

## **Appendix D. Overview of Consultation Process for the Regional Growth Strategy**

### **November 2007 Report: Choosing Our Future**

**(from report to the Land Use and Transportation Committee – Dated Feb 8, 2008)**

- Made available in print and on the internet, 4000 copies distributed
- 16 Public Meetings were held, total attendance approx. 700. Format was presentation followed by a small group discussion and then a question and answer period.
- Questionnaires were distributed at the public meetings and also available on the internet. Questionnaire had open-ended questions. Also asked respondents to choose the desirable implementation action along a spectrum ranging from broad goals to regional regulation for each strategy.
- Noted that generally respondents preferred alternative c) in the spectrum of alternatives – the one associated with more regulation. Noted that it was not necessarily clear that regional regulation was *the* solution, but that the current system of planning was not adequate.
- Presentations to councils were given to 14 municipalities upon request. Municipalities could provide preliminary written comments at this stage or wait until the Draft Strategy stage.
- On November 16, 2007 the Regional Growth Strategies Roundtable was attended by municipal planning directors and engineers, Translink staff, Ministry of Transportation and Community Services staff, development industry representatives, as well as environmental, social and other community interest groups.
- Government organizations, First Nations, business and community groups received a letter informing them of the preliminary consultation process and were invited to request a presentation.
- The Metro Vancouver website provided copies of the guide, the questionnaire, and background information. The public was invited to provide written submissions and participate in a web discussion.

### **February 2009 Draft Regional Growth Strategy (Report to Regional Planning Committee July 10, 2009)**

- 20 public meetings were organized; eight were held for sub-regions, three for individual municipalities upon request, four regional forums, three breakfast meetings and two focus groups
- The evening meetings consisted of a 10 minute video presentation, presentations on the draft Strategy's content, facilitated group discussion on each theme, electronic voting on the level of agreement with the proposals, and a presentation and discussion on governance options followed by electronic voting
- For the regional forums, four panelists were invited to provide five minute presentations, followed by dialogue.
- Breakfast meetings were the same as for the evening meetings, with the exception that the small group discussions were replaced by a question and

answer session. Feedback forms were provided for these sessions, and electronic voting was done for the governance questions.

- Focus groups were constituted so as to try and mitigate the self-selection issue with the evening meetings. The same format was used as the evening meetings.
- Members of the public could view all meeting information online, and submit feedback online.
- All municipalities were invited to make written comments on the draft version. Metro Vancouver staff also attended several municipal council meetings to provide presentations, answer questions, and receive comments.
- The draft version was forwarded to “affected local governments” for their review and feedback.
- First Nations were also invited to participate according to the “three-step process”.
- The draft was forwarded to “regionally-based groups, organizations and agencies”

### **November 2009 Draft Regional Growth Strategy (from Report to the Regional Planning Committee Meeting on September 3, 2010)**

- Public meetings were held in 10 municipalities, consisting of a powerpoint presentation, a brief question and answer session, and a group discussion component organized around three themes. A sustainability breakfast meeting was also held in downtown Vancouver.
- On December 16, 2009 Metro Vancouver held a workshop for local government staff, provincial government ministry and agency staff, and representatives of business, community and non-profit groups. Workshop was to update attendees on the outcomes from previous consultations, and to allow attendees to express their initial comments on the draft.
- On December 16, 2009 an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meeting was held to discuss if there were specific items to be addressed in the next draft.
- Metro Vancouver met with five municipalities, and attended a meeting of the Translink Board, the Fraser Valley Regional District Board and the Squamish Lillooet Regional District Board.
- Metro Vancouver presented to a number of groups in the region, such as the Urban Development Institute, the Real Estate Institute of BC, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and the Surrey Board of Trade.
- A webinar was held on January 27, 2010. Consisted of a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session.
- The website was continually updated and provided opportunities for online comment, including an online feedback form and an ‘ask a question’ feature.
- A draft copy was sent to First Nations asking them if they had any comments. Metro Vancouver met with two First Nations.

### **Final Draft – Regional Growth Strategy (Report on the Public Hearing to the GVRD Board, January 14, 2011)**

- A public hearing was held over several sessions, where 33 people spoke, and thirty six written submissions were received.
- The main themes from the Public Hearing were summarized into a report entitled ‘Proposed Amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy and Next Steps in the

Ratification Process'. Based on these, specific amendments to the RGS were proposed.