
2010 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

2010 Civic Improvement Capital Projects

Issue:

City Planning has been directed to report to Budget Committee on the details of the new 2010 Civic Improvement Program's "A" and "B" lists with 100% of the capital budget to be spent on "Places". Beginning in 2010, the delivery of "Routes-streetscape improvements" along arterial roads will be the responsibility of the Transportation Services Division. The 2010 Recommended Capital Budget for City Planning's "Places" projects totals \$2,140 million; with funding of \$1,073 million for three new "Places"; and \$1,067 million for five "Places" committed through pre-authorization in 2009. These eight projects combine to form City Planning's new Civic Improvement Program.

Background:

At the time of amalgamation it became clear that a program for civic improvements needed to be established across the entire City. As a first step, a classification system of civic improvement projects was developed through an analysis and integration of the City's built form elements, such as streets and pedestrian areas, as well as components of the open space and natural environment systems, including river valleys, parks and the waterfront. The results of this exercise are presented in Appendix A of the report on Strategic Opportunities for Civic Improvements approved by City Council in October 2004. There, projects are grouped by "themes" into the classes of Places, Routes and Districts and then further distinguished by "type". This classification system has served to provide the framework in which to identify project priorities taking into consideration such other factors as current planning and community initiatives, and the opportunities afforded through the redevelopment process and the City's other infrastructure programs.

In general, Civic improvement projects arise out of opportunities to enhance on-going capital investments in the City's public realm, primarily its streets and publicly owned open spaces. These projects typically include improvements to the streetscape at both the "place" and "route" level. Focusing improvements on "Places" offers the opportunity to make positive, high-impact, transformative changes to areas along the City's major streets by such means as the creation of special features (such as plazas, fountains, gardens and interpretative displays) and naturalization programs. These enhancements to the pedestrian environment promote walking and support the City's agenda for climate change by contributing to the reduction in auto use.

Many of the civic improvement projects related to "Places" are closely linked with Transportation Services' roadway and sidewalk annual capital works program, both by specific

street location and by the timing of the city tendering deadlines. A large number of potential “Places” projects meet the policy criteria described in “Building the Beautiful City: Places, Routes, Districts; Strategic Opportunities for Civic Improvements” adopted by City Council on October 26, 27, 28, 2004. Every effort is made to prioritize these locations and distribute them equitably throughout all four City districts.

Importantly, at its meeting of July, 20, 2004, Council adopted a set of nine Council Term Priorities for the 2003 – 2006 Term (see Clause 4 of Report No. 6 of the Policy and Finance Committee). Included among these Council Term Priorities are a number of specific city-building goals one of which is to “make Toronto a clean and beautiful City”. One of the ways cited to achieve this goal is to “demonstrate innovative approaches to beautification”. The transition of City Planning’s Civic Improvement Program to focus exclusively on “Places” is an example of adopting a revised, more innovative approach to delivering the city-wide beautification program.

In its broadest sense, beautification of “Places” embraces a wide-range of city-building activities and refers to both the public and private domains. The physical beauty of built-form features can be linked to those of the natural environment as well as wider issues of social vitality and civic pride. Recently, the Public Realm Unit has been formed within the Transportation Services Division to coordinate beautification activities in the public realm and specifically, raise the quality of construction of public spaces through pedestrian and street furniture projects. Transportation Services Division will be providing further details on their supporting programs and new emerging protocols.

Key Point(s):

The selection of “Places” projects is heavily influenced by the opportunities presented by Transportation Services’ capital program and the detailed project design criteria. As directed, in 2010 the capital budget of City Planning’s Civic Improvement Program will be fully devoted to funding for improvements to “Places”. Complementing this shift in program focus, Transportation Services Division has committed to include funding for the standard streetscape details along arterial roads in its capital budget program. These linear streetscape projects which included standard details contained in the Streetscape Manual were formerly funded as “Routes” in City Planning’s capital budget prior to 2010.

Transportation Services’ Division capital program is often subject to project modifications which can arise for a number of technical and scheduling reasons. Therefore, it is important for the City Planning’s Civic Improvement Program to include a “B list” of substitute projects for “Places” to allow for flexibility.

A list of proposed 2010 Capital Projects: A and B list for Places is attached as Appendix 1.

Prepared by: Alka Lukatela, Program Manager
Civic Improvement Program Urban Design (416)392-1131

Further information: Robert Freedman, Director – Urban Design, City Planning
(416)392-1126

Date: November 20, 2009

APPENDIX 1
CITY PLANNING DIVISION
2010 CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS – PLACES “A” & “B” LISTS

PLACES 2010 – “A” LIST - UNCOMMITTED FUNDS		
STREET	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST (000's)
Dufferin Street Jog	Landscaping-art of 2 large hydro box transformers	\$230
Dundas Street West	Bathurst to Lansdowne – road closure and greening at St. Helens Avenue, concrete seatwalls – Garrison Creek features at Crawford Street	\$268
Bloor Street Humber Bridge	Decorative street lighting on bridge, concrete seatwall, path connections to staircase	\$575
Total:		\$1,073

PLACES 2010 – “A” LIST – COMMITTED FUNDS IN 2009 AND CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION		
STREET	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST (000's)
Dufferin Street Jog	Stainless steel portals cladding on south and north ends of new tunnel	\$575
Yonge Street	Eglinton Avenue to Roehampton – concrete planter curbs, granite unit pavers	\$69
St. Clair Avenue West	@ Lansdowne – TTC loop, universally accessible design features, decorative poetry elements	\$139
Royal York Road	@ TTC subway station, decorative sound wall-fence	\$106
South Kingsway	@ The Queensway Ramps, Humber River interpretive nodes, concrete seatwalls and interpretive signs	\$178
Total:		\$1,067

PLACES 2010 – “B” LIST – ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS		
STREET	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST (000's)
Wilson Avenue	Dufferin Street to Keele Street, concrete seatwalls plaza at major intersections	\$200
Bathurst Street	Bloor Street to St. Clair, intersection planters and plaza at intersection of Vaughan Road.	\$100
Bay Street	@ Davenport Road – intersection plaza with granite unit pavers	\$300
Dawes Road	@ Victoria Park Avenue – new plaza at reconfigured intersection with public art, concrete seatwalls, concrete unit paving	\$500
Front Street East	Jarvis Street to Eastern Avenue – intersection planters, plaza paving at intersection of Berkley – First Parliament site	\$150
Lower Sherbourne	Front Street to Railway Underpass – decorative iron fences at Rail Underpass	\$150

STREET	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST (000's)
Parliament Street	Gerrard Street to King Street – intersection concrete seatwall, decorative iron fence	\$150
Parklawn Road	Lakeshore Road to Queensway –concrete unit pavers and concrete seatwalls	\$250
St. Clair Avenue West	@ Loblaws TTC Portal –decorative traffic island	\$500
Scarlett Road Bridge	@ Humber River – decorative street lighting on bridge and interpretive node at Humber River	\$350
Bloor Street West	Keele Street to Clendenan – replace staircase entry to High Park and Wendigo Way	\$300
King Street West	Queen Street to Close Avenue – promenade path along embankment lookout	\$200