



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transit Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 21, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Allowing Larger-Sized Dogs on the Hamilton Street Railway (PW15066) - (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Murray Hill (905) 546-2424, Extension 1857
SUBMITTED BY:	Gerry Davis, CPA, CMA General Manager Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the travel of non-working dogs on Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) transit vehicles be approved with the following conditions:
- (i) No person shall travel on the transit system with a dog during the peak hours of 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.;
 - (ii) No person shall travel on the transit system during non-peak hours with a dog unless the dog is:
 - (1) On a leash and in the control of the person provided that the dog does not inconvenience or jeopardize the safety of other passengers or HSR employees;
 - (2) Not permitted to sit on the passenger seating;
 - (iii) This policy change does not apply to prohibiting “certified” specialty dogs from accompanying any passenger with a disability provided that the specialty dog remains under the control of the passenger at all times while on the transit vehicle;
- (b) That this item be removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Public Works Committee meeting of July 9, 2015, a resident requested a change to the current policy that restricts dogs larger than “lapdogs” and certified “specialty” dogs, travel on public transit vehicles.

Transit staff was directed to report back to the Public Works Committee with a feasibility study about allowing pets on the HSR.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 2

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Larger-sized dogs, not considered “working” dogs, have been restricted from travelling on HSR buses for a number of years. A resident is now requesting a change to the policy that would permit the travel of all dogs on public transit vehicles.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

There would be a requirement to implement a change to the HSR policy that currently restricts larger dogs from travelling on HSR transit vehicles.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Policies were reviewed related to pets travelling on public transit vehicles in the cities of Toronto, Calgary and Seattle where currently all dogs are permitted to travel on transit vehicles subject to restrictions.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

Permitting large dogs on the HSR will allow the HSR to become more user friendly for all residents; given a significant number of residents are also dog owners.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could choose not to approve the recommendation.

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

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

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

2.3 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

3.4 Enhance opportunities for operational efficiencies.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None