

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM28.16	ACTION			Ward:All
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Federal Infrastructure Support for Cities - by Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Karen Stintz

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Karen Stintz, recommends that:

1. City Council affirm its continued commitment, as municipal leaders, and advocates for sustainable city building across the country, to support the recent long term infrastructure plan submitted to the Federal Government by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and call on the Federal Government to take action.
2. City Council direct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this Motion to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, leaders of elected parties in Parliament and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Summary

On November 15, 2012, the mayors of Canada's biggest cities pledged to match new Federal Government funding dollar for dollar to rebuild and improve our cities over the next 20 years.

Together, through the Big City Mayor's Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, cities across the country urged the Federal Government to match our commitment with new funding to support and rebuild Canada's cities - from public transit to our roads and bridges, from water pipes to sewer systems.

The Federal Government demonstrated important leadership by strategically investing in Canadian cities through successful programs such as the Gas Tax Fund, the Building Canada Fund and the Economic Action Plan stimulus funding. These investments have been crucial for addressing the growing economic challenges facing our nation, and keeping Canada competitive through a global recession. But much of the funding expires by 2014.

Canada's mayors and municipal leaders promoted, supported and helped implement these programs and want to build on this successful partnership with the Federal Government. Now there is a pressing need -- for all of us -- to do more.

In Toronto, and many Canadian cities, our infrastructure is crumbling, traffic congestion is brutal, and public health is at risk. This is a significant threat to our economy, to attracting new investment, and to the quality of life of all Canadians.

Cities are ready to do our part. We must call on the Federal Government to stay with us as important partners, and support the critical needs that our cities -- and our country -- face. This is an essential investment to keep Canadian cities globally competitive.

We recognize the financial challenges the Federal Government faces and will take action to work more closely with this government to invest funds in our local economies. But let's remember too, that deferred or delayed spending only increases costs dramatically over time, and delays the economic and private sector investment that we need, and that the Federal Government promotes. We need renewed action, and commitment, now.

As municipal leaders, and advocates for sustainable city building across the country, we must support the recent long term infrastructure plan submitted to the Federal Government by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and call on the Federal Government to take action.

The FCM submission identifies modernizing cities crowded and rapidly-aging transportation networks as a first priority. Growing traffic gridlock costs our national economy \$10 billion a year. One out of every four roads is congested, and a staggering 50 percent need immediate repair.

Collectively, Canadian cities invest \$12 billion/year in our local infrastructure.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.7 million people. If we are to meet our goal of building a transportation city, Toronto City Council must ask the Federal Government to come to the table in Budget 2013 with a \$2.5 billion/year investment increase which our cities are prepared to match dollar for dollar.

(Submitted to City Council on November 27 and 28, 2012 as MM28.16)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.16