

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM55.64	ACTION			Ward:All
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Accountability of Major Capital Projects to provide Accurate Capital Budget Estimates - by Mayor Rob Ford, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti

** 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

Mayor Rob Ford, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, recommends that:

1. Notwithstanding the implementation of enhancements recommended by the Auditor General's Office to enhance the reporting of the City's major capital projects, as well as a new capital budget estimates process recently implemented for major Facilities Management capital projects, City Council request the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to report to City Council, through the Budget Committee and Executive Committee, in the first quarter of 2015 on:
 - a. options to increase accountability around capital projects and to ensure that City staff present more accurate capital budget estimates for these projects;
 - b. options to ensure City staff adhere to the capital project budgets set by City Council; and
 - c. how this will contribute to more accountable, transparent, and accurate capital budgeting.

Summary

For years we have watched costs on large City-run capital construction projects escalate to millions of dollars over what they were originally estimated at. We have worked hard to dramatically reduce cost overruns on such projects during this term of office. Today, the City of Toronto has a new team of senior bureaucrats managing these complex projects to ensure they are delivered on time and on budget.

It is essential that capital projects are budgeted accurately from the offset. The key is greater scrutiny to hold staff accountable to the budgets they present to City Council. This Motion seeks a report on options to ensure the City is paying closer attention to providing more

accurate estimates of capital costs for projects from the offset.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25 and 26, 2014 as MM55.64)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM55.64