Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - December 8, 2004

CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 3 City-wide Accessibility Program
File CR-3

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 10, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter of a City-wide Accessibility Program for consideration during future capital budget discussions.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 23, 2004, the Access Advisory Committee recommended that the Executive Policy Committee give favourable consideration to ensuring the continuation of the Accessibility Program beyond 2005 whereby a permanent Capital Budget line item of $250,000.00 is included from 2006 forward.

Further, the Access Advisory Committee requested the Executive Policy Committee to refer this matter to future capital budget deliberations and give favourable consideration to approving the continuation of a City-wide Accessibility Program that:

1. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City, providing up to date accessibility data;

2. Continues to address new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently;

3. Includes an ongoing Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually; and continues to involve the expertise of the cross-departmental selection committee (as established in 2003) in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 23, 2004, the Access Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS on September 25, 2002, Winnipeg City Council adopted Item 4 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 18, 2002, and established a city wide Accessibility Program that:

I. Prioritizes the uncompleted projects identified in the 1998 Accessibility Audit;

II. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City;

III. Addresses new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently;

IV. Include a Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually for the next three years, 2003, 2004 and 2005, to complete currently identified access issues from the Centre Plan Accessibility Audit;

V. That the Universal Design Team assist in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects.

AND WHEREAS the demand for this program has increased and there are a large number of departmental requests for assistance to provide access to City owned or leased facilities;

AND WHEREAS only a small percentage of the projects identified as accessibility priorities City wide have been completed to date;

AND WHEREAS a City of Winnipeg Accessibility Guideline should be developed which would in turn reduce the need for consultants and expedite the process of Access Audits;
AND WHEREAS accessibility audits are required to update current City inventories (last done in 1998);

AND WHEREAS the 'Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision' identifies that “The City shall encourage accessibility to and within the downtown . . . ”

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Access Advisory Committee request the Executive Policy Committee to give favourable consideration to ensuring the continuation of the Accessibility Program beyond 2005 whereby a permanent Capital Budget line item of $250,000.00 is included from 2006 forward;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Access Advisory Committee request the Executive Policy Committee to refer this matter to future capital budget deliberations and give favourable consideration to approving the continuation of a City-wide Accessibility Program that:

1. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City, providing up to date accessibility data;

2. Continues to address new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently;

3. Includes an ongoing Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually; and continues to involve the expertise of the cross-departmental selection committee (as established in 2003) in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 10, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter for consideration during future capital budget discussions.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 25, 2002, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and the Access Advisory Committee and adopted, in principle, a Citywide Accessibility Program that:

I. Prioritizes the uncompleted projects identified in the 1998 Accessibility Audit.

II. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City.

III. Addresses new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

IV. That the Accessibility Program include a Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually for the next three years, 2003, 2004 and 2005, to complete currently identified access issues from the Centre Plan Accessibility.

V. That the Universal Design Team assist in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects.