

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: March 28, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. FARR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

International Charter for Walking

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton signed the International Charter for Walking on April 8, 2008;

WHEREAS the International Charter for Walking reflects creation of healthy, efficient and sustainable communities where people choose to walk;

WHEREAS the Charter recognizes the benefits of walking as a key indicator of healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable communities and acknowledge the universal rights of people to be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces anywhere and at any time;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton will work with others to help create a culture where people choose to walk through our commitment to this charter and its strategic principles:

- 1. Increased inclusive mobility
- 2. Well designed and managed spaces and places for people
- 3. Improved integration of networks
- 4. Supportive land-use and spatial planning
- 5. Reduced road danger
- 6. Less crime and fear of crime
- 7. More supportive authorities
- 8. A culture of walking;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has been awarded a Silver WALK Friendly designation for developing a city-wide plan that specifically addresses the needs and interests of pedestrians, harnessing the power of social media to engage residents in active transportation, an impressive traffic-calming pilot, as well as the City’s adoption of a Complete Streets policy;

WHEREAS the City’s long-standing commitment to being a walkable city including the International Charter for walking and the subsequent participation in the Canadian Walking Master Class in 2009;

WHEREAS the City has taken steps towards a walkable Community including:

- Addressing the issues facing pedestrian was a key factor in developing the Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan. The plan establishes a 20-year (2031) framework to improve the pedestrian environment and increase the opportunity for walking as a mode of transportation and recreation that is efficient, comfortable, safe, inclusive, accessible, in addition to improving the health of communities and increasing economic development, and
- Hamilton has an Active Transportation Benchmarking Program where automated counts are conducted along trail corridors. Over 75 locations are surveyed on a weekly basis, including multi-use trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. This information is being used to develop seasonal trends, identify commuter trails, and destination-based recreational facilities in the City, as well as identify impacts of trail development and upgrades. The data is also being used to forecast annual active transportation use. For example, in 2017, the City recorded over one-million walking trips up and down the Chedoke stairs. The Kimberly staircase has recorded half a million uses and the Wentworth stairs had slightly less than 400,000 in 2017.
- A traffic calming pilot introduced a 30km speed limit in a neighbourhood of about 5,200 residents and monitors the impact on pedestrians, cyclists, and the overall well-being of residents. The City is further improving safety for pedestrians by regularly implementing ladder-style marked crosswalks at controlled intersections — a style that is more visible to motorists and implementing Pedestrian Crossover locations to provide and safe crossing locations, and
- The City is using social media to get the word out about walking. The City launched a transportation webpage called Smart Travel, designed to get residents to where they need to go using sustainable modes of transportation. The webpage provides citizens and visitors with instant access to information on getting around by transit, walking, cycling, carpooling, car share, and taxi. Hamilton also uses social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to promote walking initiatives, and redeveloping web pages to establish a cross-departmental, cross-organizational transportation-focused website with a one-stop shopping element, and
- Hamilton has adopted a Complete Streets policy that is included in the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (LINK), and also reached out to residents through social media to establish a Complete Streets communications strategy. Using the Complete Streets policy, the City has undertaken road reconstruction projects that included pedestrian-friendly changes such as wider sidewalks, better lighting and improved crosswalk treatments, and

- Open Streets events have been held in the City since 2010. The events have taken place on two different streets and have included the closure of 2 – 4km of road. Approximately 10,000 – 15,000 people have participated in each event, and
- To ensure that schools and workplaces have active transportation-supportive amenities and infrastructure available such as showers and lockers, bike parking, healthy food options, drinking fountains, benches, etc., the city conducts site evaluations for schools (as part of school travel plans) and workplaces (as part of Smart Commute), and
- The City of Hamilton participates in the Smart Commute employer-based program and is leveraging the program by using employee survey data to identify the percentage of staff that are located in a walkable area. The City then uses the information to develop specific interventions to encourage more targeted behaviour change.

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton celebrates its participation in the wide variety of events and projects that have been undertaken since signing the International Charter for Walking in 2008 and continues to promote and support initiatives to make Hamilton a Walk-Friendly community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That City Council reaffirms its support and commitment to the International Charter for Walking.