

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | X | Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: June 19, 2012

Subject: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Target 2014 – Building Our Future Initiative

Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council support FCM's initiative Target 2014: Building Our Future, including adopting a resolution for the development of a long-term federal plan for municipal infrastructure funding and supporting a letter to Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

Reason:

Almost \$2 billion dollars a year in federal infrastructure funding for municipalities will end when the federal government's Building Canada Plan expires in March 2014, along with funding for a number of other critical cost-shared programs. The federal government has promised to develop a new plan before the 2014 deadline, in partnership with municipalities, provinces, territories and other key stakeholders. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure municipal priorities are reflected in the federal government's new long-term infrastructure plan, and that this plan is in place when the current programs expire in 2014. The campaign, called Target 2014: Building our Future, will inform all FCM member municipalities of the 2014 deadline and the process for developing a new plan, so they can participate in setting priorities. The campaign will leverage traditional and social media to encourage local residents, businesses and organizations to get involved as well. We want the government to see that our residents, business leaders, volunteer organizations and service clubs are united on the need for continued federal investment in our communities. The campaign will run until Spring 2013, when FCM expects the federal budget to spell out the government's commitment to meeting municipal needs in its long-term plan.

Outcome Sought: Council approval of attached resolution and support of letter to the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

Councillor Russell Walker

District 15

RESOLUTION

Development of a new long-term federal plan for municipal infrastructure funding

WHEREAS, The Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's cities and communities, will expire in March 2014;

WHEREAS, Federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments;

WHEREAS, a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively;

WHEREAS, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS, our community has continuing infrastructure needs, such as the Alderney Gate Recapitalization, Centennial Pool Upgrades, Dingle Tower Restoration, Multi District Facilities Upgrades, Accessibility to HRM Facilities, Bedford Community Centre, Energy Efficiency Upgrades and Long-Term Arena Strategy, North Preston Community Centre Expansion and the Skating Oval that can only be met with through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorses the FCM campaign and urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of cities and communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to ensure that the new long-term plan is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs, to the local MPs, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Template letter to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities conveying Council's resolution and invitation to visit.

Please adapt this template as appropriate when advising the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities of Council's resolution and invitation.

The Hon. Denis Lebel
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Lebel:

Please find attached our Council's resolution supporting the campaign by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), "Target 2014: Building our Future".

We are very pleased that your government has committed to develop a new long-term infrastructure plan that will replace the Building Canada Plan when it expires in 2014. We are also pleased that you have invited municipalities, provinces, territories and other key stakeholders to participate in the planning process.

FCM's campaign goal is to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan reflects municipal priorities across the country, and our Council fully endorses that goal. The attached resolution is our first step in communicating to you our interest in the issue and the planning process, as well as our belief that a seamless transition to a new new long-term infrastructure plan is essential to the prosperity of our cities and communities and the economic competitiveness of Canada.

We understand that you will be touring Canada to consult on the new plan. Please consider this your invitation to visit [NAME] to see the benefits of past federal investments, as well as our community's continuing needs—needs that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan.

We look forward to seeing you here or, if that is not possible, when you are next in our region.

Sincerely,