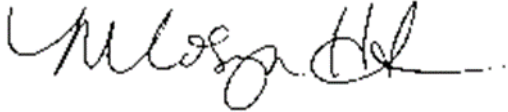




CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transit Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 2, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Bayfront Park - Transit Service Extension (PW22027) (Ward 2)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 2
PREPARED BY:	Andy McLaughlin (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1809
SUBMITTED BY:	Maureen Cosyn-Heath Director, Transit Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That staff be directed to modify the routing of Route #99 Waterfront Shuttle, effective June 25, 2023 to provide daily service from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at a 30-minute frequency, between downtown and lower Bayfront Park.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Motion 11.2, Addressing Traffic Speed Volume on Harbourfront Drive presented at Public Works Committee on November 15, 2021 and approve at Council November 24, 2021, directed staff to explore the feasibility of expanding bus service into the lower bowl of Bayfront Park, as a complementary, multi-modal action in support of other Vision Zero initiatives being taken to address traffic speed and volume on Harbour Front Drive.

HSR Route #99, the Waterfront Shuttle, can accommodate a routing modification effective June 25, 2023 with no impact to the transit operating budget. The Route #99 Waterfront Shuttle operates as a Summer Only service and is a non-fare route, meaning customers do not pay to ride. The route provides a fully accessible connection between downtown and Bayfront Park via Bay Street North. The current Route #99 service span and frequency (10:00am to 9:00pm, 30-minutes) will be maintained.

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.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At the November 15, 2021 Public Works Committee meeting, Motion 11.2 respecting Addressing Traffic Speed and Volume on Harbour Front Drive was approved by committee.

The motion calls for staff to explore expanding bus service into the lower bowl of Bayfront Park, located at 200 Harbour Front Drive, in order to complement other traffic control and roadway improvements being implemented while improving multi-modal access for this popular travel destination.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Public Works Department, Transportation, Operations and Maintenance Division was consulted and are supportive of the recommendations.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

HSR Routes 4 Bayfront and 20 A Line operate in both directions on James Street North serving customers travelling to/from the Airport, Mountain Transit Centre Park'n'Ride, Upper James Street, Mohawk College, downtown, two GO Stations, Pier 8, the Industrial Sector, Nash Road and Quigley Road. Bus stops for these routes are situated on James Street North at Strachan Street, putting public transit within a 640m (15-minute) walk of the lower bowl of Bayfront Park. HSR route coverage service standard guidelines are set at a 400m walk for 90% of the urban transit area. Since these routes provide customers with direct routings between the above trip generators, it is not recommended that either route be modified to serve Bayfront Park.

**SUBJECT: Bayfront Park - Transit Service Extension
(PW22027) (Ward 2) - Page 3 of 4**

Route #99 Waterfront Shuttle has been operating since 2002, providing daily Summer only service between downtown and the waterfront. Waterfront ends-of-line have varied, as follows:

- 2002 thru 2004 Bayfront Park
- 2005 thru 2006 No Service
- 2007 thru 2021 Pier 8

Operating during the summer only (last week in June to Labour Day), the service has been provided since 2008 by a replica trolley vehicle with a seated capacity of 26 customers. Downtown bus stops are located on James at King and on King opposite Summers' Lane, providing customers with convenient transfers to a range of HSR routes operating in the lower City of Hamilton (City) and on the mountain.

Ridership on Route #99 has been sampled during the last four years. In 2018 and 2019 (pre-COVID) daily boardings averaged between 380 to 460, depending on day of week. During COVID (2020 and 2021) daily boarding activity averaged between 90 and 150. Graphical representations of boardings per hour, by day of week, for each of the four years are provided in Appendix "A" attached to Report PW22027.

While Route #99 service productivity standards (targets are 15/25 boardings per hour in off-peak/peak periods respectively) were being met pre-COVID, the route demand does support further expansion and in combination with the absence of fare revenue collection, staff do not recommend further investments (adding a bus, an Operator and service hours) to increase this route's frequency and/or route coverage. Expansion of Route #99, such that it stops in at Bayfront Park while continuing to serve Pier 8 at a 30-minute frequency, would result in increases of 1 bus, 870 annual service hours and 0.5 FTE at an estimated increase to the annual operating budget of \$104,000. Changing the routing of Route #99 to coincide with planned Route #20 service changes in Fall 2022 and Harbour Front Drive roadway improvements will result in no additional transit operating costs.

The recommended route modification effective date is June 25, 2023. This date aligns with upcoming transit service enhancements. Route #99 will no longer service Pier 8. Customers who currently make use of Route #99 to access various James Street North and Pier 8 attractions (including Waterfront Trolley Summer Tours) will be able to use Route #20. Route #20 service span will be increased effective September 2022, adding Saturday service to the service currently available Monday thru Friday. On Sunday and Holidays, customers will be able to travel on Route #4 to the intersection of James Street North and Burlington Street East. From this point, Pier 8 can be reached by walking 480m, a 6-minute walk duration or alternatively customers will be able to reach Pier 8 on foot from the new Bayfront Park stop.

**SUBJECT: Bayfront Park - Transit Service Extension
(PW22027) (Ward 2) - Page 4 of 4**

The recommended Route #99 modifications will result in it serving the lower bowl of Bayfront Park, operating Northbound on Bay Street North and Southbound on James Street North, providing customers travelling during the Summer with direct service from downtown into the park. A bus stop will be installed on Harbour Front Drive at the main pedestrian plaza opposite the car park. Appendix “B” attached to Report PW22027 provides a map showing the recommended routing for the #99 service.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW22027 – #99 Waterfront Shuttle - Average Usage –
2018 to 2021

Appendix “B” to Report PW22027 – #99 Waterfront Shuttle – Recommended Routing