



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Growth Management Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 6, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Proposal from the Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation to Change the Street Name for a Portion of Burlington Street East, from the QEW to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North, in both directions, to Nikola Tesla Expressway, Hamilton (PED15145) (Wards 4 and 5)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 4 and 5
PREPARED BY:	Paul Toffoletti (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4348
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the Planning Committee pass a resolution to support the renaming of a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North in both directions, as identified on Appendices "A" and "B" attached to Report PED15145;
- (b) That the By-law be held in abeyance until staff are satisfied that all costs associated with the proposal for street sign replacements can be covered by the Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation (NTEC);
- (c) That the portion of the matter respecting the naming of a road after Nikola Tesla be identified as complete and removed from the Planning Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 4, 2014, the Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation (NTEC) made a presentation to the General Issues Committee. The presentation also included a request that staff work with NTEC to erect a statue of Tesla, and rename a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to approximately Ottawa Street North in both directions. This would not include the portion of Burlington Street East that is at grade and runs below the raised portion.

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Hamilton Emergency Services have indicated that they have encountered difficulty in determining if an emergency call is based on the upper or lower portions of Burlington Street and the specific location along Burlington Street, and are therefore in favour of the proposal.

The proposal will not require any property owner to go through a change of address.

This Report is not asking the Committee to pass a By-law at the present time, but to bring forward a resolution (see Appendix “B” to Report PED15145) to rename a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North in both directions, and that the By-law be held in abeyance once NTEC has proven that they have secured the required costs to change street signs. Once the NTEC have demonstrated that they have raised the required monies, staff will bring the By-law to Council for approval (see Appendix “C” to Report PED15145).

A resolution is required from the Committee, so that NTEC is aware that they have Council’s support and can approach various individuals, corporations and foundations to secure the appropriate funding.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation have agreed to cover all costs associated with the replacement of all road signs.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: *The Municipal Act* does not require any public notification for a municipal street name change. However, if required at a future date, notice of the proposed street name change would be given in accordance with The City of Hamilton Local Street Naming Policies, Guidelines and Procedures as approved by Council on March 9, 2005.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On September 4, 2014, the Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation (NTEC) made a presentation to the General Issues Committee. The presentation included a review of who Nikola Tesla was and how his invention of the AC electrical distribution system changed the world and contributed to the Industrial Revolution. The invention of the AC distribution system, brought electrical power from Decew Falls, near St. Catharines, to Hamilton in 1898, and made Hamilton known as the “Electrical City” in the early 1900s.

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The presentation also included a request that staff work with the NTEC to erect a statue of Tesla, and to rename a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to approximately Ottawa Street North in both directions. This would not include the portion of Burlington Street East that is at grade and runs below the raised portion. It is the section at grade between the QEW to the split, east of Parkdale, and then the raised portion that would be renamed.

The following direction was passed:

(Morrow/Bratina)

That the presentation, from the Nikola Tesla Educational Corporation, respecting the appropriate Location to erect a Statue of Nikola Tesla and the Naming of a road after Mr. Nikola Tesla, be referred to staff for a report to the Planning Committee.

The NTEC goals and objectives are to raise awareness of the work Nikola Tesla has done and how the invention of the AC electrical distribution system brought electrical power to Hamilton and allowed its industrial base to grow. The street renaming proposal is a part of a larger plan to connect the name Tesla with the City of Hamilton by also erecting a statue, creating local awards and scholarships, naming a local school after Tesla, organize Tesla Science Fairs for youth, and promote innovation via Innovation Park.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The City of Hamilton Local Street Naming Policies, Guidelines and Procedures, as approved by Council on March 9, 2005, were used as a guide in the review of this proposed street name change. This proposal is consistent with the Local Street Naming Policies, Guidelines and Procedures document.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Hamilton Emergency Services have indicated that they have encountered difficulty in determining if an emergency call is based on the upper or lower portions of Burlington Street and the specific location along Burlington Street, and are therefore in favour of the proposal.

The Traffic Operations Section, Public Works Department, has indicated that the cost to replace overhead signs will have to be tendered. The NTEC have agreed to cover this cost.

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Staff have been in touch with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to discuss the cost of replacing signs on the QEW. These signs would indicate the exits for Burlington Street and Nikola Tesla Expressway. At the time of this Report, it was not known if there would be any cost to the NTEC.

Staff find that the request from NTEC to rename a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North has merit and can be supported.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

To be specific, the westbound portion that is proposed to be renamed would be from the QEW to the point where the road splits at the grade and raised portion east of Parkdale Avenue North, and then the entire raised portion to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North. The lower portion will remain as Burlington Street East (see Appendix “A” to Report PED15145).

The eastbound portion that is proposed to be renamed would be from 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North starting where the road splits, the entire raised portion and the at grade portion to the QEW. The lower portion will remain as Burlington Street East (see Appendix “A” to Report PED15145).

The proposal will not require any property owner to go through a change of address.

This Report is not asking the Committee to pass a By-law at the present time, but to bring forward a resolution (see Appendix “B” to Report PED15145) to rename a portion of Burlington Street East from the QEW to 165 metres east of Ottawa Street North in both directions, and that the By-law be held in abeyance once the NTEC has proven that they have secured the required cost to change street signs. Once the NTEC have demonstrated that they have raised the required monies, staff will bring the By-law to Council for approval (see Appendix “C” to Report PED15145).

A resolution is required from the Committee, so that the NTEC is aware that they have Council’s support, and can approach various individuals, corporations and foundations to secure the appropriate funding.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Should the recommendation be denied, there are two options for consideration which includes to only rename the raised portion of Burlington Street where the splits between the upper and at grade roadways start and end in both directions. This would still resolve the concerns from Emergency Services in being unable to tell if a call is required on the raised or lower portions of Burlington Street, however, it would diminish

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the goals and objectives of the NTEC in trying to elevate the name and work of Nikola Tesla, and the effect on Hamilton by not having the connection out to the QEW.

The second option is to maintain the current street names, and Nikola Tesla would be added to the pre-approved street name list for future use in a residential or industrial / commercial development.

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

2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.

2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A"	Location Map (Road)
Appendix "B"	Resolution
Appendix "C"	By-law

PT/mah