



Manitoba Trucking Association

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July 26, 2018

His Worship Mayor Brian Bowman
Mayor's Office
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Sent via email to mayorbowman@winnipeg.ca

RE: INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES TO PORTAGE & MAIN

Mayor Bowman,

There has been much talk about the possibility of investing in infrastructure changes to allow for the opening of Portage Ave. and Main St. to above ground pedestrian traffic.

The MTA Board of Directors has discussed this possibility on a number of occasions, the most recent being their June 2018 meeting. During this discussion the following concerns were raised:

1. No direct consultations, at least not with the trucking industry, have been had regarding this project.
2. The City of Winnipeg has a summary list of short, medium and long term road network improvements that have been identified within the Winnipeg Transportation Master Plan (WTMP). Portage and Main is not listed as part of this plan and therefore it is certainly not indicated as a priority.
3. The "Portage and Main Transportation Study" by Dillon Consulting (the Dillon Report) acknowledged it did not assess the safety implications of possible changes.
4. While estimated project costs are included in The Dillon Report, to our knowledge no detailed cost/benefit or associated needs assessment for this project has been completed. If it has, it has not been shared with the MTA. Again, definitely not as part of a genuine consultation.
5. The Dillon Report did acknowledge efficiency decreases for automotive traffic if changes are made. While not overtly stated, this obviously includes commercial goods movements of which there are over 40,000,000 annually in or through Winnipeg. The WTMP lists this intersection as part of Winnipeg's Strategic Goods Movement Network. This intersection is a trade corridor. If our city and province wish to remain economically competitive, municipal leadership cannot be taking steps to reduce safety and efficiency on our trade corridors in the absence of reasonable alternatives.

The most significant question that remained unanswered by the MTA Board was "in an era of well understood infrastructure budgetary challenge, why is this project being considered a priority?" This question remains unanswered.

The MTA is not unreasonable. The MTA's positions are always put forth from the point of reasonable expectations driven from evidence based review. It is also the expectation of our over 300 member companies that the trucking industry be provided an opportunity to be a part of discussions on change by being engaged in genuine consultations. As has been outlined above, none of this criteria has been met.

It was for this reason that at the June 2018 meeting of the MTA Board they took a position on this item which included the following statement:

Until the safety and efficiency concerns are better understood and addressed as part of the Portage and Main plan the MTA Board is on record as opposing this project at this time.

I appreciate your consideration of this information. If you or any of your staff have follow up questions or comments on this item, or any other, please feel free to contact myself directly.

Sincerely,



Terry Shaw
Executive Director
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204 632-6600

cc Councillor Allard
Councillor Browaty
Councillor Pagtakhan
Councillor Sharma