



May 12, 2019

c/o Councillor Darren Hill, Committee Chair
Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services
City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon SK, S7K 0J5

RE: Agenda item 7.2.4 Streamlining the Downtown Development Process - Update (file no. CK.4130-1 & PL 4110-78)

Dear members of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services,

Thank you again to City administration for providing an update 12 months into the Cut the Red Tape Initiative. When this initiative was released, our Association had recommended expanding the program area. While this recommendation was not then, we were happy to see that the possibility would be reviewed in 12 months as opposed to the original 24 month recommendation.

As long as we keep an eye on balanced growth in our city, the discussion will be a productive one. Meaning not all growth happens in infill or the reverse, not all growth happens in greenfield. They are also not mutually exclusive. With that same thought, we can't put all of our eggs in one of those baskets in a way that would limit realistic growth in other areas.

Given the particularly large discussions our community is having on major projects which will impact the downtown, the Association is supporting the recommendation to maintain the focus of the existing program in the downtown to ensure there is a focus on the outcomes desired. We would recommend an update specifically focused on the outcomes of the program in 12 months, evaluating the first 24 months with the program. This could include consultation with industry, developers and our association to gain insights on successes and also feedback for continual improvement.

By hearing of the success of this program, many on the national scene are looking to Saskatoon to see how we make such collaborations work. Let's make sure we use this to communicate successes, attract investments and provide a competitive edge over other centers. We need to focus on outcomes we can share, we're not quite there yet.

Thank you again to City administration for their work on this, in particular Lesley Anderson, Galen Heinrichs, Brent McAdam and Lynn Lacroix. Collaboration is a continual investment towards common goals of success – we all want to have smart growth.

We look forward to the next 12 months with this program and we are, as always, available for any support City administration may require. While we will not be speaking during Committee, we will be present should you have any questions or comments.

Bien à vous,

Chris M. Guérette
CEO