

RELEVANT CONSULTATION COMMENTS:

The Alleyway Management Strategy and development of a classification hierarchy has been directed by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Public Works (Transportation Operations & Maintenance and Engineering Services) and Corporate Services (Legal & Risk Management).

Several City Departments/Divisions were consulted in the development of the Alleyway Classification System (Hierarchy). Overall, no concerns were identified with the classification system and it was agreed that it can be used to aide decision making related to alleyways in the future.

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) Office reviewed the proposed classifications in the context of the LRT implementation. Because of impacts to frontages along the LRT corridor (in particular along King Street in International Village) there may be a need to improve and/or enhance some of the alleyways in the vicinity to support the needs of the adjacent community. The information available in the Alleyway Classification System provides added support to the rationale for these improvements.

Hamilton Water was consulted with respect to the ongoing Flooding and Drainage Master Servicing Study. The proposed Alleyway Classification System may be a tool that can assist in future when identifying possible corridors for flooding and drainage system improvements.

The proposed Alleyway Classification System was discussed with Transportation Planning who advised that although alleyways are not currently included in the Pedestrian Mobility Plan and Cycling Master Plan, it does not preclude their use to provide local access to the active transportation network. There are challenges associated with visibility (especially at entry and exit points) along alleyways as well as surface conditions, and lighting levels; any existing use of alleyways would be considered informal.

The proposed Alleyway Classification System was discussed with Planning staff in the context of Laneway Housing. The importance of alleyways in the context of Laneway Housing is the physical buffering that it provides between a secondary dwelling and the backyard of an adjacent property. It could also enable more direct pedestrian access to the secondary unit (as opposed to going via the side yard of the primary dwelling) but not vehicular access. Providing pedestrian access is not a requirement, nor will Planning commit to access being permanently maintained.

Municipal Law Enforcement were consulted in the context of enforcement issues in alleyways. An Alleyway Classification System would enable the development of clearer policies and more consistent practices for addressing by-law infractions in these corridors.

The proposed Alleyway Classification System creates opportunities to engage with the community to educate on the purpose of the alleyway classifications and, where appropriate, repurposing of alleyways for other uses such as green space, community gardens or recreational uses, etc. Where there is an interest from Council or from the community to explore opportunities, staff from the Neighbourhood Development Section of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department could facilitate engagement on community-driven initiatives, work with staff to consider the feasibility of any such requests and determine any implications to implementation of these concepts.

Environmental Services reviewed the proposed Alleyway Classification System in the context of the Team Up To Clean Up program. The City currently supports volunteer-driven initiatives such as Beautiful Alleys in their efforts to keep alleyways clean and the hierarchy would not affect how that program is administered.

The Alleyway Classification System may also assist the above noted Departments/Divisions in establishing a strong framework for asset management plans and decision making related to alleyways in the future.

Councillors from Wards 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 13 were consulted and are supportive of the concept of the Alleyway Classification System.