Minute No. 449
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – May 30, 2017

Item No. 1 Transit Safety

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Council Motion of May 24, 2017 be received as information.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Morantz,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS the safety of our civic employees, specifically bus drivers as well as passengers of Winnipeg Transit is a fundamental responsibility of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the tragic loss of an on-the-job bus driver in February, the first transit homicide in Canada, has precipitated positive discussions on improving safety and service of Transit including an administrative recommendation to create a Transit Advisory Council (TAC) in the near-term;

AND WHEREAS the recommendations included in this motion come from discussions with members of council, the Amalgamated Transit Union 1505, Transit drivers and members of the public that can form the basis of a starting point of discussions and debate for the forthcoming TAC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Item No. 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated May 30, 2017 be referred to the September 12, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works so that it can be referred to the TAC once constituted.

The motion moved by Councillor Browaty and seconded by Councillor Lukes was put.

Councillor Browaty called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: Councillors Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Lukes, Schreyer and Wyatt. 6

Nay: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan and Sharma. 10

and the motion moved by Councillor Browaty and seconded by Councillor Lukes was declared lost.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

The motion for adoption of the item was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow and Pagtakhan. 9

Nay: Councillors Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Lukes, Schreyer, Wyatt and Sharma. 7

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 7, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of May 24, 2017 be received as information.

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STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 30, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of May 24, 2017 be laid over to the September 12, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 24, 2017, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS the Mayor and Transit administration have failed to initiate meaningful consultations with Transit drivers and passengers;

AND WHEREAS national eyes are on Winnipeg to see how we deal with Canada's first transit homicide and how we address the issue of safety of Transit drivers and passengers on our buses;

AND WHEREAS Transit has not made any meaningful improvements to safety protocols despite increasing numbers and severity of assaults against drivers and passengers and call for action dating back to at least 2011;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS we need to change the culture at Winnipeg Transit to make safety and customer service a top priority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City immediately establish a policy of Safety First and customer service at Transit for both our customers and drivers;

2. Establish a Transit Security/Police service to enforce the Safety First policy;

3. Institute zero tolerance for fare evaders while removing drivers from risky enforcement measures;

4. Establish a Council-appointed Transit Community Advisory Board with the support of the Office of Public Engagement to arbitrate complaints and make recommendations to management to improve Winnipeg Transit;

5. Enshrine a zero tolerance policy for all assaults and violence with full reporting of all assaults, verbal and physical, to be reported to Winnipeg Police and provided in a monthly report to Council for the next two years;

6. Institute regular cleaning of both buses and bus stops;

7. Begin an immediate comprehensive public safety awareness campaign for Winnipeg Transit to be regular and sustained through the year;

8. Complete an in-depth study of best practices in other jurisdictions;

9. Revise the job description of the Director of Transit to follow these new protocols and place a higher emphasis on safety and remuneration based at least partially on customer service surveys;

10. Report back to council plans to implement items 1-9 within 90 days.