

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: May 8, 2024</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer</p>	<p>Meeting date: May 22, 2024</p>

Subject

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference 2024

Recommendation

That the Corporate Report entitled "Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference 2024", dated May 8, 2024, from the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer, be received for information.

Executive Summary

- The AMO Conference is scheduled to take place from August 18-21, 2024 in Ottawa.
- The Conference brings together municipal and provincial officials from across Ontario to address issues and make connections.
- In addition, municipal staff and officials have the opportunity to request municipal delegation meetings with key provincial officials and ministries, including Cabinet Ministers and opposition party leaders.
- This conference provides a good opportunity for municipalities to advance advocacy priorities with Cabinet Ministers and senior staff. Mississauga has been organizing advocacy meetings at AMO for a decade.
- For the 2024 AMO Conference, staff recommend requesting nine (9) delegation meetings with government ministries and three (3) delegation meetings with the opposition party leaders.
- City staff will engage with Region of Peel staff to seek joint delegations on shared priorities, where applicable.

Background

Each year, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario holds Ontario's largest municipal conference, bringing together municipal and provincial officials together to address challenges in the sector and plan for the future.

The City of Mississauga has sent a delegation of Mayor, Councillors and senior staff since 2015. Over time, Mississauga's delegation has successfully advocated and worked with provincial officials to tackle some of Mississauga's largest challenges such as changes to the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula, secured transit and infrastructure funding, and advanced the City's policy objectives.

The AMO conference is a cornerstone of the City's annual advocacy efforts with the provincial government as it offers an opportunity to meet with all relevant ministries in a concentrated period of time to advocate on behalf of the City's most significant priorities.

Pre-Budget Submissions

The City of Mississauga's annual advocacy priorities are detailed in the Provincial Pre-Budget Submission (Appendix A), which was approved by Council and submitted to the Province in February 2024. This document contained six (6) key priorities with 18 related recommendations. These recommendations form the foundation for the City's 2024 delegation meetings at AMO. Delegation meetings at AMO will not only be used to advocate on behalf of the City but also to gain clarification on the details, funding and timing of legislation that has passed, and potentially pending.

Comments

Mississauga has a comprehensive list of advocacy priorities. It is recommended that the City's delegation focus on the following priorities during the AMO Conference and ministerial delegation meetings:

Compensation for the Impacts of Housing Legislation

- Increase funding for housing infrastructure needed to meet the province's housing targets, and measure municipalities on units approved, not housing starts.

Ministries: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Infrastructure

A New/Fair Deal for Municipalities

- Support a new funding formula that fairly supports the building of twenty-first century cities, recognizing the financial challenges and limitations faced by municipalities.
- Upload to the province the costs of operating the Hazel McCallion Hurontario LRT, similar to the agreement struck with Toronto for the operating costs of the Finch LRT.

Ministries: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance

Provincial Support for Key Financial Priorities

- 22,082 charges were withdrawn due to a lack of judicial resources in 2023 causing a \$3.5M loss for the City, compounding the significant losses incurred during the pandemic. The City is asking the government to expedite the hiring of Justices of the Peace to support Mississauga's POA Court.
- Reiterate that before the government makes any decisions on the GTAA PILT formula, that they consult with the City of Mississauga to create a fair and equitable agreement that treats Mississauga's resident and business taxpayers with respect.

Ministries: Ministry of Finance

Provide Funding for Key Mississauga Transit Projects

- Expedite the reintroduction of a fully funded Downtown Loop as part of the Hazel McCallion Line to help Mississauga be a truly transit oriented city and reach the province's housing targets.
- The provincial government work with the federal government and to fully fund and bring all-day two-way service to the Milton GO line.
- That the government fund the detailed design for the Pearson Airport connection to facilitate planning, design and construction efficiencies with the current ECWE LRT project.
- The government fund the implementation of Downtown Mississauga Mobility Hub and Transitway Connection.
- The provincial government fund the Transit Project Assessment Process to plan for the next phase of the Dundas Bus Rapid Transit Corridor westward.

Ministries: Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Investments That Make an Impact on Climate Change

- Support to fund the construction of a zero-emission transit garage estimated at \$500M.
- Provincial support to offset the cost premium of zero-emission buses.
- Government support for ready-to-deploy fueling infrastructure technologies.
- Create a separate fund for hydrogen technologies in transportation.
- Fund incentives and programs for adoption of district energy and low-carbon technologies for buildings.

Ministries: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Transportation

Additional requests:

Ministry of Economic Development Job Creation and Trade

- Provide Provincial support for Mississauga's small businesses and local economy to address their specific challenges, as well as increase funding for the Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre.
- Work with industry associations, municipalities, and Ministry counterparts to provide improved protection of employment lands and support for balanced growth between residential and employment.

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

- Enhance existing and introduce new funding programs to address labour shortages that are locally appropriate and developed in partnership with industry, education, regional and municipal representatives.
- Improve and expand pathways for immigrants to address industry and professional talent shortages.
- Discuss student housing as an important part of the greater housing crisis in Ontario.
- Ensure Mississauga's post-secondary institutions have the funding and resources they need to thrive following the federal government's reduction in international student permit applications.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

- Enhance existing and introduce new funding programs to address labour shortages, specifically in the skilled construction trades that are locally appropriate and developed in partnership with industry, education, regional and municipal representatives.
- Improve and expand pathways for immigrants to address industry and professional talent shortages.

In most of the City's delegation meetings, the delegation will reference the City's Housing Plan and our commitment to building 120,000 units in 10 years, instead of 30. At the same time, the delegation meetings will also reference the urgent need for provincial support to achieve these targets.

Staff will submit delegation requests to the aforementioned Ministries that align with and advance the outlined priorities before the deadline in early June. In addition, staff will begin to prepare relevant materials and briefing notes to support Members of Council and staff in the requested delegation meetings. Staff will also liaise with Region of Peel staff and surrounding area municipalities to seek joint delegations on shared priorities. It is important to note that just because a delegation request is submitted, there is no guarantee a meeting is granted.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the items listed in this report.

Conclusion

The 2024 AMO Conference is a significant opportunity for the City to advance its priorities with ministers, senior staff and opposition party leaders. This conference also enables the City to demonstrate its willingness to continue to collaborate and innovate with the provincial government as it continues to implement it's mandate, policy and its economic priorities.

Attachments

Appendix: 2024 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer

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