Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 24 Financial Assistance Program for Small Businesses in Areas Undergoing Major Work

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of November 27, 2025, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the Council Motion of November 27, 2025, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On November 27, 2025, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg as the sixth largest City in Canada is undertaking and will continue to undertake significant infrastructure renewal projects across its commercial corridors and business districts, which local businesses regularly identify as barriers to sustaining operations;

AND WHEREAS the City of Montréal launched in 2019 a Financial Assistance Program for Establishments in an Area Undergoing Major Work, which provides targeted support to businesses directly impacted by long-term construction projects;

AND WHEREAS the program offers subsidies of up to $40,000 annually to cover gross profit losses greater than 5%, as well as a lump-sum $5,000 subsidy available at the start of qualifying projects, without requiring proof of loss;

AND WHEREAS eligible projects in Montréal are large-scale municipal or transit-related construction sites lasting at least six months (underground works) or 36 months (major transit/public works), and eligible businesses are retail goods or consumer services directly affected by obstructions to customer traffic;

AND WHEREAS the program has proven effective in mitigating the negative economic impacts of prolonged infrastructure works, delivering over $26.2 million in assistance and strengthening the resilience of commercial districts;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Public Service be directed to:

1. Report back to the Executive Policy Committee with a framework for a 'Winnipeg-based Financial Assistance Program for Small Businesses in Areas Undergoing Major Work', modeled on Montréal's program, to allow Committee guidance on the following:

    A. Identification of designated pilot areas with significant construction impacts

    B. Program design and applicability

2. Report back prior to the tabling of the 2027-2030 multi-year budget, with recommendations for program implementation and funding options.

3. Complete the work required in Recommendations 1-2 within existing budgets with a focus on research, stakeholder consultation, and program design.

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