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February 13, 2026

RE: EPC agenda item, Report Item 15

Greetings EPC members and Mayor Gillingham;

Thank you for allowing us to submit comments regarding this agenda item. At Green Action Centre, we are disappointed to see the Road Safety Budget and the Spray Pad budget as the option before council to cut to make up the $5 million budget shortfall.

Road safety is a priority for Winnipeggers. We are seeing rising rates of injury to vulnerable road users. In January, Public Works had a motion for a “stop, drop and go” motion due to the chaos in our communities caused by the high number of children being driven to school each day across our city. The Public Works agenda is often full of motions from communities requesting stop signs, turn signals, speed bumps and other items to try to calm the traffic that they are dealing with.

Cutting the Road Safety budget should not be an option.

We are also opposed to the loss of funding for spray pads. Communities are suffering from lack of local recreation options. As local pools and other infrastructure are closed and demolished due to neglect, communities have been promised these spray pads to make up for other losses. With rising temperatures every year due to climate change, spray pads are critical refuges for community members to take their children to cool off. They offer opportunities for folks to enjoy recreation in their neighborhoods, often a short walk or bike ride away. They are places where neighbours connect, converse and build community.

Where could we find $5 million dollars to make up for this shortfall?

In October, the city budget was amended to add in $5 million dollars to acquire properties along Kenaston and Chief Peguis for projects that are currently unfunded. These property acquisitions will further erode the City of Winnipeg's finances by reducing its tax base.

This $5 million was found outside of the normal budget process. When it comes to “tough choices” in the budget, it should not be items that have gone through the multi-year funding

process, been fought for and justified by communities and committees, that face the chopping block. This is deeply unfair.

We look forward to hearing the discussion of this agenda item and hope that EPC will compare and contrast the value of high ROI projects like road safety and community infrastructure, compared to land acquisition and housing demolition for unfunded, low ROI road expansions.

We urge you to keep the city's vision close to heart during your discussion: A vibrant, healthy, and inclusive city for all City of Winnipeg employees, its residents, and visitors.

Sincerely,

Mel Marginet
Sustainable Transportation Team
Green Action Centre