From:
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 6:32 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks
Cc:
Subject: re: November 29, 2017 meeting of Executive Policy Committee Item No.: 5 Wilkes Avenue Alignment to William R. Clement Parkway Extension

Note to City Clerks Desk Please include this as a submission for the November 29, 2017 meeting of Executive Policy Committee Item No. 5 Wilkes Avenue Alignment to William R. Clement Parkway Extension. Our submission is in support of support of the motion to reevaluate the William R Clement Parkway extension project.

November 25, 2017

His Worship, Mayor Bowman
Executive Policy Committee Members
Councillors
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Re: William R Clement Parkway and the Sterling Lyon Parkway extension

As members of the South St. Boniface Residents Association, we support the motion to re-evaluate the William R Clement Parkway extension project. However, we do not agree with infrastructure plans that seem to simply cater to urban sprawl at the expense of established neighbourhoods. We also strongly urge that city re-evaluate the practices involving the public engagement, consultation and participation process.

Though during the recent October 31st meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, CAO Doug McNeil concluded that, in the case of the Marion Widening, the process had worked, it is highly unlikely that very many area residents would agree. After spending over a year wondering what would happen to their properties and to their community, residents made a point of rearranging work schedules in order to attend the September 19th 2016 Public Works meeting and be able to say that, decidedly, the process had not worked for them. Their list of grievances has never been properly addressed by the city.

There seem to be enough similarities between the present William R Clement Parkway situation and the Marion Widening one to cause concern. One striking similarity is that public consultation seems to be treated less as a potential source of good information and more as a mere formality to be dispensed with quickly. (Please see below for list of some grievances and comparisons)

The fact that a city of Winnipeg representative would announce, after all that happened in 2015 and 2016, that the Marion public engagement and consultation was a success, only serves to underline the serious need to do an extensive re-examination of that matter and of the process itself before proceeding with the William R Clement Parkway extension or any other major infrastructure projects, especially those involving expropriations.

Sincerely,
M. Berger
On behalf of South St. Boniface Residents Association

List of some of the grievances regarding public engagement from Marion Widening project and comparison to Parkway extension

● According to the survey carried out by SSBRA, approximately 70% of residents were essentially left out of the public consultation as they are deemed "unaffected" despite the massive size and potential impact of the design. (*The William R Clement Parkway extension project appears to have left all residents out of the process for the 4th option with no input.*)

● In April 2015 small groups of those being expropriated were met with, were presented no options to the 4 massive Marion designs and no input was asked. They were told that these were the options and they would be expropriated. (*Although the William R Clement Parkway extension project has played out slightly differently, the underlying message to citizens of Winnipeg appears to essentially remain the same which is that their input is not sought out or valued.*)

● BRT and Public Markets Brownfield both of which would have a direct effect on the design were not disclosed at the 2015 Marion Widening Functional Design Open House. Residents only discovered this information while researching in order to understand the scale of the project. (*Which leads one to question, with such a drastic change to William R Clement Parkway extension project, what information has not been disclosed?*)

Further, during the recent October 31st, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Councillor Sharma asked about typical engineering practices to which CAO Doug McNeil responded:

"Typical process is where you have some new information that the public has not seen before is to take it back to the public."

This most certainly did not occur with respect to the allowance for BRT and the considerations for Public Markets Brownfield for the Marion Widening. (*Nor was this practice applied with the 4th option for the William R Clement Parkway)*

● Recently, CAO Doug McNeil has publicly stated that Councillor Allard was always in opposition and was immediately alarmed at the massive scale of the Marion Functional Design. The Winnipeg Free Press published an article on 17/3/2015 "Allard pushed for Marion Street improvements at budget meeting". This occurred after the June 2014 open house where options and their potential impact the the community were displayed at an open house that notification had limited distribution. During the second resident-held meeting in June of 2015 Councillor Allard stated he would "let this play out like it should", it was not until October 2015, after substantial community research and opposition to the project that he publicly came out against the Marion Widening. (*This leaves us to question what facts about the William R Clement Parkway Extension may have also been publicly altered? There is video showing city administration endorsing the 4th option for the Parkway extension.*)

● At the November 7th 2016 Public Works Committee meeting, the Public Works Committee essentially ignored the advice of Lester Deane, the director of Public Works at that time, to start the process over in order to regain public trust. The committee voted to retain the services of the original consultants for the Marion Widening *which are the same consultants for the current William R Clement Parkway extension project.)*