



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Committee of the Whole
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	June 3, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Bike Share Storage (PED20109(b)) (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 13)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 13
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Brian Hollingworth (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2953
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Brian Hollingworth Director, Transportation Planning and Parking Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

On May 27, 2020, Council received Information Report PED20109(a) respecting Public Bike Share Transit Contract Update. At the May 27, 2020 meeting, Council also passed the following motion:

- (a) That staff be directed to pursue space currently owned by the City, or if that's not possible, pursue private sector space (rental/donated) for the storage of the bikes;
- (b) That staff be directed to report back to Planning Committee with a plan, in terms of how the City will be storing the bikes.

The purpose of this Information Report is to respond to the motion.

## INFORMATION

On May 15, 2020, the City of Hamilton received a letter from Uber indicating that it intends to terminate the SoBi Hamilton bike share system operations effective June 1, 2020. The City of Hamilton owns the bicycles and stations. There is an operating agreement with Uber (most recently renewed on February 28, 2020) through

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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.

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which Uber operates the system at no cost to the City. This contract is not due to expire until February 19, 2021.

On May 20, 2020, Council received Information Report PED20109 providing information regarding the status of the operations contract for the SoBi Hamilton public bike share system, and the notice from Social Bicycles LLC/Uber Inc. (“Uber”) of their intent to unilaterally cease bike share operations as of June 1, 2020.

On May 27, 2020, Council received Information Report PED20109(a) respecting Public Bike Share Transit Contract Update. At the May 27, 2020 meeting, staff were directed to investigate storage options, and develop a plan for storing the bikes, in response to the pending shut down.

### **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS FOR STORAGE SPACE**

The bike share system in Hamilton is comprised of 900 bikes and 1,350 bike share racks, comprising 130 hubs, as well as supporting operations and maintenance infrastructure. This Information Report addresses options for the storage of the bikes only, as directed by Council. Racks/stations are able to be re-purposed for general bike parking and can remain in the field for the time being. Some racks/stations may eventually need to be re-located to more appropriate locations if they are to be re-purposed as general bike parking.

With respect to the storage of the bikes, a secure facility that also provides for weather protection is required in order to prevent them from being vandalized and to protect them from degrading due to lack of routine maintenance (lubrication, battery charging, etc.).

It is estimated that approximately 15,000 square feet of space is required to store the 900 bikes.

Upon receiving notice of the contract termination, staff commenced an investigation of storage options. The following is a short list of options that are feasible, in order of preference:

#### **King George School**

King George School is located at 77 Gage Avenue North across from Tim Horton’s Field. It closed in 2012 and is owned by the City of Hamilton. The site has been proposed for redevelopment including a community hub. However, it is available until such time as plans for this hub are confirmed.

Staff visited the site on May 31, 2020 and confirmed that the basement could be used for bike storage. The basement is approximately 9,600 square feet comprised of multiple rooms, with additional storage available in upper levels.

Facilities has indicated a market rate of between \$5 - \$9 per square foot for similar storage space, but for the purposes of temporary bike storage, can apply a nominal fee of \$1,000 per month for the space.

The site is available immediately and is the preferred storage site.

### **10 Hillyard Street**

This is a large existing building on the lands slated for the future Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF). It is owned by the City and was last used by a film studio. The building offers up to 55,000 square feet leasable space so it is feasible that minor re-arrangements could be made to create space for bike storage.

The main disadvantage of this space is that the building is slated for demolition once funding for the MSF is confirmed from senior levels of government.

### **Vincent Massey School and Eastmount School**

These former schools are in the process of demolition. They offer enough square footage in terms of storage space but are not located within the bike share service area and would require additional transportation costs. They are also in a lower state of repair compared to the above sites, and as such, are not recommended.

### **Private Storage**

Various companies offer bulk storage. One private company has been found which can provide 8,000 square feet of space. At the time of this report a quote has not been received from this operator.

### **Preliminary Operational Plan for Storage**

Of the potential storage sites investigated, the preferred alternative is King George School. It is expected that this site will be available until a new operator for the system can be secured through a Request for Proposal (RFP), or otherwise directed by Council.

The moving of bikes and associated infrastructure into storage will be a significant effort, and, as such, a phased approach is recommended as follows:

**Phase 1:**

Starting May 30, 2020, bikes that were being moved as part of regular maintenance and fleet balancing work were taken to the regular maintenance facility on Catharine Street North. This facility has an upper limit capacity for approximately 200 bikes.

**Phase 2:**

Upon system shutdown, SoBi will cease operations and, therefore, SoBi staff will not be available to assist with the shutdown or moving of bikes. As such, City staff will need to manage the logistics and labour for bike removals and storage, and it is expected that this process will take two to three days to complete. It is assumed that the current vehicles used to move the bikes will not be available, and, therefore, existing City-owned vehicles or specially-leased vehicles will be required. It may also be necessary for the City to contract with Mobility Cloud to ensure connectivity to the bikes so that they can be unlocked and moved by staff.

During this period, bikes in the field will be “locked” in place at the stations to avoid risk of theft or damage.

**Phase 3:**

Phase 1 and 2 described above are for the storage of the bikes only. They do not represent a full demobilization of the bike share program, nor the potential remobilizing of the fleet. This would require some ongoing maintenance, such as lubrication and rust protection, as well as, removal of batteries and controllers to ensure their condition. Given this stage will require some specialized maintenance and preservation tasks, additional costs would be required, should there be direction to fully demobilize the program.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A

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