



For Immediate Release
Friday, May 21st, 2010

Katz and AMM Announce Infrastructure Funding Council

Council will investigate; recommend infrastructure funding strategy

Winnipeg, May 21st – Committed to finding a long term funding solution to municipal infrastructure deficits, Mayor Sam Katz joined by Doug Dobrowolski of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, today announced the creation of an Infrastructure Funding Council.

The Infrastructure Funding Council's mandate will include the development of an overall, comprehensive infrastructure funding strategy and provide recommendations regarding internal infrastructure funding options within the control of the municipalities, along with recommendations regarding external infrastructure funding options requiring intergovernmental negotiation and/or approval.

“The City has continued to invest significant funds in all of Winnipeg’s infrastructure including roads, bridges, and community centres, but we are merely playing catch up from decades of neglect,” said Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz. “Facing an infrastructure deficit in the billions of dollars, we need a new comprehensive approach working with all of our municipal partners to find solutions that will address this issue in the long term.”

The Committee will look at all means of infrastructure including roads (regional, local and lanes), bridges, active transportation facilities, transit facilities, parks, riverbanks, flood protection, buildings (including police, fire paramedic, libraries, pool, arenas, community centres, administration buildings), water and sewage facilities, land drainage facilities, and solid waste facilities.

“As the association representing Manitoba’s 198 municipalities, we have been pushing this issue in the provincial and federal arena for some time,” said AMM President Doug Dobrowolski. “Manitoba’s municipalities are facing an overwhelming infrastructure deficit and our revenues—mainly from property taxes and the odd grant—are simply not meeting the needs of our citizens. It is essential that we develop a strategy that will see us into the coming decades, so we can create the vibrant, welcoming communities we all want to live in.”

“In order for us to find long term solutions, we need to investigate all alternatives and find a comprehensive made in Manitoba solution to a problem that is facing

municipalities all over North America,” said Chris Lorenc, Chair of the Infrastructure Council. “Citizens know the need exists to repair all levels of our infrastructure from roads to community centres. Quality infrastructure is important for the growth of all Manitoba municipalities and in Winnipeg’s case will also assist in seizing the opportunity to be a major trade corridor.”

The Council consists of 6 members as follows:

- Chris Lorenc, Chair
- Reg Alcock
- Councillor Mike O’Shaughnessy
- Jill Vogan
- Ron Bell
- Cory Young

The Council will provide a final report before November 30, 2010, which final report shall provide a summary of the work undertaken by the Board and shall present the Infrastructure Funding Strategy.

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