

Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of November 12, 2020

responsibilities are assigned in the plan, a program of emergency response exercises, and a training program.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to develop an omnibus regional evacuation plan which will involve all Local Authorities and Electoral areas emergency programs in the Capital Region as well as stakeholder agencies in the planning process and will include a governance model, a comprehensive concept of operations and regional evacuation route mapping for a large evacuation, which crosses jurisdictional borders. This can only be accomplished through a collaborative planning process. The listed partners have worked together on similar projects and have close relationships with the necessary stakeholders. Efficiencies will be realized through the elimination of duplication across all platforms of the project, including project management, data and information collection, plan development and mapping.

BACKGROUND

The City of Victoria was successful in the 2018 Evacuation Route Planning Grant and completed regional traffic modelling and local evacuation planning and exercising. Further work is needed on Regional Evacuation Planning in the Capital Region as described above. The City of Victoria was also successful in receiving a joint grant with the township of Esquimalt for EOC exercises. As part of this grant our recently completed local evacuation plans will be exercised and tested using our shared police force, VicPD, as the lead department in evacuations. The next phase of evacuation planning is to identify a governance model, create a comprehensive concept of operations and regional evacuation route mapping for evacuations that may cross jurisdictional borders.

The participants that will be invited to collaborate in the process include 13 local governments, 10 First Nation communities, 3 electoral districts, the region and the provincial governments, all of which work within a combination of federal, provincial, and local legislation, regulations, policies and emergency plans. There are also several large organizations including postsecondary institutions, local school districts and the military base that will play significant roles in any evacuation.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Acknowledging the constraints of many different emergency programs and plans in our region it is important to plan together for events that will cross jurisdictional borders. Understanding the hazards that may cause evacuations in our region and how we can best manage them together will strengthen the City of Victoria's and Capital Region's preparedness for all hazards that may cause evacuations.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1: Support the Regional evacuation planning grant application for \$75,000 in grant funds through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (Recommended).

Option 2: That Council decline the endorsement of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund application.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

Emergency plans and mitigation strategies around sea level rise and tsunamis are in alignment with the 2019-2022 strategic plan objectives listed below.

- Health, Well-Being, and a Welcoming City
- Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship
- Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods

Impacts to Financial Plan

The current financial plan allocates funding for the emergency program which includes preparedness, planning, and mitigation activities and projects. This project is eligible for up to \$75,000 of grant funding from UBCM, which will assist us in developing robust regional evacuation plans which will in turn strengthen our capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters in the City of Victoria. If successful, the District of Oak Bay will be responsible for managing the funds.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Emergency Management activities align with the Official Community Plan goals outlined in Section 18 – Emergency Management:

- Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies;
- Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long-term impacts and recovery times; and
- Victorians can rely on significant local sources for food, energy and materials to meet daily needs under emergency conditions.

Respectfully submitted,


Tanya Patterson
Emergency Program Coordinator


Paul Bruce
Fire Chief

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Jocelyn Denbigh

Date: November 6, 2020

List of Attachments

Appendix A – CEPF Regional Evacuation Route Planning – 2020 Application Form

Appendix B – COV Evacuation Plan – MAIN

Appendix C – CRD Evacuation Time Analyzer Tool Final Report

Appendix D – CRD Evacuation Time Analyzer