Minutes – Council – May 22, 2025

Minute No. 294
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 8, 2025

Item No. 1 Portage and Main Intersection – Decommissioning Study of the Concourse
(Point Douglas Ward)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of 90 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 four (4) corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation in reference to the intersection, on the process and timing of that 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.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 8, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Gillingham was absent from the vote on the above motion.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 8, 2025, 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.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On November 21, 2024, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

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.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 8, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 13, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the matter to Council.

On November 8, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council that an extension of time of 180 days be granted to report back on the matter.

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:

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.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 8, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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.

NOTICE OF EXTENSION REQUEST

Title: Portage and Main Intersection – Decommissioning Study of the Concourse

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head
B. Erickson	G. Patton

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Service requests that an extension of up to 90 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 four (4) corners and other downtown stakeholders, consistent with the previous rounds of consultation in reference to the intersection, on the process and timing of that 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 secured engineering services for the Portage and Main Underground Concourse Decommissioning Study and has developed initial conceptual plans for the decommissioning process. More time is requested to prepare a comprehensive decommissioning report, which will outline the impacts of decommissioning, the implementation strategy, and a Class 4 cost estimate. Once the engineering study is finalized in the second quarter of 2025, the findings will be contained in an Administrative Report and presented to Council for review/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.