

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning

Date: 2022-03-10
File No: 6430-51-2011-01

Subject: RGS Update: Phase 2 Public Engagement Final Results

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Regional District Board of information pertaining to Phase 2 public engagement for the updated Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy, *Fraser Valley Future 2050*. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification or to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

In November 2021, preliminary results of the Phase 2 Public Engagement process were presented to the Board. The attached *Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS Public Engagement Report* represents the final results, including additional content in the form of analysis of the RGS survey long-form answers and additional public comments received by the RGS update team. A presentation of the final results will be provided at the March 17, 2022 meeting of the Board.

DISCUSSION

During the public engagement period of August 3, 2021 to October 8, 2021, **visitors to the “Shape the Regional Growth Strategy”** project page engaged and became informed about the RGS Update by downloading a document, visiting the FAQ page, submitting questions, and by reading written contributions by members of the public. Visitors engaged further by completing the RGS survey, sharing their story, contributing to discussion forums, and by commenting on other ideas or comments.

The attached report is an update of the preliminary results shared with the Board in November 2021. The *Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS Public Engagement Report* provides the final results of the engagement findings, including more detailed analysis and additional correspondence sent directly to the project team.

Through analysis of the different tools available through the “Have Your Say” platform, a number of themes came to the fore. Given the timing of the engagement from August to October 2021, the catastrophic climate-driven events of November 2021 are not reflected in this engagement. It is likely that recent events have heightened interest in and awareness of climate change impacts, mitigation and resiliency on a number of levels.

The Key Themes identified relate to:

- Housing costs and suitability
- Transportation
- The Economy
- Quality of Life
- Environment, and
- Rural Character

As a next step, staff are actively engaging First Nations, building on existing relationships and looking forward to developing new relationships as the process moves forward. As noted in the draft plan, there is hope that the plan will provide "...opportunities for mutual understanding of governing structures, planning tools, traditions, roles and responsibilities while respecting the views and authority of each party, recognizing that we have a common interest in a sustainable and resilient future."

COST

The costs of RGS consultation are incorporated in the 601 Regional Strategic Planning and Initiatives budget.

CONCLUSION

The public engagement process has provided **a window into the thoughts and ideas of the region's** residents regarding the issues that the RGS aims to address. The process has deepened our understanding of how individuals and communities are impacted by the very real challenges that the RGS aims to address. A presentation of the public engagement findings will be provided to the Board at its March 17, 2022 meeting.

As a next step, staff continue to actively **engage the region's First Nations** in developing a plan that will reflect the common interests of a sustainable and resilient future in the FVRD.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsbrough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Corporate Services: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.