Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 3, 2010

REPORTS

Item No. 5 Proposed Funding for Regional and Local Sidewalk Renewal
eFile FE(2010)

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 27, 2010, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS Council amended the 2009 Capital budget and increased funding for local sidewalk renewals by $600,000 from $400,000 to 1,000,000;

AND WHEREAS in the 2010 Capital budget, Council did not maintain the $1,000,000 level of funding, but again approved only $400,000 for the funding for local sidewalks renewals;

AND WHEREAS funding for sidewalk renewals is included in both the Capital and Operating (current) Budgets of the city and both include similar mandates, specifically the renewal of sidewalks;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Winnipeg Public Service, we are underfunding the renewal of our regional sidewalk network in both our capital and operating budgets by $500,000 and underfunding the renewal of our local sidewalk network in both our capital and operating budgets by $1,000,000, for a total of $1,500,000 of underfunding;

AND WHEREAS as per the proposed operating (current) budget for 2010 and approved capital budget for 2010, Winnipeg funds regional / local sidewalk renewal in both budgets by a total of $2,344,393;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding this existing level of funding, according to the Winnipeg Public Service, the underfunding of sidewalk renewals by $1,500,000 is a part of Winnipeg's Infrastructure deficit and directly contributes to the growth of Winnipeg's infrastructure debt;

AND WHEREAS an increase of funding by another $1,500,000 a year for sidewalk renewals would, in effect, actually eliminate the infrastructure deficit for sidewalks, thus setting a positive precedent as we work towards addressing the remaining infrastructure challenge;

AND WHEREAS Council found resources to add $3.5 million to the 2010 capital budget to purchase a police helicopter in the name of making our city safer;

AND WHEREAS the deplorable state of many of our city's sidewalks poses a real safety hazard to pedestrians, especially for seniors and our youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council include $1.5 million in additional funding for sidewalks, specifically $500,000 more for regional sidewalk renewal and $1 million more for local sidewalk renewal, in the 2010 Operating Budget, and that this would be in addition to the $900,000 approved in the 2010 Capital Budget for regional/local sidewalk renewals and in addition to the $1,444393 as proposed in the 2010 operating (current budget) for a grand total of $3,844,393 for regional/local sidewalk renewals.