Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 13, 2024

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – November 8, 2024

Item No. 1 Portage and Main Intersection – At-Grade Opening and Decommissioning of the Concourse (Point Douglas Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the following to Council:

1. That an extension of time of 180 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the following:

    A. Scope of work and budget to assess the condition of the below-grade concourse to determine the steps, costs, and traffic impacts required to decommission and close the concourse to public access.

    B. Consultation with the tenants of the concourse, the property owners on the 4 corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation about the intersection, on the process and timing of the at-grade opening and the decommissioning of the concourse.

    C. Consultation with the Winnipeg Arts Council in an effort to address concerns related to the public art that is located in the concourse.

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 Browaty,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 8, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 21, 2024, Council adopted the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, which included the following:

1. That the at-grade vision for the Portage and Main intersection as articulated in Appendix 7 be approved as the guiding vision for renewal of the infrastructure and public realm at the intersection, with the exception that future designs should incorporate at-grade pedestrian crossing access and that it be referred to the forthcoming Rapid Transit (Downtown Corridors) Preliminary Design Study for inclusion in that project.

2. That the opening of at-grade pedestrian crossing at Portage and Main be approved, and the Public Service be directed to take the necessary steps required to facilitate that by July 1, 2025.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – November 8, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

3. That the Public Service be directed to prepare the scope of work and budget to assess the condition of the below-grade concourse to determine the steps, costs, and traffic impacts required to decommission and close the concourse to public access, and to refer that project forward for Council consideration prior to the 2025 Budget Review Process.

4. That the Public Service be authorized to negotiate with the property owners at the four corners related to property acquisition, encroachments and/or easements related to the construction.

5. That the Public Service consult the tenants of the concourse, the property owners on the 4 corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation about the intersection, on the process and timing of the at-grade opening and the decommissioning of the concourse and include the findings in the report back to Council outlined in Recommendation 3.

6. That $13,000,000 be approved to facilitate the initial opening design and construction requirements, funded as follows:

    A. . Replace the first charge authorization for Downtown Streets in 2025 capital forecast for $8.64 million with the streets related work for the Portage and Main intersection; and defer the planned downtown streets to 2028 offset by reduction from the “Regional Street Renewals – Annual Program – Various locations to be identified” of $8.64 million in 2028 (see page 65 of the Supplement – from $60.212 million to $51.572 million).

    B. Dedicate the funding authorized in 2023 and 2024 for Portage Place revitalization project (part of the Regional and Local Street Renewal program) to this project totaling $1.1 million (2023 - $400,000, 2024 - $700,000) and defer this $1.1 million to 2027 offset by a reduction from the “Regional Street Renewals – Annual Program – Various locations to be identified” of $1.1 million in 2027 (see page 65 of the Supplement – from $38.704 million to $37.604 million).

    C. Approve new capital borrowing authority of $3.26 million in 2024 and enact a borrowing by-law in accordance with section 294 of the City of Winnipeg Charter.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

7. That the corresponding debt and finance charges be included in the operating budget offset by a corresponding increase in Corporate Efficiencies (2024 - $111,000, 2025 - $200,000, 2026 and 2027 $212,000 each).

8. That the Public Service be authorized to enter into a Sole Source agreement with an Engineering Consultant to expedite all engineering services (preliminary design, detailed design, contract administration and post construction services).

9. That a request of $1.063 million for preliminary design, engineering and engagement in 2025 in conjunction with the Rapid Transit (Downtown Corridors) Preliminary Design Study be referred to the 2025 Budget Review Process for consideration.

10. That the Public Service consult with the Winnipeg Arts Council in an effort to address concerns related to the public art that is located in the concourse.

11. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

NOTICE OF EXTENSION REQUEST

Title: Portage and Main Intersection – At-Grade Opening and Decommissioning of the Concourse

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head
G. Patton	G. Patton

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Service requests that an extension of up to 180 days be granted to report back on the following:

1. Scope of work and budget to assess the condition of the below-grade concourse to determine the steps, costs, and traffic impacts required to decommission and close the concourse to public access.

2. Consultation with the tenants of the concourse, the property owners on the 4 corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation about the intersection, on the process and timing of the at-grade opening and the decommissioning of the concourse.

3. Consultation with the Winnipeg Arts Council in an effort to address concerns related to the public art that is located in the concourse.

REASON FOR THE EXTENSION

The Public Service has initiated discussions with the property owners at the four corners of Portage Avenue and Main Street as part of the at-grade opening design work. Additional time is required for discussions with stakeholders on the potential decommissioning of the underground concourse. An engineering consultant assignment is in the process of being finalized that will address the steps, confirmation of costs and traffic impacts required to decommission and close the concourse to public access. Upon the completion of the engineering study, the results will be presented to Council for consideration.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY

At its March 21, 2024 meeting, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

3. That the Public Service be directed to prepare the scope of work and budget to assess the condition of the below-grade concourse to determine the steps, costs, and traffic impacts required to decommission and close the concourse to public access, and to refer that project forward for Council consideration prior to the 2025 Budget Review Process.

5. That the Public Service consult the tenants of the concourse, the property owners on the 4 corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation about the intersection, on the process and timing of the at-grade opening and the decommissioning of the concourse and include the findings in the report back to Council outlined in Recommendation 3.

10. That the Public Service consult with the Winnipeg Arts Council in an effort to address concerns related to the public art that is located in the concourse

11. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.