

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

Date: 2024-04-11
File No: 6430-51-2011-01

Subject: FVRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023 (Fraser Valley Future 2050) – Acceptance and Adoption

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board receives the City of Abbotsford, City of Chilliwack, City of Mission, District of Hope, District of Kent, Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Metro Vancouver Regional District, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Thompson Nicola Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen resolutions to accept *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* in accordance with Section 436 of the Local Government Act;

AND THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board deem the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* accepted in accordance with Section 436 of the Local Government Act;

AND THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give third reading to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*;

AND FINALLY THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board adopt the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*.

BACKGROUND

The *Fraser Valley Future 2050* Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is a strategic, high-level policy document for coordinating planning in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and for informing provincial priorities. An RGS is a framework for planning and coordinating the activities of local governments, the provincial government, and other agencies to ensure that the region as a whole is working toward a common future. Throughout the RGS update process, staff have followed the Board-approved RGS Consultation Plan, which does not include provision for a public hearing. This plan meets the requirements of s.434 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA).

On January 26, 2024, the Chair notified each affected local government that *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* had received second reading and that the FVRD was initiating the 60-day referral period requesting formal acceptance of the Regional Growth Strategy pursuant to section 436 of the LGA.

DISCUSSION

Formal acceptance of a regional growth strategy requires a resolution by respective Boards and Councils. Once acceptance resolutions are received, the RGS returns for third reading and adoption by the FVRD Board. The FVRD has now received notice from all affected local governments that *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* has been formally accepted by resolution (Appendix A).

Three non-material changes were made to the plan based on feedback from affected local governments:

- Typographical correction to the table of contents to reflect an earlier approved re-order of Goal 2.0 Economic Strength and Resiliency policy areas 2.1 and 2.3, bringing “protect and support employment lands” to the forefront;
- Under Goal 6 Transportation & Mobility, Map 8, graphical correction to the base map to recognize Hot Springs Road as a provincial highway (Highway 9);
- Under Goal 6 Transportation & Mobility, Map 8, at the request of the City of Abbotsford:
 - To reflect imminent development in the McKee/McMillan Road area, switch Medium/Long-term Priority E “McKee Road upgrade – New overpass over Hwy 11 to George Ferguson” with High Priority #4, “Maclure Road connector between Highway 11 to McCallum”; and
 - Delete High Priority #2, “Marshall Road extension – King Road to Mt. Lehman” to reflect its recent completion.

It is important to note that RGS adoption is not an end point. RGS implementation is already underway and will continue to be implemented through ongoing collaboration with member municipalities, adjacent regional districts, the Province, Indigenous communities, other agencies, and the public.

Member municipalities will have two years from adoption of the RGS to submit to the FVRD Board proposed updated regional context statements reflecting the new RGS. A regional context statement is located within a **municipality’s official community plan (OCP)** where it sets out the relationship between the RGS and the **municipality’s plan. This statement** is prepared by the municipality and referred to the regional district for acceptance.

COST

N/A

CONCLUSION

The *Fraser Valley Future 2050* RGS is a strategic, high-level policy document for coordinating planning in the FVRD and for informing provincial priorities. An RGS is a framework for planning and coordinating the activities of local governments, the provincial government, and other agencies to ensure that the region as a whole is working toward a common future.

The FVRD has now received notice from all affected local governments that *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* has been formally accepted by resolution. The RGS has now returned to receive 3rd reading and adoption by the FVRD Board.

Member municipalities will have two years from adoption of the RGS to submit to the FVRD Board proposed updated regional context statements reflecting the new RGS.

COMMENTS BY:

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

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.