



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

PATH Wayfinding Project

Date:	September 29, 2016
To:	Budget Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	20 and 28
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

On June 22, 2016 the Financial District BIA presented concepts and a work plan for PATH wayfinding signage improvements to the Economic Development Committee. The Committee requested the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture to report back on the matter to its October 24, 2016 meeting.

This report recommends that funding from the 2016 Capital Budget for Economic Development and Culture be reallocated to the Financial District BIA to share the cost of the technical design phase of the PATH wayfinding project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommend that:

1. City Council amend the 2016 Council Approved Capital Budget for Economic Development and Culture by reducing the 2016 BIA Equal Share Funding Project (CED084) project cost and cash flow by \$0.200 million from \$4.217 million gross (\$2.281 million net) to \$4.017 million gross (\$2.181 million net);
2. City Council amend the 2016 Council Approved Capital Budget for Economic Development and Culture by adding a new capital project, PATH Wayfinding Project, with cash flow of \$0.100 million gross, funded by debt transferred from the 2016 Equal Share Funding Project in 2016, to provide to the Financial District BIA 50% of the cost to develop technical designs for new signage and mapping in the PATH underground walkway system such that the total City contribution does not exceed \$0.100 million.

Financial Impact

The approval of this report will authorize the reallocation of \$0.100 million, funded by debt, from the Equal Share (50/50) Funding (CED84-74 - 2016 ESF Financial District) to create a new project, the PATH Wayfinding Project, within the 2016 Council Approved Budget for Economic Development and Culture.

The funds would be provided to the Financial District BIA, to contribute a maximum of \$0.100 million, estimated as 50% of the cost to develop technical designs for new signage and mapping as part of the PATH Wayfinding Project. The BIA is delivering this project subject to consultation with Economic Development and Culture.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of June 22, 2016, Economic Development Committee received a presentation from the Financial District BIA showing the status of its initiative to improve wayfinding signage in the PATH underground network.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.ED13.4>

COMMENTS

During public consultations related to the development of the Financial District BIA's Public Realm Strategy in 2013, PATH wayfinding improvements were identified as the top priority for people working in the Financial District BIA. In 2015, the PATH Partnership Group undertook a review which recommended developing a new signage system. The Financial District BIA hosted stakeholder workshops and conducted public consultation surveys in 2016 to develop concepts for a new signage system.

The next phase in development and implementation of a new signage system involves design development, technical drawings and artwork for signage and mapping, and the creation of guidelines for sign location, placement and content. It is recommended that Economic Development and Culture cost-share this phase of the project on a 50/50 basis by reallocating funds in 2016 Approved Capital Budget from the 2016 Equal Share Funding Project.

Economic Development and Culture will reimburse the BIA for 50% of the cost of eligible expenditures related to the technical design of new signage and mapping based on paid invoices provided by the BIA.

CONCLUSIONS

The Financial District BIA has taken a leadership role in improving navigation and accessibility of the PATH underground system, a network used by employees, residents, and visitors alike. A thorough consultation process has been managed by the BIA to ensure all relevant stakeholders, including City Departments and Agencies, have provided adequate input to the signage design concepts. As PATH signage is installed on private property, it technically falls outside of the criteria of the BIA Capital Cost-Share Program. However given the importance of a publicly accessible and easily navigable PATH network it is appropriate that cost-share funding be reallocated to the technical design of a new wayfinding system.

CONTACT

David Hessels
Economic Partnership Advisor, BIA Office
Economic Development and Culture
416-392-6837
dhessels@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Williams, General Manager
Economic Development and Culture