Minute No. 278
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – March 10, 2015

Item No. 17 Rail Safety

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. On March 18, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to explore how to improve safety for new development in proximity to railway operations and to report back to Council and provide recommendations within 120 days.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Orlikow,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 18, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommended that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to explore how to improve safety for new development in proximity to railway operations and to report back to Council and provide recommendations within 120 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 25, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS Winnipeg is intersected by many rail lines;

AND WHEREAS in many residential areas, rail lines pass very close to people's homes;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities published its "Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations" in 2013, which included extensive and detailed recommendations for setbacks, barriers, and other precautionary measures;

AND WHEREAS there may have been an increase in rail traffic carrying dangerous goods such as oil and other flammable materials passing through the City, and there is reason to believe this trend will persist;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the two year anniversary of the Lac-Mégantic disaster is approaching on July 6 2015, and the lessons learned from that tragedy must be applied to improving the safety of Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS a serious derailment could lead to great destruction, injury & loss of life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service explore how to improve safety for new development in proximity to railway operations and to report back to Council and provide recommendations within 120 days.