Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 17, 2004

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Civic Environmental Committee - Rapid Transit Task Force
File E-7

CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 8, 2004, the Civic Environmental Committee recommended that:

1. The scope of review for the Rapid Transit Task Force include the potential use / preservation of abandoned rail corridors in Winnipeg.

2. No action be taken until the Rapid Transit Task Force review is complete so that the use of corridors in the long term is not compromised.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 8, 2004, the Civic Environmental Committee was advised of the upcoming Plan Winnipeg Public Hearing to consider the proposed amendment to Plan Winnipeg by deleting lands known as the "Oak Point Transit Corridor", and that there are several rail corridors in Winnipeg that have the potential either now or at some future date to be integrated into a comprehensive rapid transit system.

The Civic Environmental Committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Council has endorsed the establishment of a Rapid Transit Task Force that is to report to EPC by no later than June 2005 on various rapid transit options for Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS there are several rail corridors in Winnipeg that have the potential either now or at some future date to be integrated into a comprehensive rapid transit system;

AND WHEREAS the Canada Transport Act Review of potential uses of abandoned rail corridors has identified these lands "as unique urban resources with the potential to significantly improve urban transportation networks" and that "it would be short-sighted to allow them to be abandoned for public use without extensive review and discussion on a corridor-by-corridor basis";

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues has recommended that special emphasis should be placed to "ensure that unused rail rights-of-way and corridors are preserved and made available at net salvage value or at no cost for future transit or be developed into recreational trails";

AND WHEREAS the federal government in the U.S. has used gasoline tax revenue to financially support the preservation of more than 1200 abandoned rail corridors for use as transit right-of-ways and recreational trails;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has made a commitment to transfer a portion of federal gasoline tax revenues to Canadian cities and that a portion of these revenues will likely be dedicated to transit;

AND WHEREAS rapid transit has the potential to mitigate increased congestion and greenhouse gas emissions due to significant increases in traffic on the regional street system from proposed new developments in Winnipeg such as the redevelopment of the Kapyong Barracks and the proposed Waverley West development;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City has made a commitment through Plan Winnipeg Policies 3A-03 and 3A-04 to integrate land use, urban design and transportation planning to protect traffic flows from significant increases in volume as a result of new development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The scope of review for the Rapid Transit Task Force include the potential use / preservation of abandoned rail corridors in Winnipeg.

2. No action be taken until the Rapid Transit Task Force review is complete so that the use of corridors in the long term is not compromised.