STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 672

Councillor Gillingham referred to sections six and eight of the Transportation Master Plan dated October 2011, noted that the Executive Director of the Manitoba Trucking Association expressed concern and frustration that the strategy to build on strategic partnerships with higher levels of government, key freight, rail and air agencies and industry stakeholders had not been implemented, and asked if the Canada Working Group, made up of Public Works representatives, key stakeholders including representatives from the trucking industry, rail and air industries, could be tasked with suggested policies, processes and communication requirements that would enhance how truck routes were designated, reviewed and designated.

Councillor Lukes advised that they had had discussions with the Manitoba Trucking Association who brought forward some interesting points, one of which was that they would like to have a more formal method of communicating their thoughts and ideas to the Public Works Department. She added that they were moving to becoming a multi-global transportation hub and the Transportation Master Plan would undergo a review within the next year or so, noting that this was very timely, and she agreed to take Councillor Gillingham's comments into consideration.

Councillor Browaty asked for an update on the status of Winnipeg Transit and asked if they would get back to a full schedule when the schedule was revised in December.

Councillor Lukes advised that Transit was still dealing with the situation and continued to repair the engines, with their goal to get as many buses on the road as possible and would revise the schedule in January.

Councillor Browaty, asked for clarification, as he had heard that Transit was requesting additional funding for going over budget and the media reported that the manufacturer was going to provide credit or cover the majority of the cost of the repairs.

Councillor Lukes confirmed that there was a lot of overtime included when all the buses were running. She added that currently there had not been as much overtime but she did not have any financial report on the savings and agreed to report back to Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Mayes noted that the St. Vital Bridge was not listed as one of the projects in the Transportation Master Plan and questioned if the Master Plan was un-amended at this point but would evolve and amendments would be made.

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Councillor Lukes confirmed that that was the prior process and understood that would be the process going forward.

Councillor Gilroy advised that she had many calls on the loss of the fall street cleaning program, regarding concerns over slippery streets and water drainage, and inquired if there would be any discretionary cleaning to deal with some of the problems that arose from not cleaning the streets.

Councillor Lukes confirmed that the public service had mechanisms in place to monitor issues that might compromise infrastructure, including drainage, and suggested that 311 be contacted if Councillors heard of challenges. Councillor Lukes added that the Water and Waste website would be updated with more current information to make residents aware that they could take, free of charge, any yard waste materials to the landfill with no tipping fees throughout the entire year.

Councillor Gilroy questioned again if discretionary cleaning would be available; to which Councillor Lukes confirmed that the department had funding to go out and deal with such issues.

Councillor Wyatt advised that a lot of his residents were also quite concerned that the leaves would not be swept and were concerned about the drains, in terms of freezing, and whether or not the water and snow would flow, and inquired if anything could be considered at this time.

Councillor Lukes replied that Council voted last year to eliminate the street cleaning program so funding was not available to do a complete cleaning program but serious issues would be dealt with.