



London
CANADA

BRIEFING NOTE

Infrastructure Funding Plan

December 19, 2011

Issue:

The process to develop a new long term plan for public infrastructure is underway. The new plan must protect core investments in public infrastructure and lay the foundation for investments in our communities that will support economic growth and job creation.

Key Messages:

- Recent federal investments in municipal infrastructure have created jobs and opportunities for long term improvements in competitiveness and quality of life.
- While progress has been made, London's infrastructure deficit is still in the range of \$825 to \$920 million.
- Supporting strategic investments in infrastructure will improve competitiveness and prosperity locally and nationally.

Background:

On November 30, 2011, the Hon. Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, launched a new infrastructure planning process, building on the federal commitment in Budget 2011 to work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and other stakeholders to develop a new long-term infrastructure plan. The process will roll out in three phases from now through 2012. Phase I will review past investments and their benefits. Phase II will identify priorities around five themes – Infrastructure and the Economy; Infrastructure and the Environment; Infrastructure and Stronger Communities; Financing Infrastructure; and Asset Planning and Sustainability. Phase III will engage provincial, territorial and municipal partners and other key stakeholders to inform the long-term public infrastructure plan.

City Council will, through the 2012 budget process, be giving further consideration to a list of economic development initiatives totalling \$700 million, including a new City Hall, Downtown presence for UWO, Performance Spaces, Bus Rapid Transit, 401/402 Corridor initiatives, development of the SouthWest Area Plan, and the SOHO Community Improvement Plan. Council has agreed that a municipal contribution to these initiatives should be limited to \$100 million, and will focus such investment on areas where the City can leverage funding from other sources, both public and private.

The City of London would like to thank the Federal Government for their recent investments in London's infrastructure. The City was approved for 42 Infrastructure Stimulus projects that Council had identified for a total of \$96.9 million and 4 recreation projects under the RInC program for an additional amount of \$6.2 million. Well over 1,000 person years of employment were created in London through this funding. We also welcome the annual federal gas tax contribution of \$22 million. We must build on this legacy by continuing to shift to longer-term planning, expanding recent program reforms, and protecting the spirit of our investment partnership. This will help us deliver measurable reductions in the infrastructure deficit and improvements in our capacity to attract new opportunities and create jobs.

Conclusion

The Federal Government's partnership with municipalities has created jobs and helped to rebuild infrastructure. We value our relationships with the Federal Government. As we develop a new long term plan as continued partners with both the Federal and Provincial Governments, we have the opportunity to improve our competitiveness, stop the decline in our infrastructure and continue to reduce the infrastructure deficit that negatively affects our economic prosperity.