STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 685

Councillor Wyatt made reference to a conference on climate change hosted by the Premier, and advised that one of the areas agreed upon was to promote the development and use of low emitting vehicle technologies including plug-in hybrids and hydrogen technologies. He questioned what initiatives were underway to see the introduction of these vehicles in the City's fleets to which Councillor Clement stated he would have the Director of Transit contact the Councillor and provide him with information.

Councillor Wyatt noted that the Public Works Department also had vehicles all over the City and questioned if there was an initiative or plan in the future as the fleet was expanded or replaced, that the City be purchasing hybrid vehicles at all times.

Councillor Clement advised that when the City purchases new vehicles for its fleet, it purchases environmentally friendly vehicles, and further added that he would have the appropriate staff contact Councillor Wyatt if the Councillor wanted to have more specific data.

Councillor Vandal questioned what the criteria or policy was for the delaying of capital projects in the 2007 budget.

Councillor Clement noted that there was a shortfall in the money available in the 2007 Capital Budget to complete all the projects so they were trying to determine what projects could be moved without causing any undo concern.

Councillor Vandal asked for clarification on what goes forward and what doesn't to which Councillor Clement stated that much of it would depend on what hasn't happened to date and how much money was actually left in the budget, and noted that there hadn't yet been a meeting with the people putting together the information.

Councillor Smith requested what the cost was to remove snow from sidewalks in the front of businesses in the City to which Councillor Clement recalled that in 2006, an extra $2 million dollars was put into the snow budget to clear windrows in front of businesses.

Councillor Smith stated that he was concerned about the sidewalk's themselves and wanted to know how much it would cost for the City to shovel the sidewalks for the businesses to which Councillor Clement stated that he would take the question under advisement.

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Councillor Gerbasi made reference to funding for the bus way study and noted the freeze on capital projects and questioned if the bus way study was going to happen.

Councillor Clement advised that it was difficult to provide a definitive answer as they hadn't yet seen any numbers or data on which projects had not been started.

Councillor Gerbasi questioned if the information would be available to the public and all members of Council so that they could see the workings of the decision rather than just an announcement.

Councillor Clement responded that he did not know exactly what the flow of information was going to be, but believed that the information would come out at the appropriate time.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if there would be a Council seminar; to which Councillor Clement replied that the Committee would work with the Capital Budget and report to the Executive Policy Committee. The Executive Policy Committee would then bring forward a draft preliminary document and once that draft document was released then he believed there would be a seminar.