STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 250

Councillor Allard asked the Chair, Councillor Lukes where the Administration was at regarding an official policy for zipper merge; to which Councillor Lukes replied the Administration would report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works at its meeting in April 2016.

Councillor Allard asked if there was a priorization list for new transit buses, what bus would go onto the streets and were those decisions made on a need basis or politically. Councillor Lukes replied that Amber Trails was first on the priority list, followed by Bridgwater and five buses after that. Councillor Lukes advised she would ask the Director of Transit to report back to the Committee.

Councillor Allard asked about the used bus strategy, referencing six 1993 buses from Brandon for $7000. versus 1995 buses from Calgary, and why Winnipeg was not moving forward with purchasing the Brandon buses. Councillor Lukes replied that Winnipeg Transit deemed the Calgary buses were in better condition.

Councillor Schreyer asked what the difference was between the 1993 and 1995 buses; to which Councillor Lukes advised that Winnipeg Transit had the expertise to determine which buses were better, both mechanically and in overall shape.

Councillor Schreyer asked if the Public Works Department was aware of the condition of those buses; to which Councillor Lukes replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Allard asked if the Chair realized that a new bus was over a half a million dollars and a used bus, if you looked at the Brandon buses were $7,000, and suggested that it was better to get people in buses now rather than having them driving their private automobiles. to Councillor Lukes responded that there were many other pieces that go into putting a bus on the road than just getting an economical bus. Councillor Lukes invited Councillor Allard to attend the next meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works to hear the Transit Director speak about the used bus strategy.

Councillor Allard advised that there was a 25 percent increase in the Winnipeg Transit operating budget and asked if that meant 25 percent more buses and if not, why not, to which Councillor Lukes replied that the increase included the purchase of buses, but also included more mechanics to handle the maintenance challenges the Department experienced .

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

Councillor Mayes asked if one of the disqualifying factors of the purchase of Brandon buses was that they were not full-length buses; to which Councillor Lukes replied she would ask the Director of Transit to clarify at the next Committee meeting.

Councillor Eadie asked how long it would take to implement the new software for Handi-Transit that was identified in the Capital Budget; to which Councillor Lukes advised she would report back on the matter.