

Added Item 7.1

To the Chair and Members of the Public Works Committee,

Last year, the Public Works Committee received a presentation from Cycle Hamilton regarding Cycling Accommodation During Detours where they outlined 5 key recommendations:

1. Keep the Hamilton Cycling Committee informed well in advance of planned roadway construction projects;
2. Provide a summary of this information to the broader public as well;
3. Provide cycling accommodations alongside or through construction zones when possible;
4. If cyclists cannot be accommodated through a construction zone, identify and sign an alternate route; and,
5. Ensure construction projects are sufficiently funded to embed cycling accommodations within any project.

Staff were directed to review the recommendations contained in the Cycle Hamilton presentation and report back on how the City may accommodate the recommendations contained within the presentation. At the Hamilton Cycling Committee Meeting on September 2, 2020, we discussed the report and a number of concerns were raised with the Information Report submitted by City Staff:

- **Provide cycling accommodations alongside or through construction zones when possible** - The enhanced practice for Suggestion 3 does not commit to any enhancements at all. We are unsatisfied with this response and request that a clear commitment to the application and enforcement of Section 2.6.3.1 of OTM Book 7 in addition to the clear communication of timeline and engagement strategy for the update of the City's guidelines entitled "Temporary Conditions, Bike Lanes Cycle Track" be reported back to our Committee for feedback.
- **Resourcing for safe cycling accommodations** - Staff outlined that construction budgets include funding for cycling accommodations, however, they also stated that there are insufficient resources for temporary bike lanes to accommodate cyclists in construction zones. These two points contradict each other. It appears that the amount of funds allocated to cycling accommodations are insufficient if they do not allow for safe cycling accommodations in the form of temporary infrastructure, which is what recommendations 4 and 5 imply. The Hamilton Cycling Committee would like the Public Works Committee to consider increased resources to enable staff to implement recommendations 4 and 5.

In addition to the concerns raised above, some of the enhanced practices involve the Hamilton Cycling Committee, however, none of these enhancements were determined in consultation with the Committee. Prior to implementing these enhancements, it is requested that:

- **Formal implementation updates for enhancements are provided to the Hamilton Cycling Committee with a timeline and opportunities to engage.**
- **City Staff consult with Committee Members to determine the most-effective strategies to achieve these enhancements.** For example, Cycling Committee Members are not provided with access to messages/tools to communicate construction projects to the cycling community. The

City should develop communications tools and messages that we may share. The same messages and tools should be shared on the City's accounts for our members to share. This may require additional resources, but would result in a much stronger communications strategy. If additional resources are required, The Hamilton Cycling Committee would like Public Works Committee to consider increased resources to enable staff to implement recommendation 1.

The 5 recommendations made to the Public Works Committee by Cycle Hamilton all enable safe cycling in the City of Hamilton and are in alignment with Council's priorities: climate change, multi-modal transportation and trust & confidence in city government. During a time when the threats of climate change are impacting our local communities and residents are clearly showing interest in active transportation as a safe way to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to reinforce that investments in cycling are investments in the health and wellbeing of the Hamilton community.

Sincerely,
The Hamilton Cycling Committee

Jeff Axisa
Kate Berry
Joachim Brouwer
Roman Caruk
Sharon Gibbons (Vice-Chair)
Jane Jamnik
Yaejin Kim
Ann McKay
Jessica Merolli
Cora Muis
William Oates
Chris Ritsma (Chair)
Gary Rogerson
Cathy Sutherland
Kevin Vander Meulen
Christine Yachouh