Minutes – East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee – September 3, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Light Rail Transit for Winnipeg

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee laid over consideration of the following motion to its meeting on November 18, 2026:

WHEREAS most Canadian cities begin the planning in order to build a light rail transit (LRT) system when they reach a population of 700,000;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's population has now exceeded 800,000 and is expected to continue to grow;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg has not even begun to plan nor secure land right of ways for any future rapid transit expansion, including LRT;

AND WHEREAS Hamilton, which now has a population comparable to Winnipeg, is well into the planning of their first LRT line;

AND WHEREAS Edmonton is now actively constructing their new LRT system;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa now have public transportation that is LRT or subways, combined with a freeway system;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg was once the fourth largest city in Canada, following only Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and Winnipeg City Council's failure to properly plan and build both freeways and light rail transit is symbolic of our City's steady decline when compared to most Canadian cities that have outperformed Winnipeg in terms of both new strategic regional infrastructure planning and construction (delivery), especially in the area of public transportation, namely an LRT system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Winnipeg City Council earmark funds, to be determined by the next Council (next term), in its next Capital Budget (2027) to allow for an immediate process, including community consultations, that will determine the location and timing of the first LRT line for the City of Winnipeg, including the development of a Class 5 Budget for said first LRT line, as well, at a higher level, map out routes for LRT future lines for the City.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Winnipeg, in its 5-year Capital Budget Forecast, include a line item for LRT Line Land Assembly costs, and that funds be earmarked for said line item, with the amount of said funds to be determined by the future Council in the next term.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Durand-Wood to the Chair in order to move the following motions:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,

That the consideration of the following motion be laid over to the November 18, 2026, meeting of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee:

WHEREAS most Canadian cities begin the planning in order to build a light rail transit (LRT) system when they reach a population of 700,000, and;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's population has now exceeded 800,000 and is expected to continue to grow;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg has not even begun to plan nor secure land right of ways for any future rapid transit expansion, including LRT;

AND WHEREAS Hamilton, which now has a population comparable to Winnipeg, is well into the planning of their first LRT line;

AND WHEREAS Edmonton is now actively constructing their new LRT system;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa now have public transportation that is LRT or subways, combined with a freeway system;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg was once the fourth largest city in Canada, following only Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and Winnipeg City Council's failure to properly plan and build both freeways and light rail transit is symbolic of our City's steady decline when compared to most Canadian cities that have outperformed Winnipeg in terms of both new strategic regional infrastructure planning and construction (delivery), especially in the area of public transportation, namely an LRT system;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Winnipeg City Council earmark funds, to be determined by the next Council (next term), in its next Capital Budget (2027) to allow for an immediate process, including community consultations, that will determine the location and timing of the first LRT line for the City of Winnipeg, including the development of a Class 5 Budget for said first LRT line, as well, at a higher level, map out routes for LRT future lines for the City.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Winnipeg, in its 5-year Capital Budget Forecast, include a line item for LRT Line Land Assembly costs, and that funds be earmarked for said line item, with the amount of said funds to be determined by the future Council in the next term.

Carried

Councillor Wyatt resumed the Chair