Minute No. 396
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – May 5, 2015

Item No. 4 Zipper Merge

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

Councillor Allard, St. Boniface Ward, provided a YouTube video presentation, titled "Zipper Merge" in support of the matter.

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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

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;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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;