

CIVIC DISTRICT PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY- DEFERRAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests a deferral on the Civic District Public Realm Strategy. The project team has completed the second phase of the project inclusive of internal/external engagement and has developed ten draft strategies that will help guide the development and enhancement of the district. A funding strategy is being developed for Centre City investments with this project being a part of that overall strategy. Further external engagement with key stakeholders, citizens and Council members, is required in order to confirm support for the strategies. The final Civic District Public Realm Strategy will be completed by Q3 2015.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Planning & Urban Development recommends that Council approve Administration's request to defer the report on Civic District Public Realm Strategy no later than Q3 2015.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2015 JUNE 10:

That the Administration Recommendation contained in Report PUD2015-0497 be approved.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2014 September 06, Council approved PUD2014-0618, which provided an update on the development of the Civic District Public Realm Strategy and recommended that the final Strategy be completed no later than Q2 2015.

On 2013 September 06, Council approved PUD2013-0622, which provided an update on the development of the Civic District Public Realm Strategy and recommended that the final Strategy be completed by no later than Q3 2014.

On 2012 November 19, Council approved PUD2012-0671, which outlined the scope of work, timeline and budget for an urban design study of the Civic District, and directed Administration to proceed with the study and report back to Council through the SPC on Planning & Urban Design by Q3 2013.

On 2012 July 11, NM2012-34 directed that Administration report back to Council through the Planning & Urban Design Standing Policy Committee with a scoping study and funding sources for the Civic District Urban Design Study report.

BACKGROUND

The Civic District is centred around City Hall, Olympic Plaza and the New Central Library, and radiates outward towards 4th Street S.E. to the East, the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks to the South, Centre Street to the West and the Bow River to the North.

There are a number of capital developments planned or underway in the Civic District. For this reason it is important to have a strategy that consolidates the individual visions from these developments into one common vision. This consolidated vision will enhance and clarify the

CIVIC DISTRICT PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY- DEFERRAL REPORT

relationships and connections between the many developments, and provide a coherent basis for providing guidance on future development in a way that supports the creation of great public spaces.

The Civic District Public Realm Strategy will also identify a range of public realm and infrastructure improvements that could be undertaken by The City of Calgary in order to strengthen the area's importance as a key destination for Calgarians and visitors. The Strategy will identify a range of tactics for improving public spaces, which will better connect visitors in the district with the areas many public destinations; and recommend a funding approach for implementing high-priority public realm improvements. The funding approach will be part of a funding strategy being developed for all Centre City investments.

The Civic District Public Realm Strategy will lead to improvements in public spaces, which should help attract future high-quality private developments and provide great spaces for Calgarians and visitors to engage in, contributing to the vibrancy and economic development of the downtown area.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Additional external engagement is required in order to finalize the strategies. The final Civic District Public Realm Strategy will be completed by Q3 2015.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Initial stakeholder and citizen engagement was undertaken throughout fall 2013 and winter 2014. The project team engaged a broad spectrum of stakeholders active in the Civic District, including institutions, organizations, businesses, community groups, and City of Calgary business units. In addition, over 350 Calgarians from across the city and across all wards were engaged through online and in-person engagement opportunities. The next phase of stakeholder and citizen engagement will be undertaken throughout spring/summer of 2015 in order to finalize the ten draft strategies.

Strategic Alignment

The Civic District Public Realm Strategy aligns and is supportive of the "Seven strategies for our cyclical economy The City of Calgary: Economic Resilience" particularly the seventh strategy; "The City will implement strategies to ensure a vibrant and prosperous Centre City, recognizing downtown as an important economic engine".

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Providing sufficient time to complete a robust investigation and stakeholder engagement will ensure that the resulting strategies are based on sound research and will enable informed decision making that benefits the triple bottom line.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

None

CIVIC DISTRICT PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY- DEFERRAL REPORT

Current and Future Capital Budget:

None

Risk Assessment

No risk has been identified with the proposed deferral of this item.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

A deferral to Q3 2015 is being recommended to allow for Administration and the consultant team with sufficient time to complete stakeholder and citizen engagement, refine the strategies for the area, and complete a funding strategy for implementing high-priority Centre City public realm improvements.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None