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GILLINGHAM'S "BIG MOVE" WILL EXTEND CHIEF PEGUIS TRAIL IN THE NORTH, WIDEN KENASTON IN THE SOUTH

Mayoral candidate Scott Gillingham is promising action on two long-awaited infrastructure projects as part of his Big Move plan: the westward extension of Chief Peguis Trail to Route 90, and the widening of Kenaston Boulevard.

"The city has been talking about widening Kenaston for more than 20 years, and the full Chief Peguis Trail project has been under consideration since the late 1960s – it's time to get these projects moving," Gillingham said. "These are important streets for area residents to get to work and activities, and they're critical trade routes as well."

"All three levels of government know Naawi-Oodena and Centreport will become more economically productive if we widen Kenaston to accommodate truck traffic," Gillingham said. "And the Chief Peguis West Extension will be a critical east-west freight route, which is why proceeding on both projects is vital to the success of growing Winnipeg's economy."

As Mayor, Gillingham will fast-track the work required to begin construction on these projects within his first term, including updating early design work, completing a return-on-investment/business case study to confirm the economic value of the projects, securing matching federal-provincial funding, and issuing tenders.

"There is a lot of work to do before we can get shovels in the ground, but I'm not one of those candidates who's going to promise you the moon without building the rocket first," said Gillingham.

Organizations like Centreport, the Manitoba Trucking Association, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, Business Council of Manitoba, and Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce have spoken about how ensuring the effective movement of goods around Winnipeg is important to economic growth. These projects will directly address that challenge, according to Gillingham.

The combined cost of both projects is expected to be over \$1 billion based on current estimates. Winnipeg's portion of the cost-shared projects will be debt-financed and backed with dedicated taxes, amortizing costs over a more than generation of drivers.

Gillingham pointed out that S&P raised the City of Winnipeg's credit rating this year, and Moody's 2021 report noted that Winnipeg's debt servicing costs were substantially lower than those of peer cities. Both positive credit rating reports were based on the strength of Gillingham's work as Finance Chair.