Minute No. 759
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – October 12, 2021

Item No. 6 Zipper Merge Signage

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works in 120 days on the following, and provide quarterly verbal reports beginning December 1, 2021:

    A. Updating the Manual of Temporary Traffic Control on City Streets for 2022, to include zipper merge signage encouraging motorists to merge at the point where a lane closes due to construction.

    B. Undertaking the following in time for the 2022 construction season, if the zipper merge signage requires approval by the Province of Manitoba:

        i. Submit a request for approval to the Province to accommodate the usage of zipper merge signage;

        ii. Submit a request to the Province for the authorization to conduct a pilot project for the usage of zipper merge signage, if it is evident the signage will not be approved in time for the 2022 construction season.

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 Allard,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 12, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works considered the Council Motion of September 29, 2021, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works in 120 days on the following, and provide quarterly verbal reports beginning December 1, 2021:

    A. Updating the Manual of Temporary Traffic Control on City Streets for 2022, to include zipper merge signage encouraging motorists to merge at the point where a lane closes due to construction.

    B. Undertaking the following in time for the 2022 construction season, if the zipper merge signage requires approval by the Province of Manitoba:

        i. Submit a request for approval to the Province to accommodate the usage of zipper merge signage;

        ii. Submit a request to the Province for the authorization to conduct a pilot project for the usage of zipper merge signage, if it is evident the signage will not be approved in time for the 2022 construction season.

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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.

Kelly Ryback submitted a presentation dated October 12, 2021, with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 29, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Gillingham,

WHEREAS many Canadian cities observe the zipper merge which reduces traffic lineups and improves vehicular movement where there is high traffic volumes and low speeds due to congestion;

AND WHEREAS the zipper merge manoeuvre is not observed by most Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS if there were more participation by motorists, vehicular movement during construction would improve at little cost to the city, if zipper merge signage was placed at the lane closure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to update the Manual of Temporary Traffic Control on City Streets for 2022, to include zipper merge signage encouraging motorists to merge at the point where a lane closes due to construction.

2. That if the zipper merge signage requires approval by the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to undertake the following in time for the 2022 construction season, and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works in March, 2022:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

A. Submit a request for approval to the Province to accommodate the usage of zipper merge signage;

B. Submit a request to the Province for the authorization to conduct a pilot project for the usage of zipper merge signage, if it is evident the signage will not be approved in time for the 2022 construction season.