

SUBMISSION – STEVE WEST

ITEM 2 OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS DATED JUNE 11, 2024, REGARDING PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDY – ROUTE 90 IMPROVEMENTS – TAYLOR AVENUE TO NESS AVENUE

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:03:40 AM

Personal information

Full name: Steve West

Email address:

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Job title:

Organization:

Address:

City:

Province or territory: Manitoba

Postal code:

Delegation information

Committee: Council

Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations

Committee - other: N/A

Agenda item (number and title): (SPC Public Works, June 11) Item No. 2 Preliminary Design Study - Route 90 Improvements - Taylor Avenue to Ness Avenue

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing

Participation preference: N/A

Comments in writing: I am providing comments in opposition to the report, Preliminary Design Study - Route 90 Improvements - Taylor Avenue to Ness Avenue, and in particular the widening of Kenaston Boulevard.

I believe that in the planning of any public expenditures on our city's infrastructure, a key consideration must be the question, "Are we investing in people, or cars?" Clearly, this report favours the latter. And ironically, this report is being considered at the same meeting Council will consider slashing contributions to social initiatives by gutting the Community Grants program.

Mayor Gillingham, in your election campaign you promised the widening of Kenaston would only happen if the business case supported it. Numerous critics, more adept in financial analysis than me, have stated unequivocally that the report's content does not support it; many indicate the business case is about as stable as a house of cards.

Please instead consider the return on investment these funds would produce, and more importantly, the increased health, well-being and sense of community you'd be creating by instead allocating these scarce resources to initiatives like these, as just a few examples that, literally, lives depend on:

- making financial commitments to the Council-approved Poverty Reduction strategy to ensure all citizens have the dignity and support to live their best possible lives,

- increasing, not reducing, the Community Grants program to foster community connections, spirit and wellness, and
- accelerating the development of active transportation for safe, separated family and commuter travel by foot or on bikes and other personal transport equipment (with gratitude for capital spending thus far).

Currently, the City cannot maintain the roadways it has on the books, and has already thrown its hands up in surrender by closing the Arlington Bridge, creating a major transportation inequity. In some cases in my neighbourhood, it has taken two years to get potholes filled. Expanding our roadways is an unsustainable activity that only adds future debt while inducing more demand, guaranteeing more lanes will be called for in future; more infrastructure we won't be able to afford and will unceremoniously abandon in the future, while many generations will still be left paying the bill.

Mayor Gillingham and members of Council, please, invest wisely; put our money into projects that aid all people: Vote "nay" to this report.

With hope and urgency,

Steve West

File:

Public engagement preference: Yes