



London  
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

To the members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

May 30, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the shining sun and blooming flowers, I know that December will be fast approaching, and we will be deep into Multi-Year Budget deliberations. In anticipation of the MYB debates, I'd like to direct staff to develop the following cases for our consideration.

These business cases are items that have been discussed by previous Councils but have not been funded for various reasons. These business cases, similarly, to the ILDS request, are simply to ask staff to prepare the options for Council to review.

**1. Business Cases for NEW Funding for Existing Strategies:**

- a. **Coves [Silver Creek Restoration Project](#)** - implementing a project included in the Coves Conservation Master Plan.
- b. **[Invasive Species Management Plan](#)** - funding to accelerate implementation.
- c. **[Climate Emergency Action Plan](#)** - funding to fully implement the plan.
- d. **Secure Bike Parking, Bike Share, Bike Lane Maintenance and Bike Education** (As per London Cycle Link's letter)

**2. Business Cases for NEW Funding for NEW Strategies:**

- a. **Purchasing Natural Heritage Lands** - in anticipation of challenges with Bill 23 and Bill 97, we will need to secure land to offset compensation requirements for infrastructure projects. Our available inventory of viable City-owned compensation lands is near or at capacity. These lands are necessary to meet the basic permitting and compensation requirements to maintain existing City infrastructure. Could include woodlots, wetlands, meadows etc.
  - i. There have been studies undertaken by UTRCA and the City to map out priority areas, but these are dated and would require staff to update current priority areas for consideration.
  - ii. Lands suitable for forest creation sites should be prioritized, followed by wetlands, to maximize compensation needs (i.e., tree planting) and potential carbon sequestration benefits. Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrows and Bobolink Habitat should also be considered in the SW and could include fallow agricultural fields. For example, 1.35 ha of habitat for two SAR birds, meadowlark and bobolink will be lost from Southdale Rd developments. We have an opportunity to retain habitat in the new parkland at White Oak Road and Dingman Drive.
  - iii. Potential for no property tax implications if using the Reserve Funds



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### **3. Business Cases to REDUCE Funding:**

- a. **Remove free 2-hour HONK promo code CORE street parking downtown** (Transportation)
  - i. Street parking is already free downtown weekdays after 6pm, before 8am, on weekends and holidays. Lots of parking downtown.
- b. **Review road widening projects in the current development charges study**, to determine which can be deferred or eliminated (Transportation)
- c. **Reduction in frequency of grass cutting on city property** (Parks) by identifying areas of parks that can be converted into pollinator friendly restoration areas, and reduce grass cutting at those locations (Parks)

I'd like to seek your support for directing staff to develop the outlined business cases so that we may at least be able to deliberate on their merits. All the above items align with various Strategic Plan outcomes, of which staff can explain in further detail in a business case. Therefore, I hope you'll approve the below motion:

### **Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to prepare business cases for:**

1. New Funding, Existing Strategies:
  - a. Coves Silver Creek Restoration Project
  - b. Invasive Species Management Plan
  - c. Climate Emergency Action Plan
  - d. Secure Bike Parking, Bike Share, Bike Lane Maintenance and Bike Education
2. New Funding, New Strategies:
  - a. Purchasing Natural Heritage Lands
3. Reduction Cases:
  - a. Remove free 2-hour HONK promo code CORE street parking downtown.
  - b. Review road widening projects in the current development charges study, to determine which can be deferred or eliminated.
  - c. Reduction in frequency of grass cutting on city property.

Thanks,

Skylar Franke  
Ward 11 City Councillor