



**December 2, 2021**

Jay Grewal  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Manitoba Hydro  
360 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8

Dear Ms Grewal:

I am writing to you today to ask for your help breaking a deadlock that seems to have developed in negotiations between Manitoba Hydro and the City of Winnipeg over agreement on an easement and access along a Manitoba Hydro Corridor that would allow for the construction of a critical multi-use pathway in the Northwest quarter of Winnipeg.

Over \$1 million has been allocated for design and construction of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway to date. City budgeting projects that an additional \$1.7 million will be allocated to this project in 2024 and 2025 so that it can be developed to McPhillips Street Casino.

**Construction work on the greenway should have begun in 2016, but as the City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Hydro have been unable to negotiate an easement and access along the hydro corridor where the pathway is planned, construction has not been able to begin.**

Another summer's construction season has been missed and construction inflation continues to eat away at the project's budget. Grants available to the city to support this project are time sensitive. It's our understanding that onerous demands from Hydro are the main stalling point in the negotiations.

We all recognize the urgency of actions required to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to avoid warming our shared climate. Transportation produces over ½ of Winnipeg's greenhouse gas emissions. Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan, unanimously adopted in 2018, calls for the city to reduce its GHGs, and in particular to reduce emissions produced through transportation by shifting travel from private vehicles to walking, cycling, and transit.

As an off road, destination rich connection through the city's northwest, the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway has huge potential to divert vehicle based trips to walking and cycling. It passes through

many areas identified by the City of Winnipeg as higher needs areas, providing the potential to make life more affordable for those who may be finding it hard to make ends meet.

Completion of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway would be a significant step in the city's (and province's) efforts to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets. However, an agreement between Manitoba Hydro and the City of Winnipeg is needed to get this project moving forward.

I am sure you share our desire to see this important project move forward to make effective use of this corridor for walking and cycling. My hope is that you can use your position as President and CEO to ensure that an agreement for an easement and access to the Northwest Hydro Corridor that will allow the city to begin construction on this critical pathway can be completed as soon as possible.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide on the matter, please feel free to contact me at 204-894-6540 if you have any questions about the project.

Sincerely,

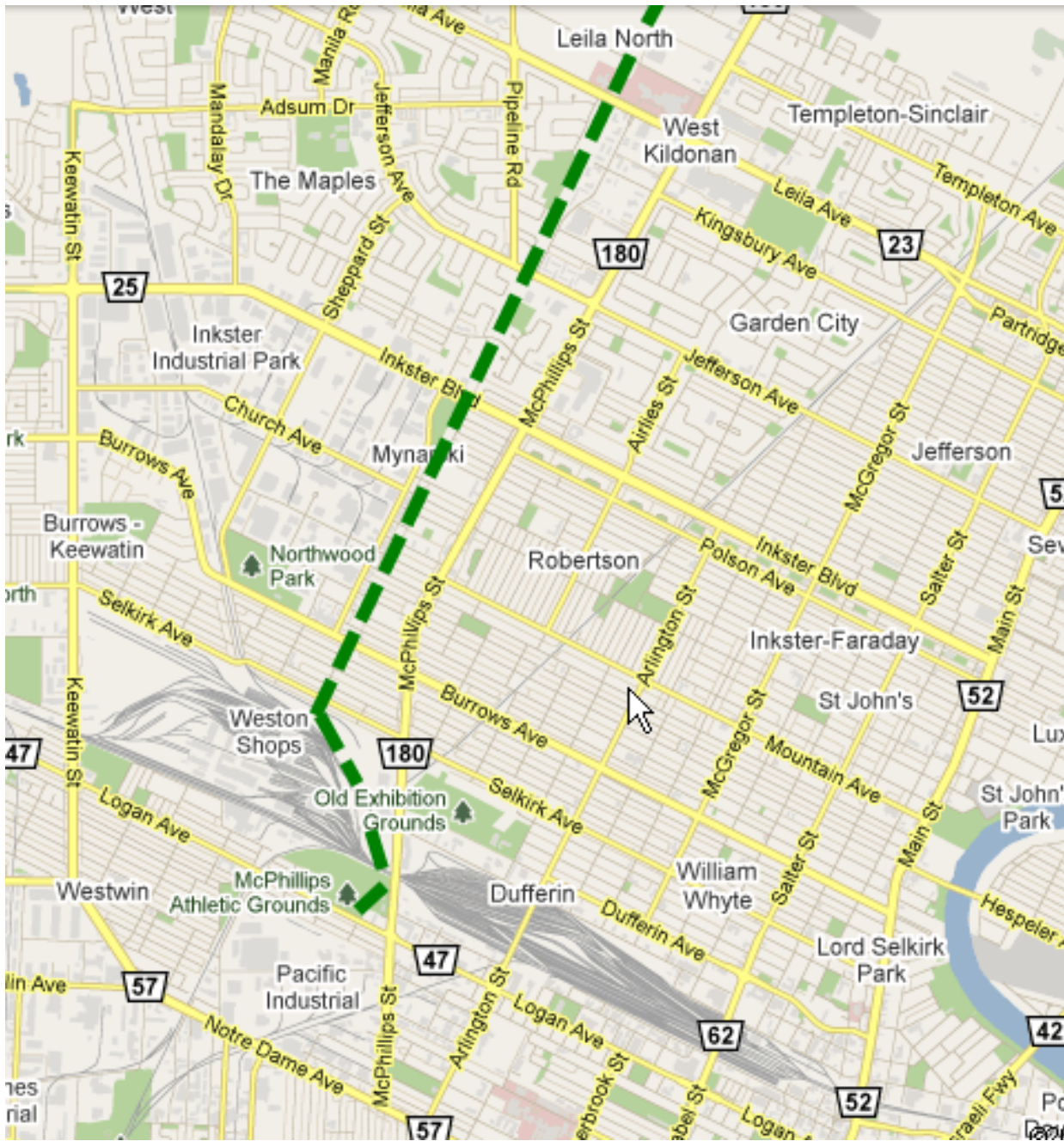
Mark Cohoe  
Executive Director  
Bike Winnipeg  
t: 204-894-6540  
e: [mark@bikewinnipeg.ca](mailto:mark@bikewinnipeg.ca)

Enclosure

cc: Marina R. James  
Chair, Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board  
360 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8

cc: Hon Jeff Wharton  
Minister of Crown Services  
314 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

# About the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway

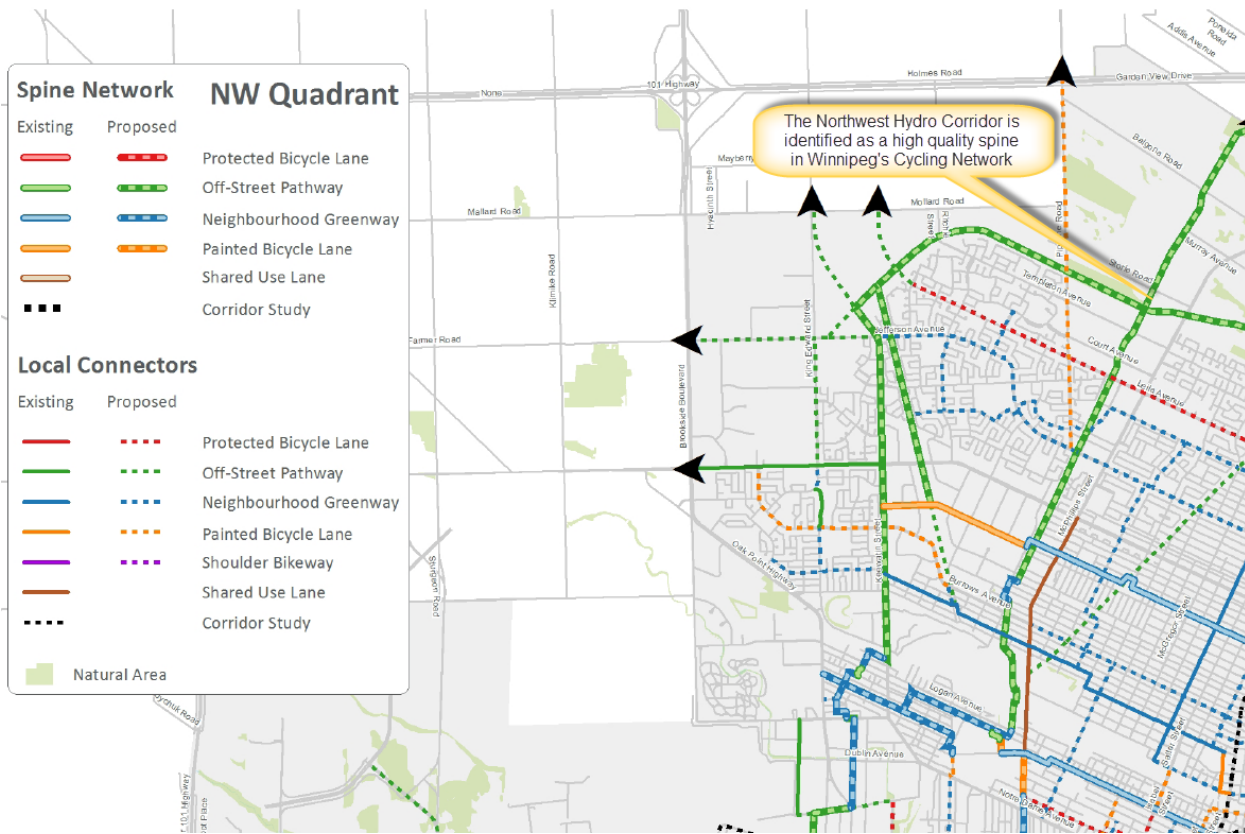


The Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway will be constructed as a separated bicycle and pedestrian pathway along a hydro right of way running parallel to McPhillips Street from the McPhillips Street Casino to the Seven Oaks Hospital and beyond. The Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway will eventually extend to the future Chief Peguis Trail and Precinct G, and could ultimately reach north across the Perimeter Highway.

South of McPhillips Street Station, there is considerable potential to connect the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway across the CPR Mainline to pathways and low stress bike routes reaching to Red River College Polytech, St. James Industrial Park, Polo Park, Downtown, The Forks, St. James, River Heights, and ultimately the U of W and U of M.

If developed to its full potential, this pathway will be a key artery in the city's bicycle network, providing safe, comfortable, and direct connections between the northwest of the city and the city centre, west, and southeastern quadrants.

**Map 4.8:**  
North-West Neighbourhood Map



## Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway Highlights:

- Creates a cycling connection into the northwest of the city
  - Currently under served in terms of cycling routes (see table 1 below)
- Long term plans include a cycling crossing of the CPR main line
- Excellent connectivity with existing and planned east/west cycling routes
  - Chief Peguis Trail Pathways
  - Kingsbury Avenue
  - Jefferson Avenue
  - Church/Machray Avenues
  - Pritchard Avenue
  - Alexander/Pacific/Elgin Avenues (Health Science Centre Complex & both Red River College Campuses)
- Potential to Connect/Extend North/South Routes
  - Empress Street Pathway
  - Winnipeg Beach Greenway
- Connects to Many High Value Destinations
  - Health/Institutional
    - Seven Oaks Hospital
  - Residential
    - St. Joseph's Residence
    - McPhillips Common Housing Development
    - Fred Douglas Lodge
  - Shopping
    - Garden City Shopping Centre
    - Superstore
    - Canad Centre
    - Northgate Mall
  - Education
    - Andrew Mynarski School
    - Robertson School
    - Elwick Community School
    - Sisler High School
    - Lord Selkirk School
    - Maples Collegiate
    - Seven Oaks Adult Education
  - Employment
    - Inkster Industrial Park
    - Pacific Industrial Park
    - McPhillips Street Station Casino

- Parks & Recreation
  - Simkin Park
  - Dobrinski Park
  - Fort Whyte Park & Recreation Centre
  - McPhillips Athletic Grounds
  - Old Exhibition Grounds
  - Fife Street Community Garden
  - Elwick Recreation Centre
  - Maples Multiplex
- Cultural/Entertainment
  - Canad Inns Garden City
  - Cinema City Northgate
  - Caribbean Community Cultural Centre

**Table 1: Existing Bicycle Network by City Ward**

Sum of Length	Type	Buffered Bicycle Lane	Multi Use Paved	Multi Use Unpaved	Neighbourhood Greenway	Painted Bicycle Lane	Protected Bicycle Lane	(blank)	Grand Total
Charleswood - Tuxedo - Westwood	Bicycle Only		23	18					41
Deniel McIntyre		2	1			5	1		8
Elmwood - East Kildonan			4		3	2			9
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry		3	7	4		12	5	3	33
Mynarski			3		9	3			15
North Kildonan			15	1		1			18
Old Kildonan			5						5
Point Douglas	1	0	7			9	4	4	26
River Heights - Fort Garry		2	27		4	4			38
St. Boniface			11	2		3		0	16
St. James	2	4	18				2	0	25
St. Norbert - Seine River		2	17	6					24
St. Vital			14	7	2				22
Transcona	0		30	3					34
Waverley West		4	46						50
(blank)									
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>365</b>

**Notes:**  
 Untyped infrastructure, shared lanes, and cut throughs were excluded from the numbers shown above  
 Old Kildonan numbers include the Northwest Hydro Corridor pathway (2.43 km) and Haggart Rd pathway (0.81 km), but exclude many Amber Trails pathways that are untyped  
 There are 4.71 km of trail in Amber Trails, 1.39 km of which is typed as multi use paved, the rest is untyped

Source: Adapted from City of Winnipeg Active Transportation Network Data accessed via [https://data.winnipeg.ca/Transportation-Planning-Traffic-Management/Active-Transportation-Network/wm39-ds\\_wz](https://data.winnipeg.ca/Transportation-Planning-Traffic-Management/Active-Transportation-Network/wm39-ds_wz) on November 23, 2021.