

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM35.35	ACTION			Ward:19, 20
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Authorization to Transfer Section 42 Funds to The Bentway - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council amend the 2017 Approved Capital Budget for the Waterfront Revitalization Initiative by increasing funding by \$500 thousand from \$23.5 million to \$24 million for the capital project named CWR003-26 The Bentway; the additional funding of \$500 thousand to be funded by Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash in lieu of Parkland and resulting in an increased cash flow from \$3 million to \$3.5 million in 2018 for the purpose of funding an extension of the project into Ward 20 from the following development:

- a. 120 and 130 Harbour Street, secured for Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash in lieu of Parkland, in the amount of \$500,000 (source account XR2213-4200474).

Summary

The Bentway – originally Project: Under Gardiner - was announced in 2015 as an innovative public realm project to animate the area beneath the Gardiner Expressway, and transform this unused space, connecting neighbourhoods and creating a signature destination in our City. Made possible by a private donation of \$25 million, the project will transform 10 acres of vacant space beneath 55 bents of a western segment of the elevated Gardiner into unique open spaces, or "rooms," featuring public art, landscape improvements, destination space for festivals and markets, a signature elevated bridge, winter skating trail, as well as a pedestrian and cycling trail.

A robust public consultation program began in 2015, and continued in 2016 – this included a City-wide stakeholder process, an Environmental Assessment on the proposed elevated bridge, a public naming competition (in which The Bentway was selected as the permanent name) and more. After more than a year of work, construction began earlier this fall on the first stages of the project. As discussed during the public consultation process, further stages of the project will extend east of Bathurst into Ward 20, while the first stage (from Strachan to Bathurst) is located in Ward 19.

However, there are opportunities to extend portions of the first phase of work east of Bathurst, to further enhance the animation under the Gardiner. These include extension of the signature skating trail, which would stretch the length of the entire planned project, and other innovative spaces and activations under the Gardiner. Authority is being sought to transfer Section 42 funds for this use.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM35.35