STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 564
Councillor Mayes (in French) asked about the status of the study requested regarding a cyclist and pedestrian bridge connecting St. Vital and the University of Manitoba. Councillor Vandal (in French) responded that he would get back to Council with that information.

Councillor Smith stated that Siloam Mission's Madison Lodge reported that their garbage pickup has been missed four out of the last six weeks, and asked about the status of the report on the performance of Emterra and BFI. Councillor Vandal replied that the report would come to committee in September and further responded that Councillor Smith should follow through with the Director of Water and Waste in regards to get the bins serviced.

Councillor Smith stated that Transit was having difficulty recruiting bus drives, and asked how many individuals have left Transit in 2012, 2011, 2010 versus 2000, 2001 and 2002, and how many had left the city for jobs in other cities. Councillor Vandal took the question under advisement.

Regarding the cancellation of the contract on the Active Transportation, Councillor Gerbasi asked who the contractor was that was awarded the contract and how much money was remaining on the contract that was not spent. Councillor Vandal replied that he did not know who the contractor was, and did not have that information, but would take the question under advisement, and get back to the Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi was concerned that the response from the Department was that the reason they gave for cancelling it was they do not have the resources to support the study happening, noting the City had only one cycling person, versus cities like Edmonton and Calgary having three to four dedicated staff for cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and asked if the Chair was aware of the situation and what was being done. Councillor Vandal replied that this was the information to be brought forward to a discussion with the Director in September, as well as in December, and a decision would be made at that point.

Councillor Fielding asked why the $400,000 study cost that much, and wouldn't that money be better spent on Active Transportation. Councillor Vandal replied that $1.2 million was being spent on Active Transportation this year, and that a master plan needed to be made, noting that he also felt the $400,000 consulting contract was exorbitant, and that hopefully with a framework of the plan, it could be done for much less than $400,000.

Concerning the Winnipeg Blue Bombers pre-season football game, Councillor Browaty noted a fun fair pickup service had been dropped and that Winnipeg Transit Services was not a great

option to get to Bomber games, as after the game many buses don't come often enough into the suburban areas of Winnipeg. He asked if the Chair was aware of this issue and if he is willing to look at other options to reinstate that service. Councillor Vandal stated that he would take that question under advisement, and get back to the Councillor.

Councillor Browaty then asked if the Chair is aware that these decisions in terms of the scheduling and the routes were done as a joint piece between both the Bombers Football Club and Winnipeg Transit, to which Councillor Vandal replied that he was aware of that, but the actual entity that pays the bills was the Bombers, and so many of these decisions come down to dollars, although he believed everyone was on the same page that the best possible service must be provided.

His Worship Mayor Katz followed up on the previous question, saying that the decision to not continue that programming was made by the Winnipeg Football Club, based on expenses, and asked if the Chair would be able to verify that and get back to Council, to which Councillor Vandal replied that he would.

Councillor Swandel asked if the Chair was aware that at the last football game, they achieved a figure of over 30 percent using Transit to get to the football game, a number that was very high. Councillor Vandal answered that he was aware of that, and that many people also took the new articulated bike lanes on Pembina Highway, to the opening game. More people are taking alternative forms, and that was very positive.