

City Council

MM29.19	ACTION			Ward:All
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Getting Back to Normal - Keeping Residents Updated on Multi-year Infrastructure Projects - by Councillor Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** 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 Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council direct that staff be required to hold public information meetings as required and no less than annually to keep residents updated in areas in which multi-year infrastructure projects are taking place and there are more than 300 homes impacted by the project.

Summary

During invasive multi-year capital infrastructure projects, it is routine for residents to receive information at the beginning of a project to inform them about what is to come. The challenge becomes that once the projects extend beyond a year residents often become unclear about the details of the construction taking place around them. What residents do know is that their lives are in a perpetual state of disruption and their streets seem as if they will never get back to normal.

With no directions to staff about what should happen beyond the first year of an infrastructure project, increasingly it is left to individual Councillors to coordinate community information meetings. Consequently, there is no consistency as to the information residents receive about these projects and no accountability for the spread of misinformation. It can be difficult to coordinate a meeting between all of the appropriate parties involved in a large infrastructure project. Large amounts of time are spent correcting misinformation and determining who is accountable for returning a neighbourhood to its 'back to normal' state.

By regularizing a minimum threshold around which staff must meet with the community, staff are able to incorporate this step into their work plans and ensure all required individuals involved in the infrastructure project are present.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM29.19