



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 19, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Citizen Engagement - Two-way/Complete Streets Conversion (PW13097a) - (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Alan Kirkpatrick (905)546-2424, Extension 4173
SUBMITTED BY:	Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to include a Citizen Engagement Process in the proposed Updated Transportation Master Plan, to be funded from project ID 4031255222 at an estimated cost of \$95,000, as described in Report PW13097a;
- (b) That the Outstanding Business List item related to Citizen Engagement - Two-way Street Conversion be identified as complete and removed from the General Issues Committee Outstanding Business list.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City is planning to undertake a study to update the 2007 City-wide Transportation Master Plan (CWTMP) that will review the previous goals and objectives established for the City's future transportation network and related policies that are used to guide Council and staff in priorities, work plans and financial needs to the 2031 horizon year. In addition, the updated plan will consider a further planning horizon of 2041.

An integral part of the Master Planning process is public consultation. The proposed Updated CWTMP will follow the requirements of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA), Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA), October 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011. Contained in this process are specific public consultation milestones to ensure that the general public have a number of opportunities to review materials and provide their comments and input. In addition to the master plan public consultation process, staff is recommending additional Citizen Engagement protocols to be implemented due to the complexity of issues such as complete streets and one to two-way conversions and to ensure that transportation issues from all areas of the City are

brought forward and considered equally in a Citizen's panel. Citizen Engagement procedures have been used successfully in the past (i.e. Area Rating) and it is felt that the Update CWTMP will benefit from this additional process.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 5

FINANCIAL - STAFFING - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Funding for the Updated CWTMP has been previously approved in the capital budget. Funding for the proposed Citizen Engagement process for the Updated CWTMP is available in project ID 4031255222 at an estimated cost of \$95,000.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Committee may recall report *"Five Year Plan Regarding Two-Way Street Conversions (PW13097) - (City Wide)*, dated December 4, 2013, which included the following recommendation:

- (a) That Report PW13097, responding to a staff direction for a five (5) year strategy on the conversion of the City's one-way street network, be received and included as a priority initiative in the first phase of the Transportation Master Plan (CWTMP). Update, to identify conversion priorities, benefits, impacts and costs related to conversion of one-way to two-way streets and identifying funding sources related to implementation of approved streets to be converted and report back in Q2 - 2014; and,
- (b) That "Two-Way Street Conversions" be identified as completed and removed from the General Issues Committee Outstanding Business List.

The above report was tabled by Committee to allow Councillors the opportunity to have further discussions with staff.

Additionally, Staff has added to the discussion of one-to-two way street conversions, the topic of complete streets. This was relevant as some areas of the City (i.e. Mountain) do not have one way streets but are equally concerned about sidewalks and therefore complete streets is of city-wide interest.

Report PW13097 recommended updating the 2007 CWTMP including as a priority initiative, a first phase to specifically review the issue of conversion of one-way streets with a detailed review of the entire road network including conversion priorities, benefits, impacts and cost of these proposed changes. The matter of conversion of roads to two-way traffic operations includes numerous issues that need detailed review and consideration, public input, stakeholder input and budget considerations. Additional details on the issues to be considered in the conversion of streets to two-way traffic operations are included in **Appendix "A"**. As this subject is to be included in the

CWTMP, staff is suggesting that the conversion topic also be included in the CWTMP process to ensure it is done in a comprehensive manner.

Councillors, the City Manager's office and Transportation Planning staff met to discuss options as to how to proceed with updating the CWTMP and to determine how a Citizen's Engagement process could be utilized to contribute to the project. The recommendations contained in this report reflect the outcome of this discussion.

Appendix "B" of this report provided additional background information related to the Updated CWTMP process and also complete streets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The Updated CWTMP would support the City Urban and Rural Official Plan with regard to the planning and implementation of the City Transportation network over the next 20+ years.

In addition to the Official Plan, the following policy documents provide additional details on a wide-range of transportation issues will be included in this study and reviewed during the Citizen Engagement process:

- Economic Development
- Urban Structure
- Urban Design
- Energy Use
- Environmental: Gas Emissions
Air Quality, Noise
- Transportation Targets
- Travel Demand Management
(TDM)
- Walking and Cycling
- Accessibility
- Parking
- Complete Streets
- Goods Movement
- Traffic Calming
- New Technology Initiatives
- Access Management
- Level of Service Standards
- Road Classification
- Rural Road Standards
- Warrants
- Provincial/Inter-regional Initiatives
- Financing of Infrastructure
- Roundabouts
- One-way to two-way traffic conversions
- Public Health & Quality of Life

A comprehensive review of these policies will provide direction to Council and staff on various long-range transportation issues. A review and update of these policies will form the foundation for the development of the new CWTMP.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Transportation Division staff met with the Councillors from Ward 1 and 8 to discuss options related to including a Citizen Engagement process with the Updating of the CWTMP along with the City Manager and staff in the City Manager's office.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

One of the issues not reviewed in detail in the previous CWTMP was the consideration of converting the one-way road network to two-way traffic. The conversion topic has strong opinions on both sides of the issue. The one-way street pattern has been in place for fifty (50) years and the City is well known for this network. Since 2001, several roads, or portions have since been converted to two-way traffic operation, including James Street, John Street, York Boulevard/Wilson Street, Caroline Street and MacNab Street, from Cannon Street to Burlington Street, as recently as June 2013 and a small portion of Queen Street from Stuart Street to Barton Street in December 2013.

It is recommended that the subject of one-way to two-way traffic conversions and complete streets be included in the Update CWTMP but not as a Phase 1 priority as previous indicated. The subject will be included and reviewed along with the other key transportation issues and reported on in the context of the other elements of the CWTMP.

Citizen Engagement:

Based on the success of similar Citizen Engagement processes in the past (i.e. Area Rating), a panel of citizens, representing each Ward, would review policies, important issues facing the municipality and ‘frame-the-issues’ from a citizen’s perspective. The panel would report back to Council on their findings and make recommendations on potential policy changes. In the past, Council and staff have found that this type of collaborative process has produced valuable information that might not be available through Public Information Centres (PIC) or public meetings alone. The findings and recommendations from the Citizen’s panel would also be important information to include in the final Updated CWTMP document.

The recommended Citizen Engagement process involves randomly selecting representatives from each Ward, plus four (4) to six (6) additional members-at-large to observe and contribute if necessary (sickness or personal issues). A Steering Committee will also be established to oversee the process. The Citizen Panel will receive the necessary background information and technical analysis on which to base judgements, opinions and decisions. The Steering Committee and Citizen’s panel would be responsible to agree on the way in which to undertake this task and determine how their work will be presented, i.e. consensus, majority vote or other agreed to option.

This panel’s final report is presented to Council for their consideration and in this case, would also be utilized as part of the stakeholder contributions to the overall Updated CWTMP project.

It is recommended that a consultant with Citizen Engagement expertise be hired to facilitate this additional process.

The anticipated timing would include proceeding with the Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire the Transportation Master Plan consultant to begin their work. In the spring of 2014, the process to hire the Citizen Engagement consultant would commence. The

Citizen panel will be asked to include recommendations on a decision-making toolkit for Council and staff to consider in the future when dealing with priorities and competing transportation issues and limited resources. A decision-making toolkit could provide a guide and ranking mechanism to assist Council in the consideration of projects.

It is anticipated the Citizen's panel could begin in September 2014 and be prepared to make their recommendations on a wide-range of topics and policies in the early-spring of 2015.

As mentioned, as per the previous area rating process, a Steering Committee of key individuals, with specific skills would also be required to provide input into this process and lend another layer of accountability to the Citizen's panel process. Staff is also suggesting this group be the Steering Committee for the overall Updated CWTMP project. By having one Steering Committee for both groups, the knowledge is transferable is maximized and repeating of information is at a minimum.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could consider not including the additional Citizen's Engagement process with the Updated CWTMP project and direct staff to proceed with obtaining public input and comments through the Master Plan process.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.1 Continue to grow the non-residential tax base.
- 1.2 Continue to prioritize capital infrastructure projects to support managed growth and optimize community benefit.
- 1.3 Promote economic opportunities with a focus on Hamilton's downtown core, all downtown areas and waterfronts.
- 1.4 Improve the City's transportation system to support multi-modal mobility and encourage inter-regional connections.
- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.
- 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

- 2.1 Implement processes to improve services, leverage technology and validate cost effectiveness and efficiencies across the Corporation.
- 2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.
- 2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

Strategic Objective

- 3.1 Engage in a range of inter-governmental relations (IGR) work that will advance partnerships and projects that benefit the City of Hamilton.
- 3.2 Build organizational capacity to ensure the City has a skilled workforce that is capable and enabled to deliver its business objectives.
- 3.3 Improve employee engagement.
- 3.4 Enhance opportunities for administrative and operational efficiencies.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A"	Review of One-Two Way Street Conversions
Appendix "B"	Updated City-wide Transportation Master Plan Background