Minute No. 430
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – April 10, 2015

Item No. 1 Pedestrian Crossing Analysis at Portage Avenue and Main Street

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management and adopted the following:

1. That in the interest of possibly reopening the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street to pedestrians, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

    A. Initiate discussions with the applicable property owners at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street regarding the implementation of an at grade pedestrian crossing at that intersection, including potentially amending existing agreements.

    B. Engage with Stakeholders to include consultations and research as applicable.

    C. Prepare the terms of reference for a comprehensive traffic study to assess the impact of introducing at grade pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street.

    D. Explore in more detail financing options and operating and maintenance costs.

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 Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management be adopted.

The motion for adoption of the item was put.

Councillor Browaty called for the yeas and nays, as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer, Wyatt, and Sharma. 14

Nay: Councillors Browaty and Gillingham. 2

and the motion for adoption of the item was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 10, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on June 10, 2015, Stefano Grande, Executive Director, Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, submitted a communication dated June 10, 2015 in support of the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 10, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That in the interest of possibly reopening the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street to pedestrians, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

    A. Initiate discussions with the applicable property owners at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street regarding the implementation of an at grade pedestrian crossing at that intersection, including potentially amending existing agreements.

B. Engage with Stakeholders to include consultations and research as applicable.

C. Prepare the terms of reference for a comprehensive traffic study to assess the impact of introducing at grade pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street.

D. Explore in more detail financing options and operating and maintenance costs.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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

On January 26, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management requested that the Winnipeg Public Service consult with Legal Services in order to provide an update in 60 days, In Camera if necessary, on the legal framework with respect to agreements in place regarding the Portage Avenue and Main Street intersection and Underground Concourse.

Further on January 26, 2015, Mr. M. Pittet, Acting Director of Planning, Property and Development, Mr. Brad Sacher, Director of Public Works, Mr. G. Holmes, Manager of Economic Development and Mr. J. Kiernan, Manager, Urban Design Division, Planning, Property and Development Department, provided a verbal update on the pedestrian crossing analysis at Portage Avenue and Main Street.

STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

On April 10, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works that in the interest of possibly reopening the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street to pedestrians, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to, at the appropriate time:

1. Initiate discussions with the applicable property owners at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street regarding the implementation of an at grade pedestrian crossing at that intersection, including potentially amending existing agreements.

2. Engage with Stakeholders to include consultations and research as applicable.

3. Prepare the terms of reference for a comprehensive traffic study to assess the impact of introducing at grade pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street.

4. Explore in more detail financing options and operating and maintenance costs.