EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 377
Councillor Gerbasi noted that Phase 1 of the BRT Corridor from downtown to Jubilee was currently on time and on budget and inquired if the Council approved study of an LRT, verses a BRT study, would in any way delay the BRT project currently underway; to which His Worship Mayor Katz replied in the negative.

Councillor Gerbasi stated that it was understood that costs of any rapid transit project were dependent on the specific corridor where it was being built and the need for tunnels, bridges, etc., and inquired if the LRT study would look at specific locations for corridors and, if so, which ones.

His Worship Mayor Katz concurred that the location of the corridor was an extremely important part of the equation on costs and it would be up to the department to do due diligence to determine where the corridor was and if tunnels, etc., would have to be built.

Councillor Vandal questioned if the Mayor could share the 2009 report that was paid for by city taxpayers on BRT to LRT conversion; to which His Worship replied that if it had not been provided, he would remedy that as soon as possible.

Councillor Wyatt inquired about the status of the 11 Building Canada fund projects that were endorsed by Council on May 21, 2010. His Worship advised that as per the normal procedure anytime a vote on the floor of Council impacts the Province in any way, shape or form, the Clerk corresponds with the Province and indicated that the City was waiting for that response.

Councillor Wyatt noted that timing was crucial in terms of the cement that was about to be laid on the BRT route and inquired if there was any idea of when there would be a decision pertaining to LRT, prior to cement being poured for BRT.

His Worship indicated that as time was of the essence and that the goal was to get it done in 60 days so that Council would know for sure and hopefully move forward one way or the other. His Worship emphasized that that this would not in any way impede the existing process that was taking place right now.

Councillor Orlikow questioned when the OurWinnipeg document would be shared with Council. His Worship advised that the Administration was moving forward as quickly as possible and that it would be available imminently; before the next Council meeting and stated that Council Seminars were also planned.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Wyatt stated that during the Operating Budget discussion, Councillors were assured that there would be no Operating Budget cuts to front-line services, yet a manager of one of the budgetary lines confirmed that 300,000 was cut from the Operating Budget to sidewalk renewal and requested His Worship to confirm that. His Worship indicated he could not confirm that but would get an answer.

Councillor Wyatt questioned where EPC was at in terms of preparing the 2011 Operating Budget and asked if there would be a zero percent increase again or an increase. His Worship replied that at this particular point in time there had been no meetings of EPC regarding the 2011 Operating Budget.

Councillor Swandel requested His Worship to make sure the Administration looked at what was done to the Capital Budget relative to sidewalks; noting that he believed that was where the trade off was. His Worship confirmed that he would make sure the Administration did their due diligence and determined exactly whether what Councillor Wyatt said was accurate or if the monies came from somewhere else.