

From Robert-Falcon Ouellette
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I agree, there should be a principle-based approach to infrastructure in Winnipeg, including a commitment to

- Dedicated funding for infrastructure, either to finance “smart debt” or ongoing operations and preventive maintenance,
- A focus on infrastructure that will make the city more economically and environmentally efficient
- Innovation and quality, to ensure that work is done right the first time, and that it lasts longer
- Private sector engagement if it can deliver efficiencies along with transparency
- A commitment to long-term planning and long-term return on investment

It is important to note that as of 2011, it was projected that without additional revenue dedicated to infrastructure, that Winnipeg’s infrastructure deficit would continue to grow. Since that time, there have been taxes raised - property taxes at the City of Winnipeg and the 1% PST at the provincial level - that were promised to infrastructure.

I have proposed a \$26-million land value tax on surface parking lots downtown, and I further proposed that \$12-million of that would be used to fully finance a \$250-million fund dedicated to starting to close the gap on core infrastructure: roads, bridges, water, waste,

<http://falcon2014.com/2014/09/14/fixing-your-infrastructure-ouellette-announces-fully-funded-250-million-plan/>

I have also proposed cancelling the SW leg of BRT and replacing it in the short term with a Metrobus system, and immediately embarking on a study to calculate the cost of moving the rail yards and heavy rail traffic out of the city, and using the vacated lines for an LRT / commuter rail network.

<http://falcon2014.com/2014/09/05/robert-falcon-ouellette-promises-transit-transformation-for-winnipeg/>

I have also committed to raising an environmental levy of 3 cents per drink container (10 cent deposit and five cent return, with three cents dedicated to an environmental infrastructure fund).

I would also issue “Save Lake Winnipeg bonds” in order to pay for and speed the completion of Winnipeg’s water treatment plants to Save Lake Winnipeg.

<http://falcon2014.com/2014/09/26/robert-falcon-ouellette-unveils-plan-for-a-greener-winnipeg/>

The goal of all of these is to make the city more efficient, and reducing the amount that we spend catching up so that be more efficient, and so that the money we save can be ploughed back into further growth.

Robert-Falcon Ouellette.