



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Roads and Traffic Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 4, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Two-Way Conversion of Birch Avenue (PW18044) (Ward 3)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 3
PREPARED BY:	Jeff Cornwell, C.E.T. 905-546-2424, Extension 7443 Martin White, C.E.T. 905-546-2424, Extension 4345
SUBMITTED BY:	Betty Matthews-Malone, P.Eng. Director, Roads and Traffic Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That Birch Avenue be converted from one-way to two-way traffic from Wilson Street to Barton Street East in 2019 and from Barton Street East to Burlington Street East between 2020 and 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is currently planning to construct a new Transit Maintenance and Storage Facility to accommodate the current and projected transit system growth in Hamilton. The selected location for the new facility is on lands bounded by Wentworth Street North, Brant Street, Barton Street East and Birch Avenue.

Included in the project scope is funding for the conversion of Birch Avenue from its current southbound only operation to two-way operation for its full length. As vehicular access to the new HSR maintenance facility will be via Birch Avenue, a two-way conversion will substantially increase the efficiency of transit operations both northbound and southbound on Birch Avenue. A two-way conversion will also provide greater options for the existing commercial, industrial and residential properties along Birch Avenue as well as for the construction of the new facility.

The proposed design includes a single northbound and southbound lane, two-way cycling infrastructure and auxiliary turn lanes at signalized intersections.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

The project will be delivered in two phases, the first phase being from Wilson Street to Barton Street East and will consist of full road reconstruction including revised pavement markings, signage, traffic signal infrastructure and minor curb radius changes to facilitate the two-way conversion. The second phase will consist of the portion of Birch Avenue from Barton Street East to Burlington Street East and will result in a full road reconstruction including bridge works. As this work is more extensive, commencement is tentatively scheduled between 2020 and 2022. The two-way conversion of Birch Avenue will be coordinated with HSR and Engineering Services and in co-ordination with the new Transit facility.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The estimated total project cost for the reconstruction and two-way conversion of Birch Avenue is \$5,500,000 (50% Municipal / 50% Federal) to be funded from PTIF Project #HAM-001 (Maintenance & Storage Facility) using account number 59271-5301785701.

Staffing: N/A – Staff will continue to manage the design of the various projects using both in-house resources and consultants.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is currently planning to construct a new Transit Maintenance and Storage Facility to accommodate the current and projected transit system growth in Hamilton. The selected location for the new facility is on lands bounded by Wentworth Street North, Brant Street, Barton Street East and Birch Avenue.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

No impacts.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

A working group led by the Transit Strategy and Infrastructure group have consulted with relevant Public Works staff on the planning and design of Birch Avenue.

Traffic Operations and Engineering staff further solicited comments from Parking, Roads, Waste Collection, Fire Department and EMS. All sections responded with no objections to the proposed redesign.

Staff has also consulted with the Ward Councillor who has provided support for this conversion and will be hosting an upcoming public meeting.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Staff in the Traffic Operations and Engineering section reviewed the feasibility of the two-way conversion of Birch Avenue from Wilson Street to Burlington Street East in 2017. Staff reviewed historical turning movement count data and completed an analysis to determine if Birch Avenue had excess southbound capacity in order to reduce the number of lanes. Staff concluded that Birch Avenue has excess capacity and that the existing right-of-way is sufficient to provide one lane travel in each direction along Birch Avenue as well as two-way cycling infrastructure, while still maintaining signal operations of Level of Service D or better as required under the Transportation Master Plan.

The proposed two-way design includes a single traffic lane in each direction, two-way cycling infrastructure and auxiliary turn lanes as required. Much of the existing on-street parking will be maintained.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

If Birch Avenue is not converted to two-way operation, Transit staff expects additional delays in both the construction of the new Transit Maintenance and Storage Facility as well as ongoing operational delays in the future once the facility is operating.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

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Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

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

Built Environment and Infrastructure

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

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None