STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 512
In reference to the Portage and Main East Exchange area initiatives, Councillor Gerbasi questioned if funds would be reinstated in the 2006 budget and as well about Councillor De Smedt's view on no longer having the design competitions. Councillor De Smedt advised that he would take the question under advisement.

Councillor Clement questioned if traffic issues would be reviewed as part of the overall planning review of the Portage and Main intersection to which Councillor De Smedt agreed that a traffic impact analysis would have to be undertaken.

Councillor Wyatt questioned the impact on the small businesses in the Concourse and whether any form of compensation would be looked at as part of the process of opening the Portage and Main intersection to pedestrian traffic.

Councillor De Smedt stated that an analysis of the impacts would come forth through the property owners themselves, when they reviewed any proposed initiatives that may or may not be undertaken. Councillor De Smedt also noted that a significant number of the business owners saw this as a positive initiative in that they felt t might bring more traffic down to the Concourse. He further added that the review was not just about getting rid of the barriers and flowing pedestrians across Portage Avenue, it was about looking at the overall space and getting enhancements. He concluded by stating that the consultant, Janet Rosenberg and her firm from Toronto had an excellent reputation and were well underway on the next step.