

8.3 Capital Projects in Lower Townsite

Written Submission

K Plowman, K Plowman Contracting Ltd.

(On behalf of Fort McMurray Construction Association, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association (NAABA), Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA), Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and the Chamber of Commerce)

As a consortium (FMCA, NAABA, CEA, BILD, Chamber), we wanted to present a written response to Agenda item 8.3 - Capitol Project in the Lower Townsite. Below is the body of the message we would like to have in the record. Thanks for your consideration, i do understand if its too late, but we thought we would at least make the communication.

Agenda Item: 8.3. Capital Projects in Lower Townsite

- THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of shovel ready projects and flood mitigation, be placed on hold until such time as the flood mitigation project is complete; and
- THAT the work associated with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee be placed on hold until the flood mitigation project is complete.

"In response to this proposed motion, a collective of our local business organizations would like to encourage Council to consider a wholistic approach that best serves the community going forward. We respect the additional work that has been generated as a result of our recent flood, as well as the increased sensitivity to completing the flood mitigation projects in a timely manner. We acknowledge that to expedite this work, the current capital projects and initiatives proposed in the downtown may need to be revisited. Rather than putting a complete hold on all projects and initiatives (excluding those that are shovel-ready), we would strongly encourage Council work with Administration to instead **prioritize** the projects that should still go ahead in 2020/2021. Our concern is that a blanket pause on all projects and initiatives may have unintended consequences down the road. Factors that should be given due consideration include, but are not limited to:

- The value of still moving forward with planning and design projects, to ensure adequate preparation for work in future years; this is especially vital for multi-year projects, as the full project lifecycle requires many milestones be achieved prior to shovels in the ground
- Impacts and interdependencies with other projects
- Projects that address critical infrastructure, support sustainable service delivery or provide immediate community benefit (such as a new or increased level of service)
- Leveraging integration of DRP-fundable works as part of flood recovery clean-up that could streamline delivery of future projects
- Risks to the community of not advancing projects (whether it be impact to residents, deteriorating levels of service, potential safety/environmental impacts, loss of other funding supports, etc.)
- Economic benefits of projects; in the short term this could include providing immediate employment opportunities to continue engaging the local market
- Efficiencies gained by leveraging recent work efforts, to minimize rework and avoid additional costs in future years
- Disruption to the Public; the impacts of the flood and current Covid-19 Pandemic have created a window unique to this construction season where there are decreased public access requirements in parts of the downtown

We would advocate for a thoughtful and comprehensive risk-based approach to deciding which projects and initiatives go forward in the short term, while ensuring appropriate effort and resources are dedicated to the completion of the flood mitigation work in parallel."

Keith Plowman

Section 17 (1) FOIP



8.3 Capital Projects in Lower Townsite

Written Submission

Liana Wheeldon, Waterfront Advisory
Committee Member

(Not on behalf of the Committee)

From: Section 17
To: [Legislative Assistants](#)
Subject: Comments submitted for Council May 27 meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:45:13 PM

As a member of the Waterfront Advisory Committee, but not on behalf of the committee, I would like to include these comments for the record: I support ensuring that flood mitigation is thoroughly completed. However, for the stimulus of our region, I hope it is truly putting the projects and committees on hold and that the funds designated for the development projects remain as such. It is very important that our heritage and the Indigenous voices be at the forefront of any rebuild or revitalization projects, including mitigation efforts. It may be worth looking at having the Waterfront Advisory Committee and the Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committees combine as one or, at least, work more closely together. This is an opportunity to ensure there is a cohesive public art plan - encompassing heritage, culture, and the arts - integrated into revitalization efforts. Mitigation and revitalization can happen simultaneously.

Best,

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Liana Wheeldon

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