

# Corporate Report

NO: R018

COUNCIL DATE: January 30, 2006

#### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: January 26, 2006

FROM: City Manager FILE: 0470-01

SUBJECT: Cascadia Mayors Council – Annual Meeting

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive this report.

2. That Council approve the City to host the Cascadia Mayors Council (CMC) semi-annual meeting on June 15–16, 2006 preceding the World Urban Forum (scheduled for the week of June 19-23, 2006 in Vancouver), at a cost of about \$15,000 and that such costs be allocated from the Council Initiative Budget.

# **BACKGROUND**

The CMC was established as a forum to seek ways to coordinate and foster resources available to effectively address the challenges that border communities and the Cascadian corridor overall face. The group's primary focus is to form and share a message of regional leadership on issues which affect cities along the Cascadia corridor. The CMC believes that by working together, a unique opportunity is raised to build on the productive efforts of many organizations which currently influence the legislative process. The ultimate goal is to find proactive, realistic solutions to regional problems and work cooperatively. An example of a CMC 2005 resolution dealing with issues of concern is attached.

Historically, Surrey's mayor, together with the mayors of City of North Vancouver, Vancouver, Richmond, Delta, Abbotsford, Sechelt, Gibsons, Sidney and Victoria, have participated in the Cascadia Mayors Council with a view to developing strategies to discuss issues of common interest, within the Cascadia region defined as Washington, Oregon (*Eugene to Portland*) and British Columbia.

The first CMC meeting was held on July 14, 1998 in Seattle and was an informal discussion of ideas forming the structure of this group. The inaugural meeting of the CMC was held on November 18, 1998 in Seattle. Subsequent meetings have been held

May 6-7, 1999 in Victoria; December 9-10, 1999 in Vancouver, Washington; June 9, 2000 in Seattle in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting on February 1-2, 2001 in Bellingham, Washington, and in Whistler on June 28-29, 2001. The CMC last convened in May 2004 in Eugene, Oregon.

# **DISCUSSION**

During a December 16, 2005 conference call of its members, it was suggested that the next meeting be scheduled in the B.C. Lower Mainland to immediately precede the World Urban Forum (to be held in Vancouver), which CMC members would attend. We may expect attendance at approximately 100 delegates or more.

The issues to be addressed at the meeting will likely include, but not be limited to, the following:

- border security and travel documentation;
- the reauthorization of the U.S. Transportation Equity Act, and Canada/B.C. infrastructure program funding for transportation;
- the coordination of transportation issues, both road and rail, north and south of the border;
- sustainable development and environmental stewardship;
- green buildings;
- tourism potential related to the 2010 Winter Olympic;
- promotion of the economic interests of the Cascadia region.

As a host, the City of Surrey will undertake the following:

- 1. Conference organization and coordination;
- 2. Arrange for venue;
- 3. Pay for refreshments, two lunches and one dinner;
- 4. No host bar.

### **CONCLUSION**

The CMC conference has bee hosted semi-annually over the past 7 years by different cities in the Cascadia region. Having the World Urban forum taking place locally provides a unique opportunity for the City of Surrey to host this summer's conference. Hosting this event will help promote the City for both tourism and economic development as well as acknowledging Surrey's position as B.C.'s second largest city.

Umendra Mital, P. Eng., City Manager

PH:brb Attachment