGS review process has reached out into the community through social media, webpage, print media and a community workbook. These types of consultation methods have helped identify the regional issues important to the region. Identification of the issues allows the region to update the RGS in order to act and implement actions that resolve the issues.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF COMMENTS:

A part of the consultation process is to reach out to the youth demographic and seek their input about the future planning for the region. The Development Services Department hired Linda Abbott-Simons to undertake the youth engagement through a survey and social media with the

target demographic being youth in grades eight to twelve. The survey was submitted to seventeen 17 prospective schools with 12 of the schools responding and 719 surveys completed online.

Part One of the youth survey asked similar questions found in the community workbook that was used in the preliminary consultation process early in 2011. Climate Change emerged as the highest priority issue based on the number of responses (47%) that indicated "very important". In comparison to the responses from the community workbooks and elected officials forum, their highest priority issue was Parks and Open Spaces (60%). The second highest priority issue for the three groups was transportation. Appendix B, Regional Issue Responses, illustrates where the priority issues ranked and the three groups had similar results regarding the ranking of the issues.

Part Two of the youth survey was to explore if the youth would like to live in the Central Okanagan in twenty years. Of the youth surveyed, 40% intended to attend UBCO for post secondary schooling as well to continue to live in the Central Okanagan after completing school.

Transportation was identified as a high priority issue for the region to consider since 62% of the youth expect in twenty years to travel by single occupancy vehicles (SOV); however, the transportation options presented in the survey show the youth may opt for other transportation modes, not just SOV's. While the identified lifestyle choices from the youth varied, overall their choices were in the direction of being environmentally conscious citizens that value water and energy conservation and recycling.

The feedback received from the three groups regarding the regional priority issues was very similar showing relatively strong and shared values across the region demonstrating interconnectedness among the issues. As the RGS Review continues to engage and consult with a variety of people in the region, the public will be able to see the interconnectedness and links among the issues. This will assist in the update of the RGS and achieving the goal of regional sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,



David Widdis, MCIP
Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator



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Director, Development Services