



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
August 1, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Carol Macomber
Carol Macomber, Acting Director
Community, Culture & Economic Development

DATE: July 19, 2006

SUBJECT: UPDATE: Regional Centre Urban Design Plan

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- On November 8, 2005, Regional Council approved cost sharing for the Regional Centre Urban Design Study between HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia, and ACOA.
- On March 7, 2006, Regional Council awarded RFP # 05-05-073 (Regional Centre Urban Design Study) to the highest ranking proponent, Office for Urbanism, Inc.
- On July 5, 2006, a public launch and press conference was held for this project.
- On June 27, 2006, Council appointed members to the new Urban Design Task Force.

BACKGROUND

This report provides an update to Council on the Regional Centre Urban Design Study currently being undertaken by the Capital District, and specifically outlines the elements of the proposed Public Participation Program.

Purpose of the Regional Centre Urban Design Study:

The Urban Design Plan will articulate a design strategy to foster quality development and vibrant public spaces through the creation of new policies and tools such as design guidelines, processes, and incentives. The study will address issues such as building height, heritage preservation, open space, residential infill, downtown development, architectural design guidelines, and a review of the development approval processes currently in use. The approach is intended to reinforce current community plans and values related to heritage, viewplane protection and neighbourhood stability.

The proposed study area is the Regional Centre as defined by the Regional Plan which includes the Capital District and surrounding urban core neighbourhoods on the Peninsula and within the Circumferential Highway in Dartmouth. (Please see Attachment #1 for Study Area map.) A key focus will be the Capital District and its relationship to surrounding neighbourhoods, employment centres and transportation/transit routes.

Study Deliverables:

The project will be carried out over an eighteen month period with the assistance of the selected team of urban design consultants with Council's award of the consulting contract in March, we are now four months into the Study. Through public consultation HRM will have developed, by the end of the study period, an urban design vision and implementation strategy that will foster and maintain a culture of design within the urban core.

DISCUSSION

Work completed to-date:

Immediately upon the March, 2006 contract award the consultant team, led by Office for Urbanism, began their Phase One "Reconnaissance and Analysis" work. (Please refer to Attachment #2 for a detailing of all the phases, and to Attachment #3 for the Project Team Organization Chart.) The Phase 1 work has involved reviewing HRM reports, walking and windshield tours of the study area, an aggressive and ongoing schedule of stakeholder interviews, workshops with relevant HRM staff, and the highly publicized official launch of the Study at Citadel Hill on July 5, including a press conference.

The Urban Design Task Force was appointed by Regional Council on June 27, 2006. The UDTF is a body with a two-part mandate: It reports progress to Regional Council at key milestones, and it makes ongoing recommendations to Council and the Project Team regarding areas of strategic importance to the development and implementation of the Regional Centre Urban Design Study. The UDTF will also provide a key communication and working link between Council and the community, and advise on the delivery of a public participation program. (Please see Attachment #4 for a list of UDTF members.)

Upcoming work:

1. The first Urban Design Task Force meeting will occur on August 2, 2006.
2. It is proposed that the consultant team make a presentation to Committee of the Whole on September 12 to outline the proposed approach to the project and the public consultation strategy.
3. Major public consultation will commence in mid-September, 2006 (Phase 2). the focus of which will be Visioning and Urban Design Principles.
4. Regional Council will receive reports at the conclusion of each of the Study's six major phases, plus additional reports/presentations at Council's request.

5. It is intended that the project will complete its six phases by September, 2007.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time. Project funding has already been approved by Council, and includes cost sharing from provincial and federal governments.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

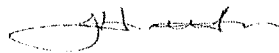
None.

ATTACHMENTS


6. Study Area Map.
7. Project Schedule.
8. Project Team Organization Chart.
9. Urban Design Task Force.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Andy Fillmore, Capital District Urban Design Project Manager, 490-6495

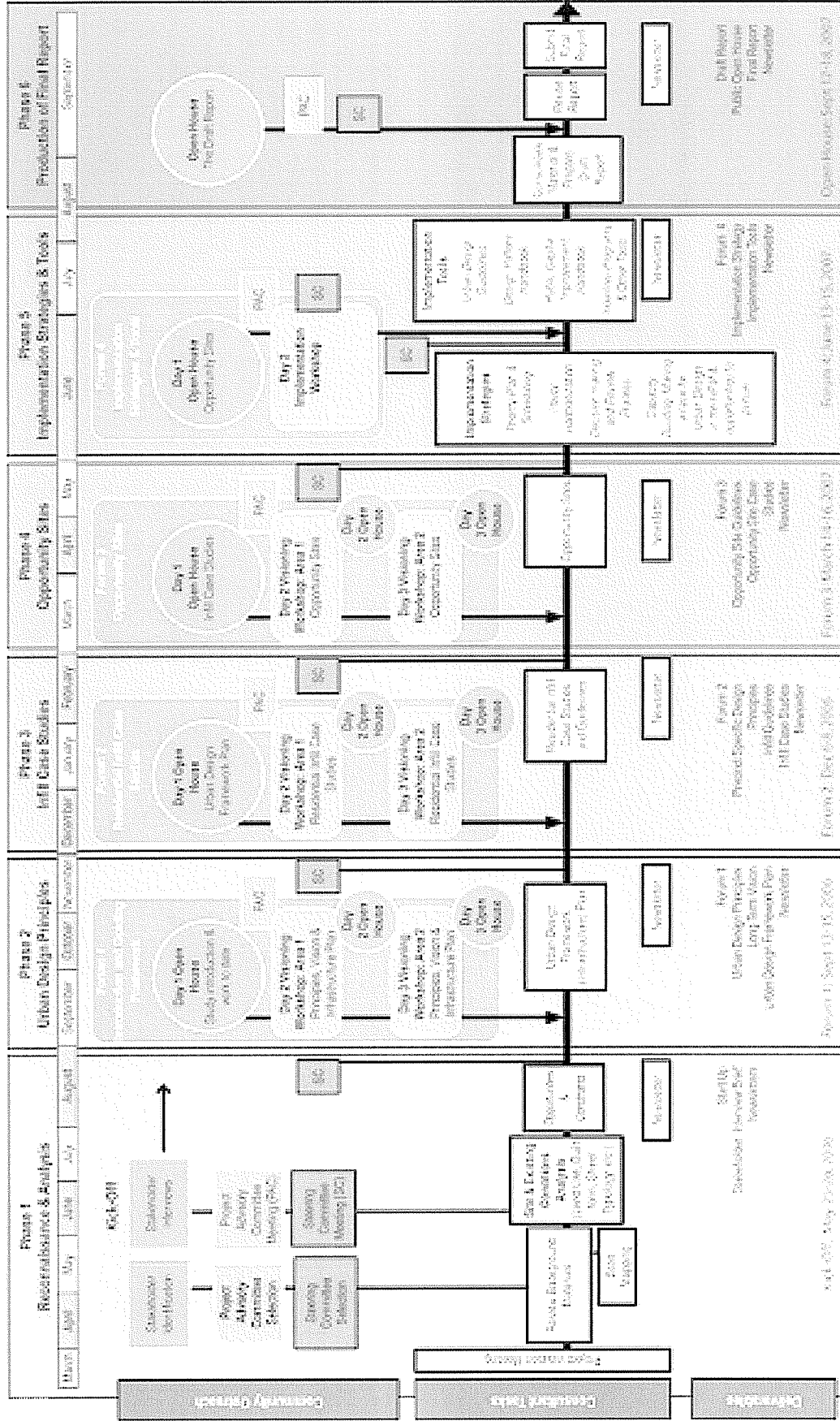


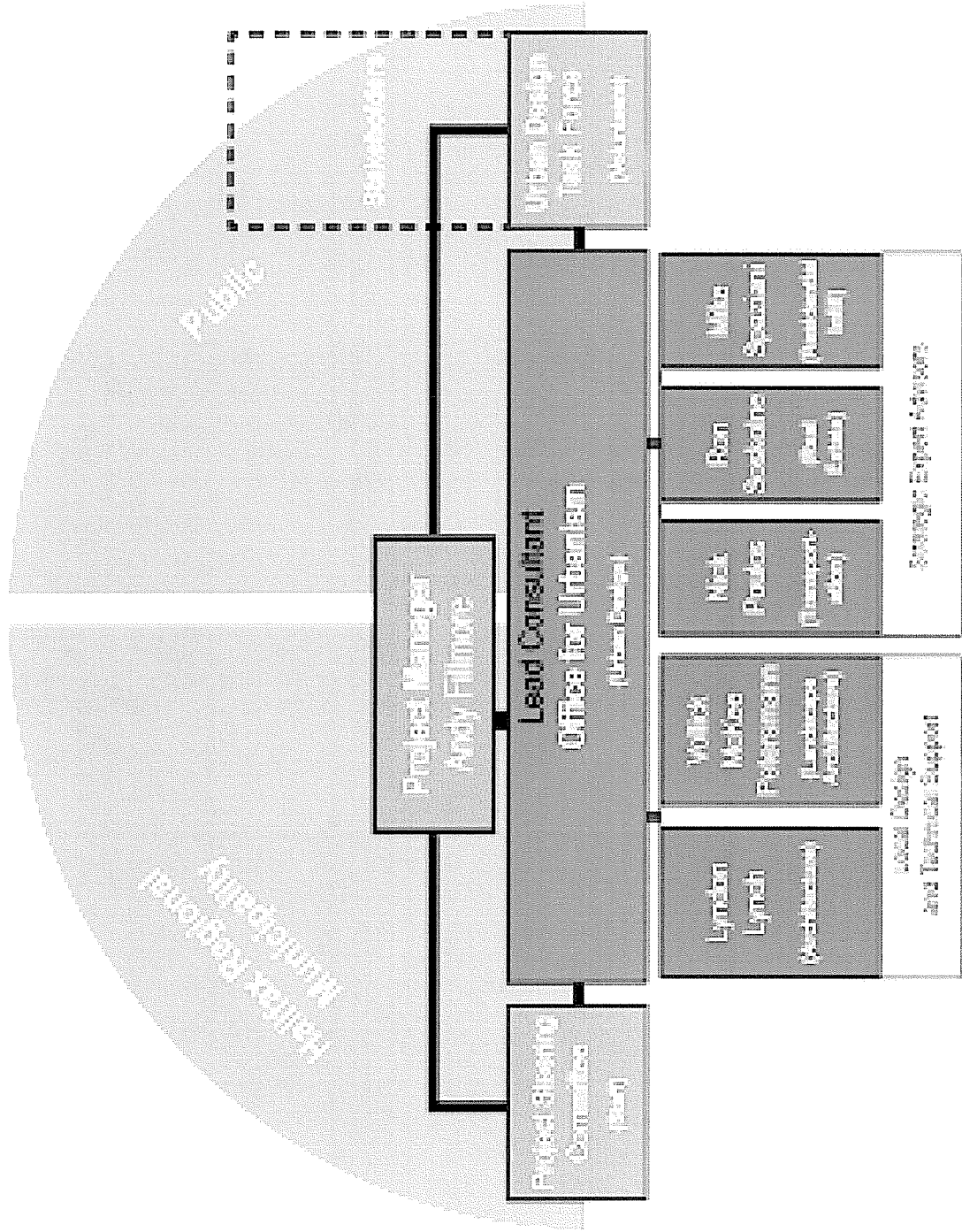
Report Reviewed by: Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District 490-5685



Financial Review: Gordon Roussel, Financial Consultant, 490-6468







Regional Centre Urban Design Study

- Project Personnel, current as of July 19, 2006 -

<i>Project Manager:</i>				
Andy Fillmore	HRM, Capital District		902-490-6495	fillmoa@halifax.ca
<i>Steering Committee:</i>				
Jacqueline Hamilton	HRM, Manager of Capital District		902-490-5730	hamiltj@halifax.ca
Dave McCusker	HRM, Manager Regional Transportation Planning		902-490-6696	mccuskd@halifax.ca
Paul Morgan	HRM Senior Planner, Regional Planning		902-490-4482	morganp@halifax.ca
Holly Richardson	HRM Regional Coordinator, Culture & Heritage		902-490-6889	richarh@halifax.ca
Jan Skora	HRM Coordinator, Real Property Planning		902-490-6783	skoraj@halifax.ca
Paul Dunphy	HRM Director, Planning & Development Services		902-490-4933	dunphyp@halifax.ca
Richard Harvey	HRM Senior Planner, Planning & Development Serv.		902-490-3691	harveyri@halifax.ca
Lynn Adams	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (federal rep)		902-426-9363	lynn.adams@acoa-apeca.gc.ca
John Mercereau	Province of Nova Scotia, Planner (provincial rep)		902-424-7417	merserjf@gov.ns.ca
<i>Urban Design Task Force:</i>				
Dale Godsoe	Regional Centre Resident		902-422-9416	dale.godsoe@dal.ca
Margot Young	Regional Centre Resident		902-425-7900	margot@edm.ca
Cathy Carmody	Regional Centre Resident		902-425-0227	carmodyc@ns.sympatico.ca
Paul Shakotko	Regional Centre Resident		902-422-1501	shakotko@ns.sympatico.ca
Linda Garber	Regional Centre Resident		902-422-4179	lindadg@eastlink.ca
Kendall Taylor	Resident at Large		902-490-1744	taylorke@halifax.ca
William Hyde	Resident at Large		902-477-5525	bchilde@eastlink.ca
Geoff Keddy	Professional Design Community		902-420-6400	geoffkeddy@hfx.eastlink.ca
David Garret	Professional Design Community		902-425-0182	garret.arch@ns.sympatico.ca
Bernie Smith	Business Community		902-423-3751	spingarden@ns.sympatico.ca
Paul MacKinnon	Business Community		902-423-3841	paul@downtowhalifax.ns.ca
Kevin Riles	Development Community		902-431-1700	kriles@caohminconsulting.com
Clarence Butler	Heritage Advisory Committee Representative		902-423-7950	crbutler05@yahoo.ca
Dawn Sloane	HRM Regional Council Representative		902-490-4752	sloaned@halifax.ca
<i>To be determined</i>	Cultural Advisory Committee Representative			