




# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 20, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Mountain Climber (PW17026(c)) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Andy McLaughlin (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1809
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Maureen Cosyn Heath Director, Transit Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Public Works Committee at its July 10, 2019 meeting directed staff to monitor five (5) new Mountain Climber access locations for 12 months and report back.

## INFORMATION

This information report is to provide Committee with an update on the HSR Mountain Climber program.

Mountain Climber is a joint program between the City of Hamilton's Transit Division (HSR) and Transportation Planning Services, aimed at improving multi-modal transportation choices and providing additional options for active transportation.

Staff launched the Mountain Climber Program in 2017 as a pilot on James Mountain Road. Cyclists are allowed a free ride up or down the access provided they board and disembark at designated stops. The pilot program was made permanent in 2018, and in the same year the program expanded to two new locations on the Kenilworth Access and on Beckett Drive.

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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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Five (5) new Mountain Climber locations were approved as a 1-year pilot, by Public Works Committee (PW17026(b)) on July 10, 2019. This report received Council approval on July 12, 2019 (Report PW19-010, Item 10.2) and the pilot was officially launched on August 1, 2019 at the following mountain access locations:

- Waterdown Road/Mill Street South
- Wilson Street East
- Jolley Cut/Arkledun Avenue
- Red Hill Valley Parkway
- Centennial Parkway

Staff have monitored the 5 new pilot locations and determined that there have been minimal impacts on HSR Operations, generally positive feedback from users and residents, a healthy number of users, and a nominal financial impact. Maps of all eight (8) Mountain Climber program locations are contained in Appendix “A” attached to Report PW17026(c).

Throughout the pilot, staff liaised with the Hamilton Cycling Committee to gather feedback. As a result, two Mountain Climber stop modifications were made to improve cyclist convenience:

**James Mountain Road**

An additional Mountain Climber stop was added, allowing cyclists to alight at an existing Mountain Climber stop on John at Charlton.

**Waterdown Road**

A Mountain Climber stop was added at the Aldershot GO/VIA Station, eliminating the need for cyclists to travel on Waterdown Road, between the GO/VIA Station and the existing stops on Waterdown Road at Mountain Brow Road or on Mill Street South at Dundas Street East.

A third Mountain Climber stop modification will take place, effective September 5, 2021:

**Red Hill Valley Parkway**

The two Mountain Climber stops on Winterberry Drive at Mud Street will be relocated to Stone Church Road East, just east of the RHVP On/Off ramps. This change aligns with the Route 11 Parkdale routing change.

Based on 2019 findings, usage at all Mountain Climber locations amounts to over 1700 annual trips. Although usage declined during 2020 when HSR was for essential travel only, usage in the first 6 months of 2021 has exceeded usage for the same period in 2019. The Mountain Climber program continues to align with Strategic Plan priorities that include supporting healthy and safe communities, a clean and green Hamilton and built environment and infrastructure.

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**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PW17026(c) – Location Maps