




INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 24, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Update on Transport Canada Plans for Hamilton/Burlington Bay Canal Piers (PED21064) (Ward 5)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 5
PREPARED BY:	Jason Thorne (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4339
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

The purpose of this Information Report is to advise Council and the public regarding Transport Canada's plans for the federally-owned and managed piers at the Burlington Bay Canal. Currently, the federal government through Transport Canada is responsible for all aspects of ownership and operation of the piers. The City has no jurisdiction or role with respect to the piers.

Transport Canada officials requested a meeting with City staff at the end of November 2020. The meeting took place on November 24, 2020, and City staff was informed that Transport Canada intended to close the piers to public access. Warning signage stating "Danger. Do Not Enter" had already been installed, and Transport Canada indicated that they were in the process of contracting the installation of three swing gate barriers to be installed in March 2021. Staff were advised that the reason for the changes was to ensure public safety at the piers and to restrict pedestrians from walking to the end of the piers.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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.

SUBJECT: Update on Transport Canada Plans for Hamilton/Burlington Bay Canal Piers (PED21064) (Ward 5) - Page 2 of 3

Staff advised the Transport Canada officials that the City would have concerns with restricting public access to the piers, and that the public was likely to be not in favour of restricting access. Staff also asked that Transport Canada advise the public of the proposed changes through a media release. Following the meeting, staff advised the Mayor and Ward 5 Councillor of the proposed plans, and through them the same concern was expressed with the federal Ministers responsible.

Figure One below shows the proposed location of the swing gates. Figure Two provides a representative photo of the type of swing gate that Transport Canada has indicated they intend to install.

Figure One: Proposed Barrier Locations

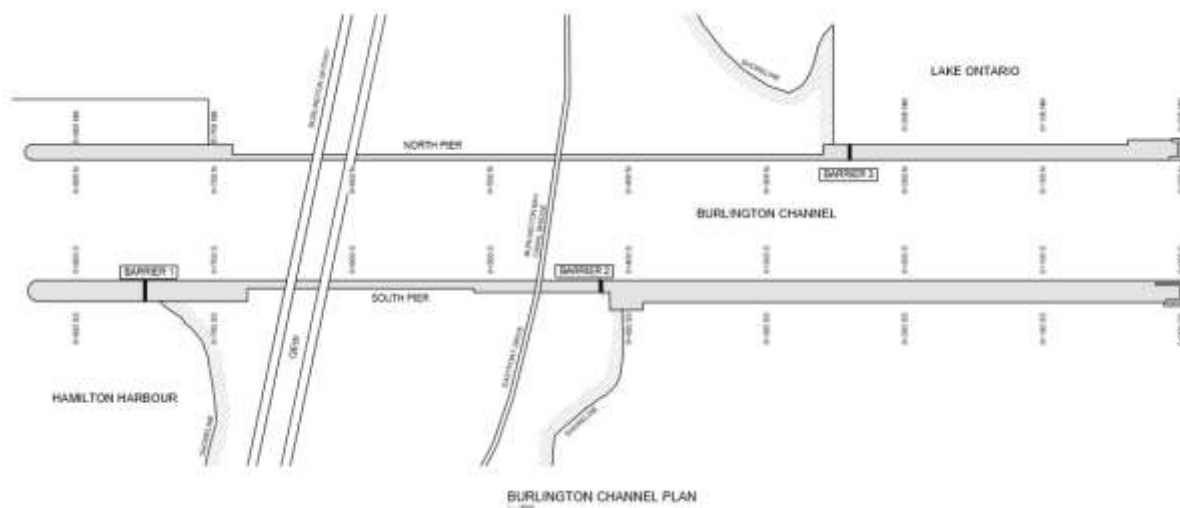


Figure Two: Example of Barrier Type



OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.
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.

SUBJECT: Update on Transport Canada Plans for Hamilton/Burlington Bay Canal Piers (PED21064) (Ward 5) - Page 3 of 3

Transport Canada officials provided an e-mail update to staff on January 26, 2021. The e-mail advised the City that the contract for the swing gates had been awarded and the construction company would be fabricating the gates with anticipated installation in mid-March 2021.

On February 25, 2021, City staff met with staff from the Region of Halton, City of Burlington and the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority to discuss the shared concerns with cutting off public access to the piers. It is notable that in 2019 the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority undertook an extensive public consultation process to seek feedback on proposed public realm enhancements at Fisherman's Pier, an area which includes the piers.

A follow-up meeting has been requested by the municipalities with Transport Canada officials to explore options or alternatives that could maintain public access to the piers, recognizing that the federal government ultimately has the responsibility for the ownership and maintenance of the piers. At the time of the writing of this report, a meeting was in the process of being scheduled for mid-March.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None

JT/clt