



Exhibition Place

Item No. 3

ACTION REQUIRED

February 18, 2010

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **2011 Capital Works Program – February Progress Report**

Summary:

This report is to update the Board on the progress of work within the 2011 Capital Works Program, which was approved by City Council at the end of February, 2011. It also discusses the 1812 Legacy project as requested by the Board.

Recommendation

It is recommended that staff report back to the next meeting of the Board about the status of the 1812 Legacy Trail project.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial implication arising from this report.

Decision History:

At its meeting of July 2010, the Board approved of the 2011 Capital Work Program which will be considered by City Council at its meeting of February 2011. At its meeting of February 5, 2011, the Board requested a further report regarding the War of 1812 Legacy and Heritage Trail (Project #10 on the attached Appendix)

Issue Background:

The capital budget progress report indicates to the Board the progress of each project and its expenditure commitments in details throughout the year until the project is complete.

Comments:

Details of the progress for each project are noted in the Attachment.

War of 1812 Legacy

To celebrate and remember the War of 1812 between Canada and the U.S., a legacy trail project is proposed for the Toronto waterfront and \$500,000 is included in the 2011 Capital Budget for Exhibition Place so that this section of the trail can be built in time for the 200 year celebration. Exhibition Place was a central part of the 1812 War as it was the location of the landing of the American invasion which resulted in a defence at Fort York and the burning of the parliament buildings by the American army. Because of this, Exhibition Place is key to the 2012 – 2013 celebrations.

Because of the municipal elections, the planning for the 2012 / 2013 celebrations did not move forward in the Fall 2010 however, now Councillor Thompson has assumed the chair of the 1812 Celebration Committee and Exhibition Place will be asked to join that committee. A preliminary concept was developed through City of Toronto Heritage & Culture for the 1812 trail and the City Committee will be developing the detailed design for the interpretation nodes to be located along the trail.

On a preliminary basis Exhibition Place staff have identified a possible location for one interpretative node near the wind turbine was the location of the American landing / invasion. Ms. Linda Cobon, Manager, Archives and Records is working with City Culture to prepare the information to be used on the interpretative panels. The intent would be to have WiFi connections along the trail so that information can be downloaded to portable devices of pedestrians walking the trail. At present, Exhibition Place does not have WiFi capability at the west end of the grounds and this project will fund that initiative which will also benefit shows and events at Bandshell Park.

While there is \$500,000 in the 2011 Capital Budget for this project, after deduction of administrative costs there is only \$385,000 available for actual construction. Staff would propose the Board delay any decision about the reassignment of these funds to another project until its next meeting when staff will have more detailed information about the direction of the City 1812 Committee. No funding will have been committed before that meeting and in the intervening period Exhibition Place will attempt to understand potential costs for the 1812 project and other outdoor areas where this funding could be used.

Contact

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Submitted by:

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