



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: April 22, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Through Street Identifications (PW13031/PED13076) - (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)	
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

This report responds to the recent direction to “*report back on ways that through streets can be better identified throughout the City*”, and provides information on recent initiatives to better inform the public of the “*through street*” regulation.

Information:

At the November 5, 2012, meeting, Mr. William A. Warnick made a presentation to the Public Works Committee expressing concern about the City’s “*through street*” system. The Committee received Mr. Warnick’s presentation and directed staff to “*report back on ways that through streets can be better identified throughout the City.*”

In response, staff note that Major roadways throughout the City are designated as “*through streets*” technically to define the right-of-way of traffic movement. Also, parking is prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. each day on all “*through streets*” so that many maintenance activities can occur overnight, rather than obstructing traffic movement during the day and incurring slower and more costly road maintenance operations.

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The motoring public is informed of the regulation by signing at major entrances to the City, and the reasons for not signing individual streets are to minimize costs and sign proliferation. Virtually all North American cities prohibit parking on major roadways during nighttime hours, and it is standard practice to sign such prohibitions at entrances to a City.

While the current signing method does occasionally result in complaints from motorists who are not familiar with the regulation, for the most part, it is a satisfactory process, and from a parking ticket prosecutorial perspective, the Courts have deemed this to be a satisfactory method of informing motorists of the regulation. To manufacture, erect and maintain signs indicating that parking is prohibited from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on all major roadways in the City would be cost prohibitive.

In addition to the long-standing practice of using signs at City entrances, recent public notification improvements include:

- adding *“through street”* maps to the City’s website along with a note informing motorists that they may telephone Hamilton Municipal Parking System staff during normal business hours or the Customer Contact Center after hours for information or clarification; and,
- educating motorists about the *“through street”* regulations during the parking ticket adjudication process by providing hard copy maps upon request.

Staff are confident that the current program of promoting public awareness of “through street” designations is appropriate and supports the consideration of future improvements as opportunities arise.