Winnipeg City Council - May 30/23 Motion SPAP priority #18. Route 90 widening

Motion 1 – Make approval of SPAP 18 (proposed Route 90 Improvements - Taylor to Ness) conditional upon completion of a full, independent cost-benefit analysis and assessment of the project's impact on the City's ability to meet its adopted policies and targets to address climate change.

WHEREAS this project will rely on significant financial support from the National Trade Corridor Fund or other federal infrastructure programs that require not only a strong business case but also that the project will reduce transportation-related GHG emissions, and given that the City's previous applications for Federal funding failed to provide evidence of the project's impact on GHG emissions.

WHEREAS in the 2022 civic election, Mayor Gillingham promised that widening Route 90 in conjunction with its reconstruction would only proceed if there was a strong business case, with a positive return on investment, based on a reputable economic analysis.

WHEREAS the public consultations completed this month on widening Route 90 from Taylor to Ness, including adding a third span to the St. James Bridge, invited public input on the proposed design prior to the business case and GHG emission impacts being available.

WHEREAS the claim that widening 'only' 31% of the total cost of the project is attributable to widening Route 90 has not been independently verified and is inconsistent with prior calculations of the project's costs and benefits.

WHEREAS residents have not been informed how this project will be funded if requests by the City for federal and provincial cost-sharing are declined.

WHEREAS if funding from other levels of government is not available, the project will require an equivalent of a 7% property tax increase for 30 years from the citizens of Winnipeg.

AND WHEREAS the City already has more transportation infrastructure than it can afford to maintain resulting in a multi-billion unfunded liability as documented in the *Unfunded Major Capital Projects Report*.

AND WHEREAS the City has not been able to afford to increase the $100k allocated to maintenance over the last 20 years, yet maintenance of the widened roadway will require an annual increase to $1.9 million.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Strategic Priorities Action Plan's proposed Route 90 Improvements - Ness to Taylor be amended to read that:

1. A full independent economic assessment of the proposed widening of Route 90 from Taylor to Ness, including adding a third span to the St. James Bridge, that demonstrates a positive return on investment, and accounts for increased operations and maintenance costs, will be completed before this project proceeds further; and

2. A full environmental impact assessment of the project will be completed, accounting for confirmed future traffic projections that consider induced demand, GHG emission impacts, and clearly showing that the project will not undermine the *Climate Action Plan* and *Community Energy Investment Roadmap* (CEIR), previously passed by Council.