

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM24.19	ACTION			Ward:20
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**Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from Various Developments to fund the John Street Cultural Corridor Project - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão**

*\* 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.*

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2017 Capital Budget for City Planning, subsequent to the adoption of that budget, on a one-time basis by \$2,000,000.00 gross, \$0 net, (new account CUR061-02) in order to cover the initial cost of consulting and related services, including co-payment to utilities in accordance with our municipal access agreements in connection with the John Street Revitalization Project, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Funds) community benefits from the following developments:

- a. 355 King Street West and 119 Blue Jays Way, secured for the purpose of design development supporting the John Street streetscape project, in the amount of \$1,237,578.72 (source account XR3026-3700747); and
- b. 12 to 18 Mercer Street and 60 John Street, secured for the purpose of design development supporting the John Street streetscape project, in the amount of \$762,421.28 (source account XR3026-3700509).

**Summary**

The Motion seeks authorization to amend the 2017 Capital Budget of City Planning, subsequent to the adoption of that budget, to include additional Section 37 Planning Act Reserve Funds of \$2,000,000, to fund the initial cost of consulting and related services, including co-payment to utilities in accordance with our municipal access agreements in connection with the John Street Revitalization Project.

The John Street Cultural corridor, from Stephanie Street to south of Front Street West, is recognized as a route of civic and cultural importance in the City, encompassing major facilities and institutions including the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Film Board of

Ontario, the CBC Broadcast Centre, the Princess of Wales and Royal Alexandra Theatres, the TIFF Bell Lightbox, to name just a few. City Council, in considering plans and studies of this area at various times over the last few years, designated John Street as a "Cultural Corridor", an "Avenue of the Arts", and a "Pedestrian Priority Route".

Recognizing and in keeping with these designations, the City completed an Environmental Assessment for the John Street Cultural Corridor with the primary objective of developing a unique and high quality streetscape design that provides a vibrant environment for pedestrians. A Class Environmental Assessment Study was completed and approved by Council in 2013, in association with the Toronto Entertainment District Business Improvement Area, and improvements were developed under the guidance of the Toronto Entertainment District Master Plan.

Over the last three years, the City has been working hard with the project partners to advance the construction of the project. Detailed design work has been completed and a phasing implementation plan developed by senior staff. Moving forward with construction design is the next phase in this exciting project.

Funds have been secured through Section 37 benefits from the development at 355 King Street West and 119 Blue Jays Way for the purpose of design development supporting the John Street streetscape project. In addition, funds have been secured through Section 37 benefits from the development at 12 to 18 Mercer Street and 60 John Street to be utilized for the design development supporting the John Street streetscape project. The funds have been received by the City from these developments and sufficient monies have not been spent or remain uncommitted to satisfy this Motion.

This Motion is urgent as the tender for the project will be issued before the next meeting of City Council and funding must be allocated before then.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM24.19