

Quarterly information for residents by the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD).

SCRD Adopts 2012 Budget

The SCRD board of directors has adopted the 2012 budget that includes a total consolidated budget of \$43.86 million (a net operating budget for the year of \$30.2 million), which will result in an overall tax increase of 3.37 percent.

The budget process took a little longer to complete this year due to the many competing projects, inflationary pressures, provincial downloading, and most of all, the SCRD Board's goal to keep tax increases as low as possible.

The Board's policy work on the Sustainability Plan, Financial Sustainability policy and the Strategic Plan helped all those involved in the budget process to remain focussed on what is truly important for our communities.

As part of this financial plan, the budget process includes a base or minimum operating budget to sustain current service levels as a starting point with recommendations on options for proposed projects and enhancements. The SCRD Board considers a range of projects consistent with the Strategic Plan while also focusing on the financial impact these projects will have on the taxpayer.

Some major projects and changes to services for 2012 include new Official Community Plans for Halfmoon Bay and Roberts Creek, a new fire truck for the Gibsons and District Volunteer Fire Department, completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, expansion of transit services on the Sechelt to Langdale route, implementation of the Zero Waste Management Plan starting with the design and tendering of Enhanced Resource Recovery Facilities, construction of the South Pender Harbour Water Treatment plant, shoreline mitigation in Areas E and D, and one year pilot projects for affordable housing and a youth centre in Sechelt.

A Recipe for Collective Success The Integrated Transportation Study

The Sunshine Coast Regional District's process of strategic management includes the setting of goals to accomplish the long term vision created for the communities of the Sunshine Coast.

A key strategic direction for the SCRD is to have collaborative regional planning so that communities are well planned and designed in a manner that achieves their social, economic and environmental goals. On July 28, 2011, the SCRD Board of Directors voted to adopt the Integrated Transportation Study.

To achieve "One-Voice" for transportation planning, the study was developed in collaboration with the District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons, and the Sechelt Indian Band, with input and feedback obtained from stakeholder workshops, public open houses, and local government committee members, as well as other agencies including the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Transit.

Over the years, several studies have been

undertaken in the Sunshine Coast. Several of these studies have taken a long-term approach to address current issues, concerns and problem areas. A Provincial Bill was passed for communities across BC to set targets to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. These Provincial targets are a 33% reduction by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050, based on base emission levels.

In 2010, the SCRD completed the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (see www.scrd.ca/Climate-and-Energy). This plan highlighted that transportation contributes 35% of emissions on the Sunshine Coast. Transportation improvements therefore present a significant opportunity for the Sunshine Coast to achieve emission reduction targets. Identifying short- to medium-term improvements is the focus of the Regional Integrated Transportation study.

Part of the study's focus is also to reduce the dominance of the private vehicle as a mode of transport on the Sunshine Coast by providing people with other choices. This can be achieved

through improved and expanded transit, improved and expanded active transportation (bicycle, pedestrian, etc.) facilities and ride share opportunities. The active participation and engagement of local communities and individuals can further assist to achieve the desired mode shift, thereby enabling GHG reduction targets to be realized.

The principal objectives of this regional study are therefore as follows:

1. Integrate Regional Land-Use and Transportation
2. Integrate Bus and Ferry Services
3. Improve Highway Mobility
4. Improve Highway Safety
5. Identify Highway Alternative Routes
6. Improve Regional Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure
7. Examine Cost-Effective Gibsons Bypass Options

To learn more about the Regional Integrated Transportation Study, visit www.scrd.ca/ITS.

The Sunshine Coast is a community of communities creating a sustainable way of life through a collaborative decision making process. We are committed to an enhanced natural context, local control over local resources, a vibrant economy and an enriched cultural fabric.

To receive this information electronically, go to www.scrd.ca and click on "Sign up for our newsletter".

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