

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

MM44.36	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Authorization to Release Section 37 funds from Various Developments for Community Engagement and the Design of Streetscape Improvements on George Street between Gerrard Street East and Shuter Street - by Councillor Kristyn Wong Tam, seconded by Councillor Lucy Troisi**

*\* 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 Kristyn Wong Tam, seconded by Councillor Lucy Troisi, recommends that:

City Council amend the Approved 2018-2027 Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services by increasing total project costs of \$504,374.51 gross, \$0 debt, in 2018 on a one-time basis for the Neighbourhood Improvement Program (CTP418 – George Street Revitalization - Streetscape), to amend the scope of work and fees for the George Street Revitalization consultants to engage the Indigenous Place-Making Council and undertake community consultation, design and review proposals for streetscape improvements on George Street between Gerrard Street and Dundas Street as recommended in item TE33.44; George Street Revitalization – Streetscape Plan; fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the following developments:

- a. 70 and 72 Carlton Street, secured for local parks and streetscape improvements in Ward 27, in the amount of \$250,000 (Source Account: 220096); and
- b. 200 Dundas Street East, 241-251 Jarvis Street and 280 George Street, secured for local streetscape, parkland and community services improvements within Ward 27, in the amount of \$254,374.51 (Source Account: XR3026-3700795)

**Summary**

At its meeting on November 7, 8 and 9, 2017, in considering Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Municipal Shelter By-law, City Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services to examine opportunities to prepare a public realm plan to provide an enhanced streetscape on George Street between its intersection with Gerrard Street East and Dundas Street East. This public realm plan would take into account redevelopment in the area while recognizing the historic Indigenous presence and the relationship to some of the most vulnerable members of

our society and to report to the June 6, 2018 meeting of the Toronto and East York Community Council on boulevard, roadway and other public realm improvements to improve safety, security and mobility and create more pedestrian-friendly, liveable streets. The staff report from Transportation Services was considered by Toronto East York Community Council at its meeting of June 6, 2018 and the same recommendations were approved by City Council at its meeting on June 26, 27 and 28, 2018.

As directed by City Council, the streetscape component includes and extends beyond the limits of the George Street Revitalization site to include the full George Street right-of-way between Gerrard Street East and Dundas Street East. This section of George Street is home to many vulnerable residents with complex health, mental health and addiction issues who also struggle daily with socio-economic issues including poverty, homelessness, nutrition, safety and security concerns. Previous reports have noted that there is a significant amount of street activity and that drug use and trafficking by people from outside the area is a constant concern. These issues impact the entire community and many residents feel uncomfortable walking along George Street, and consequently there is a lack of eyes on the street which contributes to the ongoing issues. The streetscape design concept proposes the transformation of this section of George Street from an unwelcoming street to a destination that local residents of all backgrounds are proud of and that other residents and visitors to Toronto will choose to experience.

Toronto and East York Community Council further recommended that City Council endorse the same approach to the design of future streetscape improvement from Dundas Street East to Shuter Street to connect Allan Gardens and Moss Park. The Indigenous Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship is currently under construction at 200 Dundas Street East. The Indigenous Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship will serve many Indigenous organizations and be the economic and cultural catalyst for an Indigenous Business and Cultural District within the City. In recognizing the historic Indigenous presence in the area, the design of the streetscape for the George Street Revitalization project would explicitly take into account the Principles and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Respectful and meaningful engagement and consultation with the Indigenous community and local residents in the planning, design and implementation of the streetscape is essential to providing solutions that achieve these outcomes and are culturally and community based. As part of the process to establish an Indigenous District in Toronto, the Indigenous Place-Making Council has been working with Indigenous youth and Elders to identify Indigenous place-making opportunities and restore the Indigenous presence in the Moss Park / Allen Gardens area. This work, the Tkaronto Project, has provided input to the design of the Indigenous Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

At City Council's direction, the George Street Revitalization Project is being implemented through an Alternative Financing and Procurement model using a Design Build Finance approach based on Project Specific Output Specifications. This approach is also suited for incorporating the innovative streetscape design proposal and ensuring an integrated overall design. The Request For Proposal for the George Street Revitalization Project is planned to be issued in the first Quarter of 2019. The streetscape design must be sufficiently advanced by the end of this year to be considered for inclusion with the George Street Revitalization Project implementation process. The community consultation and design process should begin as soon as possible to meet this timeline. Engaging the Indigenous Place-Making Council to undertake the community consultation process and assist in developing the design would ensure the

streetscape design is consistent and complementary with evolving plans for the wider area, build on the knowledge and relationships established through the Tkaronto Project and help meet the required timeline.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM44.36