



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 19, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Kay Drage Park Trail Construction Agreement, Hamilton (PW16081) (Ward 1)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 1
PREPARED BY:	Cynthia Graham, Manager (905) 546-2424, Extension 2337 Leila Todd, Landscape Architect (905) 546-2424, Extension 3662
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Norman, OALA, CSLA Director of Strategic Planning Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to negotiate and enter into a construction, maintenance and funding agreement with The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton that will facilitate the development of the Kay Drage Park Trail;
- (b) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the City, a construction, maintenance and funding agreement, attached as Appendix A to Report PW16081, with The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton, as well as any other ancillary documents, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, to facilitate the development of the Kay Drage Park Trail.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Landscape Architectural Services Section of the Public Works Department requires a Construction Funding and Licensing Agreement attached as Appendix A to Report PW16081 to complete a trail connection to Kay Drage Park through the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton's lands in Ward 1.

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton are supportive of this trail development and believe will improve the existing conditions of the footpath that connects their land Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King (714 King Street West) to the Kay Drage Park.

The Kay Drage Park Trail was identified as a trail initiative (1-6) in City of Hamilton's Recreational Trails Master Plan (2007). This initiative was reviewed recently through the Recreational Trails Master Plan Update (2016) and was deemed important for the surrounding neighbourhood. Staff report back to Council on trail planning and development in Hamilton through the annual Capital Budget process.

This trail development project was also identified in The Strathcona Secondary Plan and Official Plan Amendment and the Strathcona Transportation Management Plan (PED13143/PW13053). On October 9th, 2013, Council approved the Strathcona Transportation Master Plan report and authorized and directed the General Manager of Public Works to consider the listed projects in that report for the purpose of future Capital Budget submissions. The Kay Drage Park Trail project was received and approved as a recommended project.

The construction of this trail is to commence in the Fall of 2016 and is expected to be completed before the end of 2016. The construction budget has been identified under the Trails Master Plan Implementation account (4401556504), and the cost for the trail development is estimated at \$86,460.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The capital construction of this trail was approved through the 2016 Capital Budget and is funded through the Capital Budget (Project ID: 4401556504). There are sufficient funds in this project account for the estimated construction costs of \$86,460.

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton is willing to contribute \$25,000 to the capital cost associated with this project.

The Operational cost for this project is projected at \$1,095.98 annually. This impact was identified on the 2016 Capital Budget sheet.

Staffing: No additional FTE is required.

Legal: The City Solicitor's office has been consulted on this initiative and is actively supporting the negotiation and completion of this agreement with the Diocese.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Recreational Trails Master Plan

The original City of Hamilton's Recreational Trails Master Plan was approved by Council on April 25th 2007 (Public Works Committee Report 07-006 on April 16, 2007), directing "staff to utilize the Recreational Trails Master Plan Design Criteria, Trail Classification and Phasing Criteria for planning Hamilton's future trails."

The Recreational Trails Master Plan contains information on existing recreational trail routes and proposed initiatives with mapping for each city ward. This document

provides clear direction on development of the trail system throughout the city and is utilized as a working tool offering valuable information to make informed planning decisions on a city-wide basis. Extensive public consultation took place in 2005 and 2006 to help create and shape the original Master Plan document.

The Kay Drage Park Trail was identified as trail initiative 1-6 in the Recreational Trails Master Plan as it represents a significant linkage to the Desjardins Trail and the on-street bike system.

In 2016, staff completed an update of the Recreational Trails Master Plan to illustrate built trails through mapping, identify linkage opportunities in the trail network, and ensure compatibility with new and updated policies. Extensive public consultation took place from April to October of 2015 and staff collaborated with partner agencies, local interest groups, and various trail stewards in order to conduct a sufficient review of the trail initiatives.

The proposed Kay Drage Park Trail is considered an important secondary trail connection for the surrounding neighbourhoods. The trail is approximately 350m in length and is located as such that the southern portion (150m) is on the The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton's land, and the rest on City of Hamilton's Kay Drage Park lands. The trail will be 1.5 m wide and built of limestone screening to better suit the existing woodlot and park setting.

Strathcona Transportation Management Plan

On October 9th, 2013, Council endorsed the Strathcona Transportation Management Plan and authorized and directed the General Manager of Public Works to consider the projects for the purpose of future Capital Budget submissions.

The Strathcona Transportation Management Plan study area is predominately residential. There are commercial uses along the arterial roads and institutional uses dispersed throughout the neighbourhood. The industrial uses are limited to the waterfront areas. The study area includes Victoria Park, Kay Drage Park, Dundurn Castle, as well as the Waterfront Trail and Royal Botanical Gardens.

The Strathcona Transportation Management Plan needed to accommodate City Wide requirements, while addressing neighbourhood concerns by enhancing the connectivity in and beyond the neighbourhood transportation network, for all modes of transportation, including movement of pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and vehicles.

One of the objectives of the Strathcona Transportation Management Plan was to expand the trail system in the study area to connect major points of interest. Kay Drage Park Trail was identified in the recommendation plan of the Strathcona Transportation Management Plan subject to the budget approval process and discussions with land owners south of the park.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

A number of strategic City documents relate to the creation of this trail. They include, but are not limited to, the Corporate Strategic Plan, Public Works Business Plan, Our Future Hamilton (formerly Vision 2020), Hamilton Recreational Trails Master Plan, Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan, City Wide Transportation Master Plan, Cycling Master Plan, Active Transportation Benchmarking Program, Bike Share Pilot Project and Strathcona Transportation Master Plan.

The creation of the trail contributes to the off road connections and network of the City, as supported by the above plans. In addition, the trail brings opportunities for Active Transportation and contributes to active and healthy lifestyles by providing more routes to walk and bike off-road.

There are no legislated requirements for this trail development.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on behalf of The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton – The Cathedral’s representatives have met with City staff and the Ward Councillor and they are supportive of this trail connection and embrace the opportunity to formalize the existing footpath.

Forestry – No concerns in regards to the trail alignment in the woodlot.

Parks and Cemeteries – No issues have been identified in regards to the trail alignment and the annual maintenance.

Recycling and Waste Disposal (Landfills) - No concerns with the construction and the proposed design as it relates to the capped landfill (Kay Drage Park).

Ward Councillor – The Ward Councillor is supportive of this trail connection and the agreements to be made with the The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The development of the trail is specifically included in the Recreational Trails Master Plan and Strathcona Transportation Master Plan to increase off road and direct connections to the Kay Drage Park and Desjardins Trail system. The trail formalizes an existing footpath and helps to establish a low impact route for cyclists and pedestrians traversing the woodlot.

Trail initiatives are ranked by priority based on a number of criteria. This trail initiative meets several criteria including (a) having outside contribution of funds, (b) fulfilling a recommendation by one or more city-supported studies, and (c) being a Councillor or community priority.

The Diocese and City staff both supports this trail as a connection for the greater community.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

The alternative is for Council to not support the trail initiative and not authorize the General Manager of Public Works to enter into the agreement. This direction would be in conflict with the Recreational Trails Master Plan and the Strathcona Transportation Master Plan, as well as larger initiatives to create opportunities for alternative transportation. Staff do not recommend the alternative of not proceeding with the trail initiative.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A – DRAFT Kay Drage Park Trail Construction Funding and Licensing Agreement