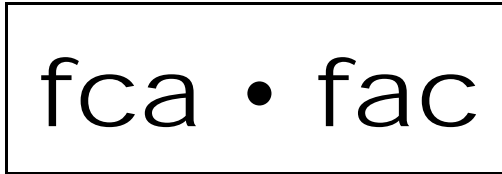


Federation of
Citizens'
Associations of
Ottawa-Carleton



Fédération des
associations
civiques d'Ottawa-
Carleton

Submission to Committee of the Whole
6 December 2005
2006 City Budget

The Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) would draw the attention of Council to two items in proposed Capital Budget which the Federation believes are particularly worthy of support.

Project 903261 - Redevelopment Studies-Streetscaping/CDP (Capital Budget page 324) is intended to fund planning activities throughout the city. We believe such studies are essential to turn the objectives of the Official Plan into reality.

The preparation of Community Design Plans is specifically required in the Official Plan and, in our view, must proceed apace in both urban and rural communities. The budget documentation presents a plan of work for the year and we look forward to the successful completion of those Community Design Plans.

Moreover we are pleased to see that a street design policy will be formulated to guide investment in the rehabilitation of city streets. We hope Council will fully fund this worthwhile activity which we hope will ensure that reconstruction projects contribute to our goal of building a city of distinct liveable communities.

Project 903717 - Neighbourhood Planning (Capital Budget page 330) proposes to introduce a place-based approach to delivery of city services and investments. This is a new way of looking at city activity which offers the promise of improved coordination among city departments and more effective engagement by residents, businesses and community agencies.

The project proposed for the 2006 budget year is intended as an experiment with this concept. Three communities of varied character will be selected for neighbourhood planning trials. Community associations have indicated interest in collaborating in such initiatives.

Some members feel that recent tendencies by Council to grant applications for spot rezoning call into question the validity of any planning activity. On the other hand, some other associations expect neighbourhood planning will further improve the efficiency with which city services are delivered. On balance we would encourage the experiment as proposed.