Dear Chair and Committee Members of the Standing Policy Committee of Public Works:

The purpose of this letter is to share our grave concerns over the project known as “Moving on Marion“ and how this will negatively impact our location of 390 and 400 Marion Street. Last year, our Parish celebrated its 75th Anniversary of serving the Ukrainian community and Eastern Catholic Faithful of St. Boniface/St. Vital, Norwood as well as all of South East Winnipeg. Our Parish serves a large area.

As a starting point, I would like to point out that we were never consulted at any point of the plans and discussion. We only found out by word of mouth from the local business neighbours.

Both I and our Parish President attended the initial community drop in engagement workshops back in the spring of 2023 and pointed out the engineers/architects/planners of “Moving on Marion” that there were several serious flaws to their design with regards to our faith and cultural community. We invited them for a ‘on site’ meeting to which they responded positively but failed to follow through.

We also sent several letters to our City Councillor (one as registered mail) and never received a response.

Reviewing the proposed designs of ‘Moving on Marion’, we can see two immediate problems which we are bringing to your attention and politely demanding appropriate modifications.

As we pointed out to the city’s engineers/architects/planners at the public meeting, the City of Winnipeg design proposal failed to take into consideration that we are a Church. The proposal would deny handicap accessibility and negatively affect our spiritual and cultural practices that, up to now, have never had a problem with Marion’s current design.

As an active Church (at 390 Marion St.) serving a large area of the city, we do and continue to need street parking in front of our church building for liturgical, spiritual and cultural services and social events, especially for funerals and weddings.

In the case of a funeral, space is required for the hearse car which transports our deceased loved ones to the front entrance of the Church. We also need space for the Funeral Director’s lead car and the Family Limo car. Under the current design plan, how do we bring in the body of deceased into the church?

For a spiritual and cultural event such as a Ukrainian Wedding, the same street parking area in front of the church is needed for the Limo car that brings the Bride and Groom to arrive and later depart from the Church before/after the Wedding Ceremony.

During the weekday and weekends, parking in front of our Church serves as a drop off zone for those with physically handicaps and others have other mobility issues. The close proximity to the front entrance and elevator lift is very important to those who are either joining us for religious and spiritual faith events upstairs, or using our Church Auditorium downstairs for faith, cultural, family and social events.

The parking space in front of 390 (the Church) and 400 (Parish Centre) on Marion is necessary for Handi Transit to pick up or drop off people participating in our religious/spiritual, cultural and social events. Their large vehicles make it impossible for them to enter our parking lot and turn around.

In the current design of “Moving on Marion” the loading zone in front of our Parish Centre (located at 400 Marion Street) has been removed and replaced with a bus stop. This area is equally active and necessary as it provides drop off space in front of its main doors. The current Marion design would negatively impact those with physical and mobility issues. The loading zone is particularly important and necessary for the dropping off of equipment and supplies needed to run/operate the Parish Centre and provide/support faith, cultural and social service to the greater community. These parking spaces and loading zone were not accounted for in the current proposed design.

We are greatly disappointed that our Councillor Matt Allard chose not to respond to our letters, nor meet with us, nor assist us in getting in contact with the City Engineers/architects/ planners of “Moving on Marion”.

Thank you for your time, your consideration and your help in this important matter as our Parish celebrates its 76 year of service to the faith, spiritual, cultural and social community and its commitment to continue to do so in the future with your help in modifying some of the designs on “Moving on Marion”.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Darren Kawiuk
Parish Priest

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