



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 4, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Open Streets Temporary Linear Urban Park (PED22075(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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COUNCIL DIRECTION

On May 4, 2022 the General Issues Committee (GIC) approved Report PED22075 and the Recommendations that Staff implement a “Gage to Gore” Open Streets Temporary Linear Urban Park Program.

An additional Recommendation (g) requires additional follow-up from Staff: “That, prior to the implementation of any Open Streets Temporary Linear Urban Park, staff was directed to provide an opportunity for direct resident engagement to include, but not be limited to, the use of Engage Hamilton to invite residents along the King Street stretch to comment on this matter.”

The purpose of this Information Report is to provide the GIC with an update on Recommendation (g) and the results of the next phase of engagement.

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.

INFORMATION

This Report provides responses to the GIC direction in two main categories:

1. Summary of direct resident engagement using Engage Hamilton; and,
2. Update on ongoing engagement with impacted stakeholders and timelines.

- **Summary of direct resident engagement using Engage Hamilton**

Staff in Transportation Planning initiated a survey through Engage Hamilton, which was open from June 2, 2022 to June 23, 2022. The survey received 986 responses, with 86% of respondent in support of a temporary urban linear park on King Street for one weekend day, as shown in Figure 1. A full summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix “A” attached to Report PED22075(a). Overall there was broad support for the project, both in the project area and across the City. There were also some responses from individuals who lived outside of Hamilton, showing some local tourism potential for this project.

Do you support running Open Streets on King Street in Hamilton, as a pilot to test ideas that have been successful in other cities?

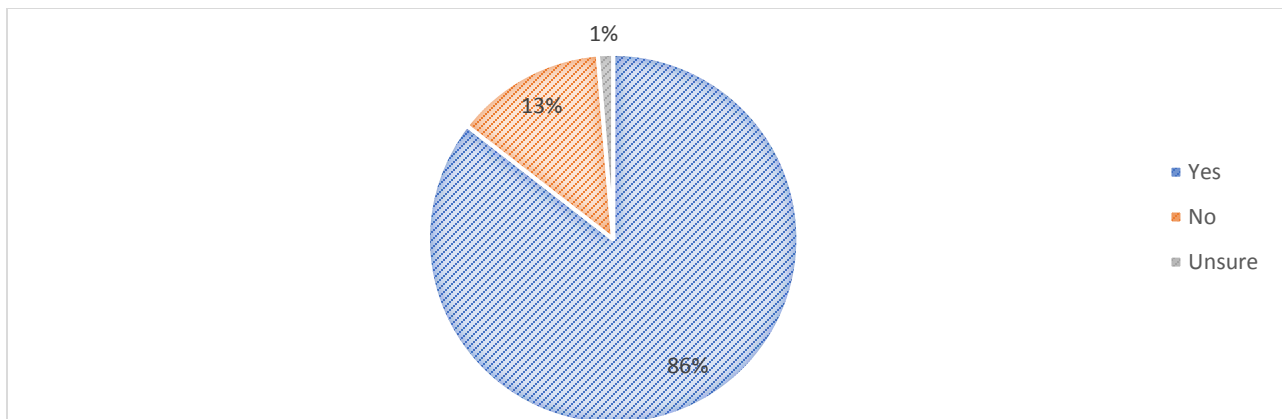


Figure 1 - Support for Open Streets

The majority of respondents to the survey lived in the lower City, with a high response rate from residents living in the three postal code areas that would include portions of King Street that are part of the Open Streets Linear Park area. The map in Figure 2 shows the number of responses by postal code within the City.

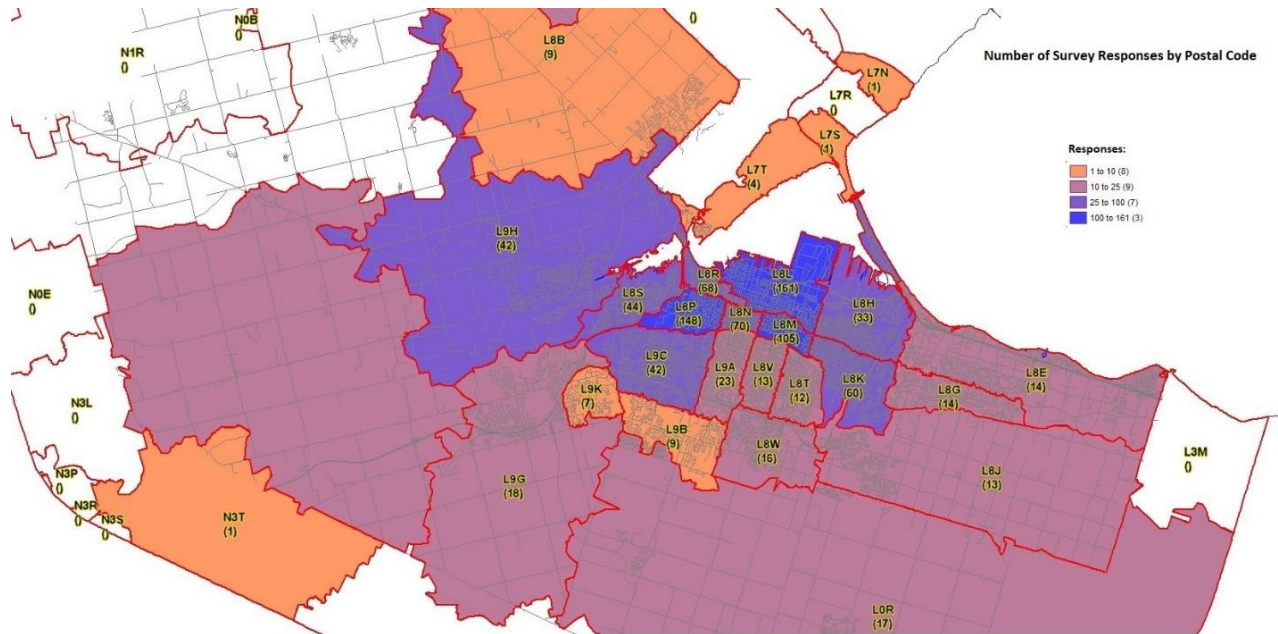


Figure 2 - Postal Codes with the Highest Survey Response Rates

Responses came mostly from people who travel along the route and those who live near the proposed route, as shown in Figure 3.

Which best describes how you use the proposed route on King Street from Gage Street to Gore Park?

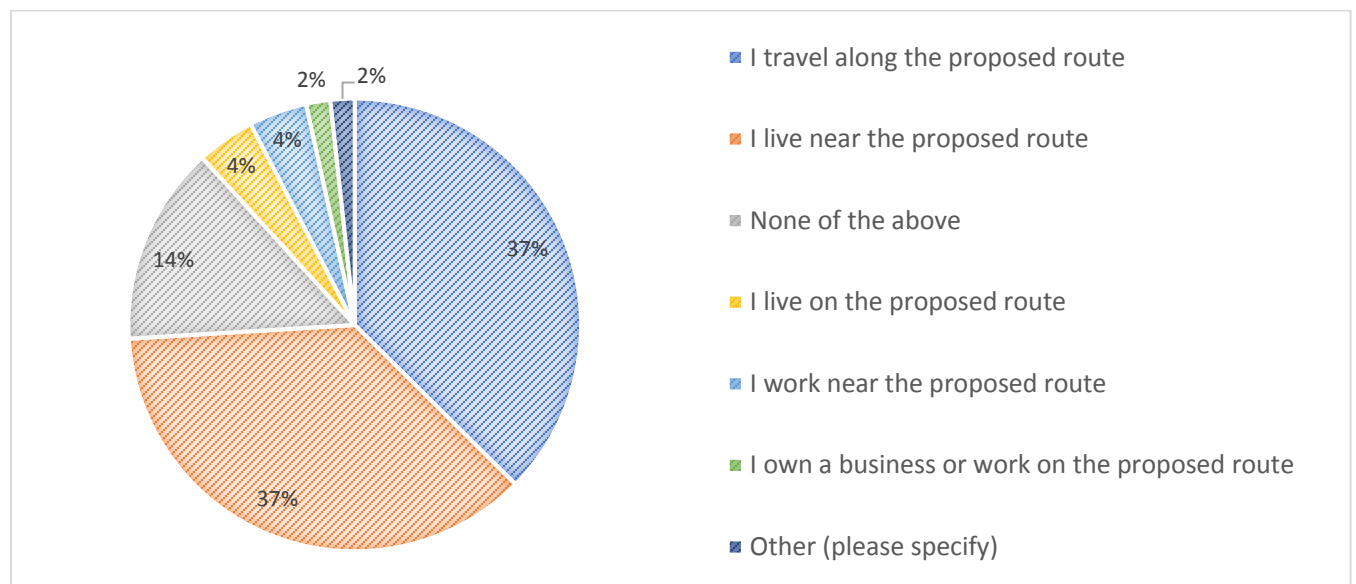


Figure 3 - How Respondents Currently Use the Gage to Gore Route

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The survey also shows wide geographical support for the project. When broken down by postal code areas, every postal code with five or more respondents had at least 69% support for the project as shown in Appendix “A” attached to Report PED22075(a). When looking specifically at responses from only those who live in the three postal code areas that include the proposed route, support increases to 90%.

Responses were also analyzed by how people generally use King Street. Again, overall, there is general support by each type of user, with the most support from people who live near the proposed route, as outlined in Figure 4.

Do you support running Open Streets on King Street in Hamilton, as a pilot to test ideas that have been successful in other cities (by use type)?

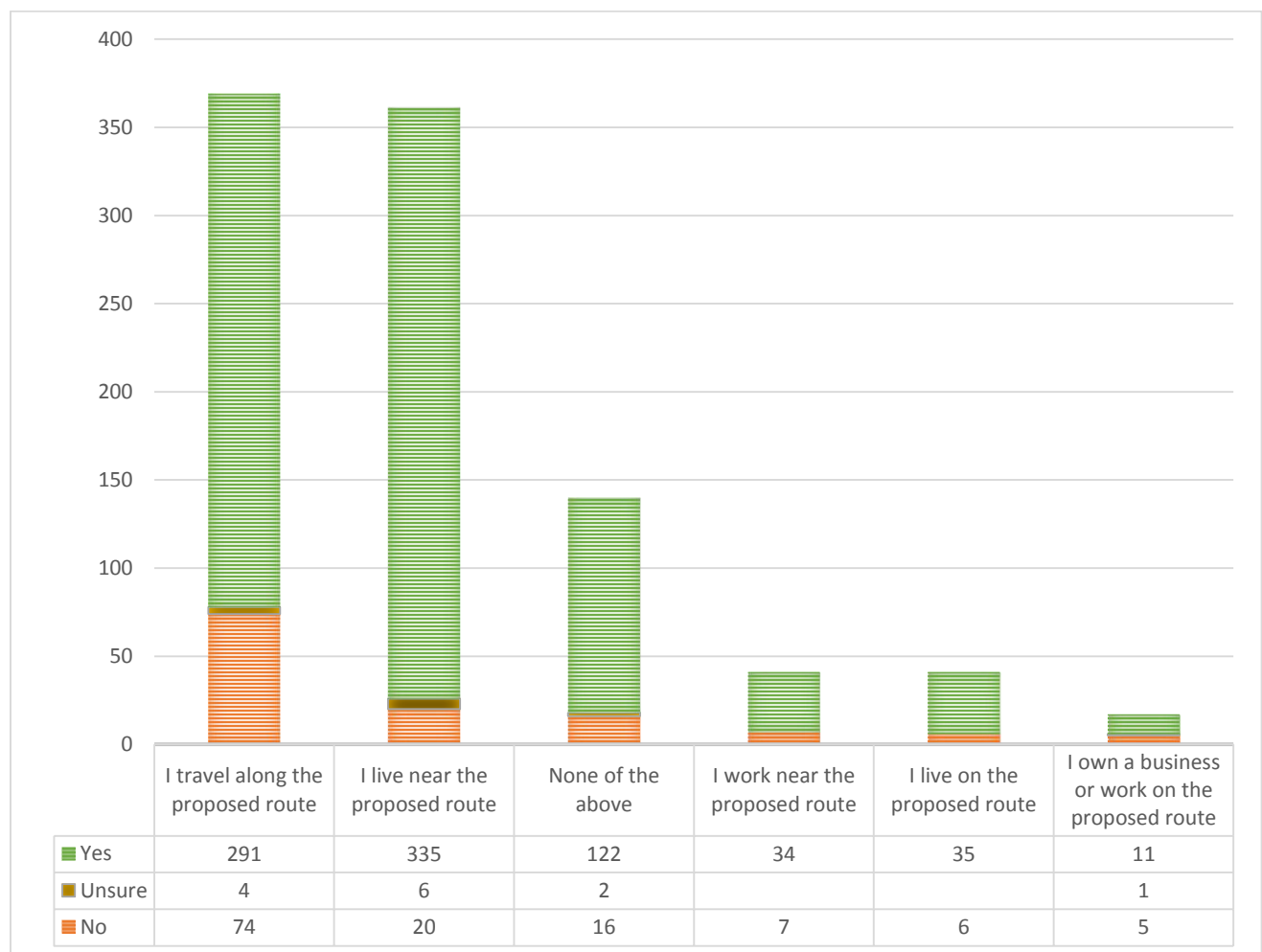


Figure 4 - Support for Open Streets by Use Type

In addition to understanding public interest in the project, the survey also asked about what type of programming people would like to see in the space. Markets and food/drink options were the most popular shown in Figure 5.

What type of events and activities would you like to see at the Open Street in Hamilton?
Check all that apply.

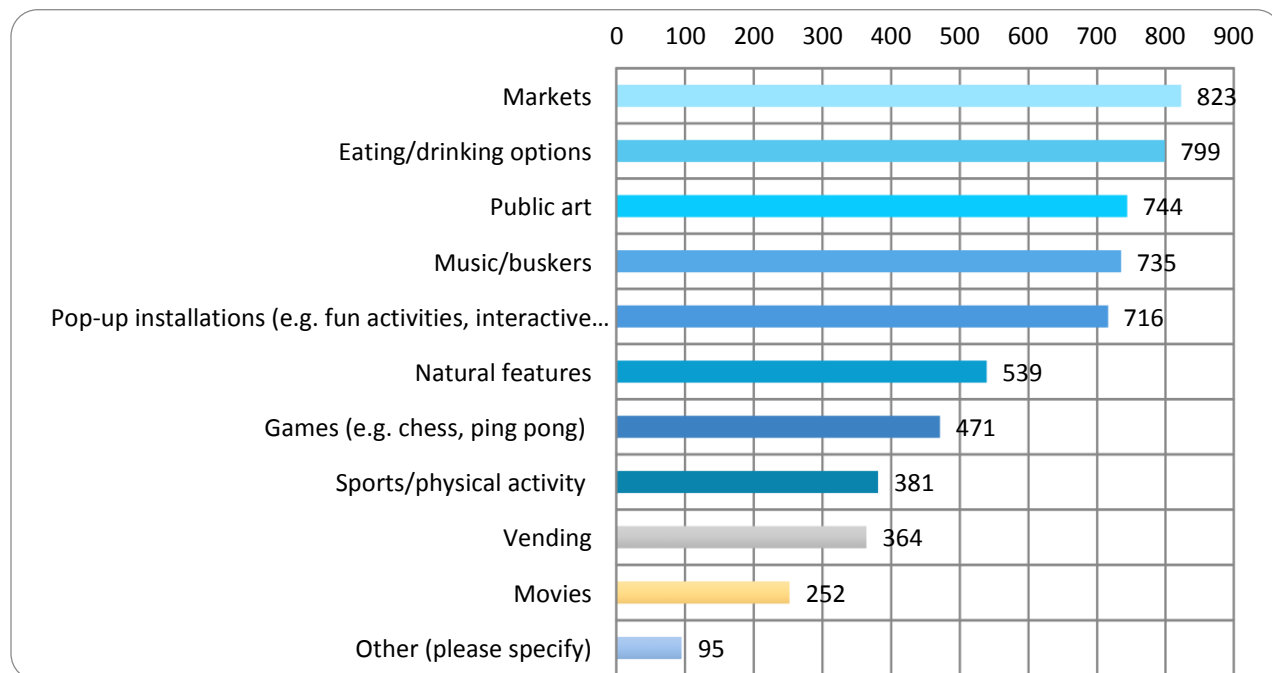


Figure 5 – Interest in events and activities at the Open Street in Hamilton

- **Update on ongoing engagement with impacted stakeholders and timelines**

Both internal and external stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the summer.

Internal engagement, thus far, includes Public Works (Transportation Operations and Maintenance (TOM), Engineering Services, Transit (HSR)); Healthy and Safe Communities (Public Health Services, Healthy Environments); the Hamilton Police Service; and, Planning and Economic Development (Economic Development, Tourism and Culture).

External engagement has also taken place with Metrolinx and the Business Improvement Area (BIA) Advisory Committees. Both the International Village and the Downtown BIA have been engaged as they are directly affected by a pilot. The public engagement survey that was conducted through Engage Hamilton, was shared widely to different committees, through social media on the City of Hamilton and Smart

Commute pages, and, with an interested organization such as Mobility Lab. It was also shared with all Councillors, and in various newsletters. The high response rate shows the results of these efforts.

Updated Timelines

Staff recognize the importance of ensuring that there are appropriate plans made with police and other emergency services for the safety of the event. Additionally, it is important that businesses and residents on the route are engaged throughout the process as this will be an important factor for making final decisions on the event design. In order to allow time for meaningful consultation with these groups and others impacted, planning for a Summer 2023 Open Streets event would help ensure success and identify opportunities to cross-promote and integrate with other planned City events.

As this Report addresses the issue to provide opportunity for direct resident engagement prior to implementation of Open Streets Temporary Linear Urban Park, Item HH on the General Issues Committee Outstanding Business List, it is appropriate to be identified as complete and removed from the list.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED22075(a) - Summary of Engage Hamilton Survey Results