Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 13, 2015

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – May 5, 2015

Item No. 4 Zipper Merge

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 5, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be requested to investigate possible alternatives for use of the zipper merge for a pilot project in a construction zone.

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

Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 13, 2015

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – May 5, 2015

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 5, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works requested the Winnipeg Public Service to investigate possible alternatives for use of the zipper merge for a pilot project in a construction zone, and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Councillor Allard, St. Boniface Ward, provided a Vimeo video presentation, titled Merging in Winnipeg traffic, in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 29, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Allard
Seconded by Councillor Eadie

WHEREAS the summer construction season is approaching;

AND WHEREAS road construction projects throughout the season cause traffic bottlenecks where lanes are blocked off for road work;

AND WHEREAS these bottlenecks cause delays for commuters well ahead of the actual blocked off lane;

AND WHEREAS the City of Saskatoon and the State of Minnesota have sought to address this problem through the implementation and promotion of the “zipper merge” traffic management technique;

AND WHEREAS the “zipper merge” method, a regular part of driver culture in other Canadian cities, has yet to catch on in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the City of Saskatoon Public Works department has produced evidence suggesting an up to 40% reduction length of traffic bottlenecks;

AND WHEREAS it is likely only limited changes to the highway traffic act may be required, and a change in driver culture and behaviour;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – May 5, 2015

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department provide a report on the feasibility of promoting a “zipper merge” culture on Winnipeg streets within 30 days.