



February 23, 2022

To: General Issues Committee
Friday February 25 2022
City of Hamilton

Re: GIC Committed Item 7.1 - Public Bike Share Program Phased Procurement Process – Sustainable Operations Model and Funding (PED20109(d)) (City Wide)

Thank you to the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Bike Share staff for developing and establishing a bike share system in Hamilton. Royal Botanical Gardens has been a host site for one Bike Share station at Princess Point Cootes Paradise since the outset but has not been able to see expansion to the project beyond the southeast corner of the RBG property. We fully support the view that Bike Share is a form of public transit for the community and view it as an important way to reach RBG.

In recent years Royal Botanical Gardens has established consistent high-quality bike rack parking at every entrance across the property in order to encourage and facilitate alternate green transportation options. This includes local residence as well as those further away who choose GO Transit to reach us (Aldershot or West Harbour stations). Our preferred near-term expansion point for Bike Share is the Rock Garden, a central location within the RBG property and a site that hosts a diverse array of events and activities. Currently Bike Share bikes are often left at the Rock Garden.

A current combination of circumstances provides the opportunity to move forward with a slightly expanded access to both Royal Botanical Gardens and to link further with Burlington via York Blvd via Valley Inn Trail. These circumstances include the proposed updated funding model for the Bike Share project, a post COVID forward looking process for alternate transportation, the reopening of the Valley Inn route via the current replacement of the bridge, as well a Burlington project to completed separate bike lanes on Plains Rd West connecting cyclist form Aldershot Go to RBG Centre and Valley Inn.

Related to bike route redevelopment across the City, we would like to continue to be apprised of progress on the cycling routes components of the Transportation Plan. Projects of interest include providing safe access to the various Royal Botanical Gardens entrances. In Hamilton these include, Rock Garden/York Blvd, Arboretum/Old Guelph Rd, Princess Point and Westdale, as well as projects adjacent to the RBG property at Cootes Drive/Olympic Drive, and Rock Chapel/Sydenham Rd.

Royal Botanical Gardens thanks staff and council for advancing this project forward in 2022, and we look forward to working with the City of Hamilton and Bikeshare to further expand the bikeshare network.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rowland
Chief Executive Officer

Tys Theijsmeijer
Head of Natural Areas