

Pam McConnell

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12 January 2015

To: Mayor John Tory and Members of the Executive Committee

Re: **Request to Include Design Costs for Elements of Nathan Phillips Square in 2015 Capital Budget**

On 5 January 2015, the Government Management Committee received a project update on the Nathan Phillips Square revitalization (item GM1.3). The report outlined several key elements that were deleted from the project in order to keep the revitalization within the approved budget.

Recognizing the importance of some of these subprojects, some of the rehabilitation and upgrade work will be added to Facilities Management's State of Good Repair (SOGR) budget for 2016. This work includes:

- Rehabilitation and repair of the elevated walkways (estimated \$1.8 million);
- Hagerman Street upgrades (estimated \$0.3 million), and;
- Bay Street upgrades (estimated \$0.5 million), as well as;
- Rehabilitation and repair of the ceremonial ramp (estimated \$0.6 million) in 2019.

Councillors, residents, and City staff are equally frustrated by the length of time needed to complete the revitalization. Like Parliament Hill and Queen's Park, City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square are not simply the physical centre of our government but are also a significant and symbolic focal point. That this iconic landmark – one of the most visited and photographed by tourists – is not achieving the appropriate grandeur is both disappointing and embarrassing.

To end the prolonged incomplete state of the revitalization, I am asking that design work for several key elements be executed in the coming year, so that the renovations and repairs can be quickly tendered and implemented in 2016. I am also requesting that work on the ceremonial ramp – a focal point of City Hall – not be delayed until the end of the decade. To facilitate this


work, other downtown Councillors and I will work with staff to identify opportunities through Section 37 benefits to accelerate the design and the rehabilitation work to 2016.

Recommendations

The Executive Committee request:

1. That the Chief Corporate Officer, in consultation with the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, report through the 2015 Budget process on accelerating designs for the repairs and upgrades to the elevated walkways, Hagerman Street, and Bay Street by including the design costs in the 2015 Capital Budget, and;
2. That the Chief Corporate Officer, in consultation with the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and other appropriate staff, explore with the local Councillors opportunities for Section 37 funding to renovate the ceremonial ramp, and if these funds are identified, report through the 2015 Budget process on accelerating from 2019 the design work to 2015 and the implementation to 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam McConnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
City Councillor, Ward 28