

For Information Only

Large Projects Update

Presented To:	City Council
Presented:	Tuesday, Apr 11, 2017
Report Date	Friday, Mar 24, 2017
Type:	Referred & Deferred Matters

Resolution

For information only.

Finance Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Ian Wood
Director of Economic Development
Digitally Signed Mar 24, 17

Recommended by the Department

Ian Wood
Director of Economic Development
Digitally Signed Mar 24, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Mar 27, 17

Background

[Please note that this is an updated version of the report which was on the unfinished agenda for Council's meeting on March 7, 2017. The original report is attached for Council's information.]

This report is the third update to Council regarding the four Large Projects endorsed in principle by Council in April 2016. Council directed staff to investigate these projects further and provide advice about whether, and if so, how, the City of Greater Sudbury could contribute to their completion. This report provides an overview of the current status of each of the projects, as well as an outline of anticipated next steps.

Place des arts

Place des arts has actively been working on confirming other funding required for the project, as outlined in the capital budget provided to Council. A capital fundraising campaign is underway and applications to the federal and provincial government have been submitted.

In February 2017 the GSDC Board approved the second installment of \$15,000 of a two-year funding contribution totalling \$64,100 to develop the centre. This funding is to support pre-capital work in the areas of governance, regional outreach and community engagement, commercial ventures development, design and construction.

Economic Development staff have been working with Legal Services to draft a contribution agreement, based on the commitment and conditions expressed in the Council resolutions of September 13, 2016 and December 13, 2016.

Place des arts plans to conduct a soil and environmental assessment of the municipal parking lot in spring 2017. Staff from Real Estate will be working with them to allow access to the land for sampling. The results from this assessment will be used by Place des arts to issue an RFP for construction and design services.

Synergy Convention Centre

Since the last update to Council, the Synergy Project has taken several steps forward:

- A renewed Synergy Project Committee has met and confirmed the essential project as presented to Council in November 2015. Key elements are:
 - The project will be located downtown and aims to be a major revitalization anchor in the city's core.
 - The size and scale of the project will strategically fill a known gap in facility capacity for Sudbury - A multi-use facility designed to provide 1000+ seats for performing arts and seating of 1000 for banquets with breakout space for conferences

- In January 2017, the GSDC Board declared the Synergy Convention Centre Project as one of Board's four priorities for 2017. The Board will have representation on the Synergy Project Committee, receive updates on the project and each meeting, and look to provide direction and support to Economic Development staff in pursuit of this opportunity.
- In late 2016, the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC) committed \$10,000 towards the Synergy Project. A portion of this funding was used to procure the services of CBRE Tourism and Leisure Group, to complete a review of the existing reports and information, to test the assumptions used in the project planning to date and to recommend the steps required to bring the project to a decision point.
- In line with Council's endorsement of the project and the support of the GSDC Board, municipal staff are now resourcing the development of the project as well as the new Synergy Project Committee. The committee met March 20th to review the consultant's report and confirm key project objectives and determine next steps.
- Information sharing is taking place between this project and the other large project initiatives.
- The Project Committee is looking to build upon the previously completed feasibility, market assessment and conceptual design work, and will prepare a critical path to bring the project to the Green Light stage. A request for support for this work will come to the GSDC and to Council later this spring.

New Main Library/Art Gallery Project

Phase I of the New Main Library/Art Gallery Project is underway. Lord Cultural Resources are working with the Joint Committee and staff from both organizations to acquire and compile information that will support the final report. The consultants conducted a 3-day site visit in mid-December to conduct interviews with stakeholders, assess the existing Main Library and AGS facilities, and conduct planning workshops with both organizations.

The consultants are now developing a Business Case for the project and will continue provide routine updates to the Joint-Committee. This report will include capital cost estimates, attendance, revenue and expense projections, functional plan, and literature review. Staff anticipates that representatives of the Joint Committee, along with the project consultants, will be in a position to present the report to Council and seek direction mid 2017. Staff also anticipates that the key decision points could reflect those proposed for the Event Centre meeting on March 7.

The Library and Gallery have established a strong working relationship through this process and, based on discussions to date, both organizations are confident regarding the feasibility of this joint venture

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In January, the GSDC Board declared the Synergy Convention Centre Project as one of Board's four priorities for 2017. The Board will receive updates on the project at each meeting and look to provide direction and support to Economic Development staff in pursuit of this opportunity.

With Council's endorsement of the project in April 2016 and the support of the GSDC Board, municipal staff are now resourcing the development of the project as well as the new Synergy Project Committee. The committee plans to review the consultant's report and determine next steps in mid-March.