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Agenda Item # 6

REPORT TO PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

SUBJECT

RGS Legislative Review Report

PURPOSE

To transmit the RGS Review background report: *RGS Legislative Review*

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Review report (Attachment A) was prepared to provide context for the 5-year review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The report provides an overview of legislation, emerging policy direction and targets that are relevant to the Regional Growth Strategy and which may influence the scope of the 5-year review.

The content and procedural requirements associated with the Regional Growth Strategy are established through the provincial legislation contained in Part 25 of the *Local Government Act*. These provisions will still apply as the current RGS is modified through the 5-year review process to create the regional sustainability strategy. Also relevant to the RGS review process are a number of provincial plans and targets pertaining to transportation, climate change, water and resource management.

RGS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The intent of the RGS 5-year review process is three-fold:

- Address regional sustainability to a greater extent that currently exists in the current RGS;
- Update the content and growth projections; and
- Address the relevant provincial legislation and targets.

The Legislation Review report outlines the key features of the provincial growth strategy legislation that must be considered in the review process. Of particular significance are the recent changes to the amendment and dispute resolution process enacted through the provincial Bill 27. The new provisions can be utilized to better clarify the regional roles and interests associated with updating and modifying the Strategy.

The report also outlines new provincial legislation that may influence the content of the RGS as it transitions to a regional sustainability strategy. In many cases, the province has established targets that will impact local government either directly (e.g. GHG reductions targets in Bill 27) or indirectly (e.g. new transit mode share targets in the BC Transit Plan). The RGS review process provides an opportunity to respond these targets in a coordinated fashion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning & Transportation Committee receive this, and the attached report, for information.

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COMMENTS: