Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 7, 2011

REPORTS

Minute No. 429 Reduced Speeds in School Zones in Winnipeg

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service consult with the Provincial Government, and the appropriate School Divisions in Winnipeg, and report back to Council with a plan of action on how to best implement reduced speeds in school zones in Winnipeg.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Deputy Mayor Swandel to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS, within the City of Winnipeg there are no "reduced speed zones" adjacent to grade schools;

AND WHEREAS, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, and Saskatoon all have 30 km/h speed limits in school zones during school hours;

AND WHEREAS, Regina, Ottawa and Hamilton have 40 km/h speed limits in school zones during school hours;

AND WHEREAS, Winnipeg is the only major city in Western Canada that does not have a reduced speed limit for school zones;

AND WHEREAS, the current speed limit on Winnipeg residential school zones (50 km/h) is the same as the speed limit on many major arterial roads;

AND WHEREAS, according to the International Transportation Forum, the likelihood of being seriously injured decreases significantly with the introduction of reduced speeds in school zones;

AND WHEREAS, an extensive study by the International Transportation Forum (of 23 OECD countries) showed that just a 10% reduction in speed (specifically in in school zones) will show a 40% reduction in serious injury accidents;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Safe Kids Canada, pedestrians struck by a car travelling 30 km/h have a 95% chance of survival, however a pedestrian struck at 50 km/h has only a 20% chance of survival;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents and the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police have both recommended the introduction of reduced speed zones on roads adjacent to schools;

AND WHEREAS, reduction in speed limits can provide, according to the International Transportation Institute, immediate safety benefits "more quickly than any other safety measure";

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS, speed limits in the City of Winnipeg are regulated by the Provincial Government under The Highway Traffic Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council that the public service to consult with the Provincial Government, and the appropriate school divisions in Winnipeg, and then report back to Council with a plan of action on how to best implement reduced speeds in school zones in Winnipeg.

Carried

The Chairperson resumed the Chair.