STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 400

In reference to a decision that was made by the Public Works Department to remove a crosswalk in the St. Vital Ward, Councillor Mayes noted concerns about what was in the administrative report that went to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and questioned if there was a plan to begin removing other signed and marked crosswalks on regional streets.

Councillor Lukes stated that the Public Works Department looked at the Transportation Association of Canada guidelines, reviewed the crosswalks installed over the years and noted that many do not meet the new improved guidelines. Councillor Lukes added that the Public Works Department assesses the locations, conducted traffic studies and determined whether or not it was required, but currently does not have a plan to go back and review what has occurred over the years.

Councillor Mayes questioned if the Public Works Department was taking it upon themselves to change, upgrade or remove crosswalks without the request to do so.

Councillor Lukes replied that there was no action that she was aware of and no movement to remove existing crosswalks without a request.

In reference to the pedestrian strategy, Councillor Eadie questioned if Public Works was thinking about removing the pedestrian corridor on Main Street near Pritchard Avenue or Magnus Avenue.

Councillor Lukes replied that recommendations put forward in the strategies were not set in stone and were over a 20 year period. She added that when the funding becomes available, they would look at that specific section of the Ward and do an in-depth community consultation.

Councillor Eadie stated that as the consultations were done, there was no need to consult about crossing at Pritchard and Main and asked if that could be changed now.

Councillor Lukes agreed to take that back to Public Works for report back to Councillor Eadie but added that it was her understanding that, at this point in time, they were recommendations only.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Eadie questioned if the Chair was aware of other areas such as Powers, to which Councillor Lukes confirmed that she was aware of the Powers route.

Councillor Browaty referred to the Active Transportation Plan, and the maps attached therein, and asked the Chair to offer assurance that before Council adopts the final plan, people would know what routes were planned. He also cited examples of other Council adopted items, such as the Kilcona Master Plan which included a flyover for Lagimodiere Boulevard, which were not in the Active Transportation Plan, and asked if these would be included.

Councillor Lukes stated that the Active Transportation Plan was a public document posted on the City website for public examination / planning purposes. She added that there would be a high level of consultation in the neighbourhoods when any actual construction was to take place and noted that it was a 20 year plan that may change over time.

Councillor Browaty questioned if the Chair thought it was fair that amenities were being planned down various routes in various residential communities in front of people's homes without the homeowners being consulted directly d questioned if she felt the information on the website was sufficient.

Councillor Lukes stated that The Active Transportation Plan on the website was open for everyone to look at, showing major corridors and arteries and what was going in front of people's homes and yards.

Councillor Browaty noted that new communities were being built with the understanding that there were arterial networks and asked if the Chair felt it was fair to try to add amenities to existing communities.

Councillor Lukes replied that she thought it was **c**ompletely fair and if anything was built, there would be extensive consultation and the citizens would be consulted if they were on a proposed route.

His Worship Mayor Bowman asked Councillor Lukes to share how her previous work as an Active Transportation advocate assisted in her role as the Committee Chair?

Councillor Lukes replied that she had worked 14 years on consulting and talking about active transportation, was involved in the $20 million funding the City received and had a 1 year time frame to bill construction and the consultation process. She stated that she learned an extensive amount and it was important that when it was on a person's doorstep, or on their street, that they were made aware, and supported thorough a very in-depth consultation process.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Gerbasi requested the Chair to talk more about the 2010 Transportation Plan as it compared to the new one.

Councillor Lukes noted that **w**hen the consultation process started in 2010, they were very in-depth, but when it moved to the next level of actually doing a piece of infrastructure, it would go into a more detailed level of consultation. She concluded that she was thrilled that people were so passionate about this and that the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer were ramping up the City's communication levels.