MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
Unit #3-1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0Z2

June 12, 2025

Presentation to: Councillor Janice Lukes, Chair
Members, Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

From: Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B., President & CEO, MHCA

Subject: **Transportation Master Plan**

Good morning members of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

I am here today on behalf of Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, and as a member of the Goods Movement Advisory Committee, to speak in support of Item 8 – Transportation Master Plan

Overall, this plan builds a solid foundation for the future by recognizing that a well-managed goods movement system is critical to Winnipeg's economic future.

However - the $4.7 billion dollar price tag on this Plan can only be achieved by growing the economy since you cannot rely solely on property taxes to achieve this level of funding.

We appreciate that the Public Service also acknowledges this by listing "economic prosperity" as the first target for the plan on page nine of the report – despite listing it as third in the executive summary.

And we agree – economic prosperity needs to be the first target in order to achieve this plan.

In order to accomplish this, we must develop and consider a new funding model for the City, supported by revenue streams sufficient for the existing and projected investment needs.

An obvious first place to start is to partner efforts between the civic and provincial governments, and by extension the federal government, through a shared economic growth strategy, harnessing strategic investment to grow the economy to help generate required revenue streams – think New Fiscal Deal.

We need to harness existing public support and press the provincial government to engage in New Fiscal Deal discussions. The City needs to explore alternate revenue sharing and sources, potentially, for example, replacing property taxes with municipal personal and corporate income taxes.

The City also needs to appoint a Chief Economic Development Officer at the "C" Suite level to champion economic growth and coordinate City efforts. This person should report to a Council committee charged with a similar mandate, while providing strategic advice to all of Council on opportunities to leverage growth.

The above steps begin the long, hard work towards putting Winnipeg on a path towards economic growth, sustainable revenue generation and stronger service delivery capacity.

This ability to generate new revenue will ensure the City is able to repair our existing roadways along with building new routes to ensure we continue to enhance our links as a vital, central trade corridor in Canada.

The MHCA looks forward to continuing to work with the City towards practical, workable solutions, to support its ratepayers with a strengthened civic fiscal capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA)



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,
President & CEO

cc. MHCA Board of Directors