



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
Office of the Medical Officer of Health

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	May 21, 2015
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Improving Health by Design Update - BOH14017(a) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Dr. Ninh Tran (905) 546-2424, Ext. 2169
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Board of Health endorse the report *Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area*, and support in principle the implementation of The Big Move, strengthening provincial policies and integrating health into municipal planning;
- (b) That Public Health Services work with the City Manager's Office, Public Works, and Planning and Economic Development to report back on the specific recommendations contained in the *Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area* report and what local actions could be implemented;
- (c) That Public Health Services continue to work with the City Manager's Office, Public Works, and Planning and Economic Development regarding transportation planning and land-use planning to maximize health benefits.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June of 2014, the Board of Health (BOH) and City Council received the "Improve Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area" (IHBD)(BOH14017). The IHBD report was written by Medical Officers of Health in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area (GTHA). It demonstrates the significant health impacts of transportation and land use

planning, including obesity, physical inactivity (\$4 billion per year), diabetes (\$550 million per year) and air pollution (850 premature deaths and thousands of hospitalizations per year) in the GTHA. The IHBD report identifies that there is no single policy change that would provide the solution to the current challenge. However, it does identify several opportunities to strengthen current actions including:

- Support funding and implementation of the Big Move
- Strengthening provincial policies
- Integrating health into municipal planning

The three key recommendations presented to BOH on June 16, 2014 and to City Council on June 24, 2014 were:

- (a) That the Board of Health endorse the report *Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area*, and support in principle the funding and sustainable implementation of the Big Move, strengthening provincial policies and integrating health into municipal planning;
- (b) That Public Health Services work with the City Manager's Office, Public Works, and Planning and Economic Development to report back on the specific recommendations contained in the *Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area* report and what local actions could be implemented;
- (c) That Public Health Services continue to work with the City Manager's Office, Public Works, and Planning and Economic Development regarding transportation planning and land-use planning to maximize health benefits.

BOH endorsed all three of these recommendations on June 16, 2014. However, at its Council meeting on June 24, 2014, Council referred the report back to BOH citing concerns as to whether endorsing the "funding of the Big Move" would impact the Province's expectations of the City of Hamilton's financial contribution to the Big Move.

After further local and provincial developments including; elections, local and provincial discussions involving transit, and consultation with the City of Hamilton's new Transit Director, it is recommended that:

- 1) Recommendation (a) as above from BOH14017 be amended to remove the words "funding and sustainable" in order to endorse the overall recommendations in the IHBD report, but without endorsing potential Provincial expectations of local funding contributions, and
- 2) The other remaining recommendations (b) and (c), as above from BOH14017 be endorsed as originally presented.

***Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5***

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for recommendation(s) only)**

**Financial:** No financial implications for endorsing the IHBD report in principle. Future reports may have financial implications, including municipal funding for public transit.

**Staffing:** No staffing implications.

**Legal:** No legal implications.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)**

PHS has been working with both Planning & Economic Development (P&ED) and Public Works (PW) regarding improving transportation and land use planning as a way to improve health locally. This includes signing of the International Charter for Walking (2008), participating in the Canadian Walking Master Class (2009), co-presenting the Rapid Ready Report at GIC (2013) and the endorsement of the Pedestrian Mobility Plan (2013). In addition, work with Complete Streets, Active and Safe Routes to School, Cycling Master Plan has led to silver designations for the City of Hamilton in both Walk-Friendly Community and Bicycle Friendly Community.

**Improve Health by Design Report:**

From September 2013 to April 2014, Hamilton's Associate Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officers of Health in the GTHA worked collaboratively to produce a report on the built environment, with a focus on transportation and health.

On June 16, 2014, the "Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area" (BOH14017) was presented to BOH and the IHBD report was endorsed.

On June 25, 2014, Hamilton City Council referred back the BOH Report (BOH14017) due to concerns whether endorsing the "funding of the Big Move" would impact the Province's expectations of the City of Hamilton's financial contribution to the Big Move.

**Provincial and local developments since the release of the IHBD report:**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Province of Ontario held its general election, with the Liberals winning a majority election.

On July 15, 2014, the Province's Minister of Transportation met with Hamilton's Mayor and a number of Councillors to discuss the City's Light Rail Transit's application for funding. No clear decision was communicated.

On October 27, 2014, municipal elections were held provincially. On October 28, 2014, the City of Hamilton hired a new Transit Director, Dave Dixon.

On March 6, 2015, the General Issues Committee (GIC) received and endorsed a Ten-Year Local Transit Strategy.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

There are no current policy implications for endorsing the IHBD report in principle. Future reports may have policy implications, given recommendations on land-use planning policies.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Dave Dixon, Hamilton's new Transit Director, was consulted on the recommendations of the report. He recommended modifying the original BOH14017's recommendation to remove the words "funding and sustainable" so that the wording is changed to endorse "in principle the implementation of the Big Move". He supported keeping the remaining BOH14017's recommendations (b) and (c) as is.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**(Include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data if applicable)**

Though the BOH and City Council supported in principle, recommendations regarding improving transportation and land use planning, there were concerns as to the wording regarding endorsing the funding of the Big Move. This was interpreted as potentially endorsing provincially expected municipal direct and indirect contributions.

In order to implement the Big Move, Metrolinx developed a funding strategy, which it released in May of 2013<sup>1</sup>. The strategy included \$2 billion dollars per year to be raised through revenue tools in order to finance \$34 billion worth of projects.

These revenue tools include a one percent increase in the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) and a five-cent per litre regional fuel and gasoline tax. City Council, however at its GIC meeting on May 1, 2013 through its report "Metrolinx – Regional Funding Tools" (FCS13002), rejected funding tools that would have a local impact and moved:

"That the Provincial and Federal Governments continue to fund 100% of the cost of the Big Move Metrolinx projects in the manner that the first wave of projects valued at \$16 billion were funded;"

Removing reference to endorsement of funding would allow City Council to endorse the recommended actions in the IHBD report, without supporting Metrolinx's proposed Regional Funding Tools.

The analysis and rationale for the original BOH14017's recommendations are not included in this report update. Please refer to June 16, 2014 BOH1017 report "Improving Health by Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area" for the analysis and rationale for the existing recommendations.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

**(Include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and Pros and Cons for each alternative)**

- 1) The BOH could choose not to endorse the principles outlined in the IHBD report. This would have significant health impacts for Hamiltonians related to transportation, air quality, physical inactivity and economic impacts, as outlined above and in the report.

**Financial:** There are no immediate financial implications. However, financial impacts of alternate decisions would need to be assessed as to their cost vis-à-vis the recommendations outlined here. Further, the negative consequences on the community's health would have negative financial costs as outlined in the report. Following this approach would not be consistent with the City's strategic vision and goals, or the values of excellence, accountability and cost-consciousness.

**Staffing:** There are no immediate staffing implications. However, alternate decisions would need to be assessed as to their staffing implications vis-à-vis the recommendations outlined here. Further, the negative consequences on the community's health, may lead to staffing impacts related to community supports for those with poor health.

**Legal:** No legal implications

**Policy:** No policy implications

- 2) Endorsing the implementation of all of the specific recommendations of the IHBD report is premature. A full review of the recommendation details and local implementation is required. PHS would prefer to work with its colleagues in PW and P&ED to complete this detailed review and consider implementation at a local level. This is timely with a newly hired General Manager in P&ED.

**Financial:** The specific impact is unknown and therefore requires the further collaborative review. Funding these recommendations without ensuring the best solution for Hamilton may lead to less efficient use of resources and is not consistent with the City's values of accountability, excellence or cost-consciousness.

**Staffing:** May have increased staffing requirements, but details unknown at this time, and impacts would be similar to the financial impacts noted above.

**Legal:** No legal implications

**Policy:** Municipal planning policies to incorporate health lens are anticipated to arise from implementing these recommendations; however, without further analysis these would not be tailored to Hamilton's specific situation.

## **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**

- 1.4 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).

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable

## **REFERENCES**

- 1) Metrolinx. 2015. "Metrolinx –Investing in our region, investing in our future"  
[http://www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/funding/IS\\_Full\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/funding/IS_Full_Report_EN.pdf)  
(accessed April 15, 2015)