




CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Operations and Maintenance Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 7, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton General Hospital Safety Zone (PW20079) (Ward 3) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	David Ferguson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2433 Mike Field (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4576
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That \$5,000 in funding from each of the Ward 2 and Ward 3 Area Rating Funds (\$10,000 total) be approved to implement an alleyway bike path with direct access to Hamilton General Hospital;
- (b) That the operational improvements consisting of enhanced signage, pavement markings and traffic calming measures as outlined in Report PW20079 in the area of the Hamilton General Hospital be implemented;
- (c) That the amendment to Schedule 34 (Designated Community Safety Zones) of City of Hamilton By-law 01-215, attached to Report PW20079 as Appendix "A", be approved; and,
- (d) That the Outstanding Business List Item to create a Hamilton General Hospital Safety Zone be considered complete and removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the July 13, 2018 meeting of City Council, Transportation Operations & Maintenance were asked to implement and examine several items relating to roadway safety and traffic calming in the general proximity of the Hamilton General Hospital.

A comprehensive review was conducted over the past several years in consultation with the Ward Councillor, Transportation Planning and Friendly Streets Hamilton (Environment Hamilton and Cycle Hamilton) in response to the Council direction. This review identified that the area around the General Hospital would benefit from a variety of enhancements.

This report addresses the Council motion and recommends implementing specific treatments to enhance roadway safety and traffic calming for the Hamilton General Hospital, specifically designating a 'Community Safety Zone' and the installation of enhanced pedestrian crosswalks.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 6

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Hamilton General Hospital Safety Zone recommendations are estimated to cost \$88,000 and would be funded from the following sources:

Alleyway bike path (Ward 2 & Ward 3 Area Rating)	\$10,000
Signage enhancements (Capital Project ID 4662020053)	\$ 3,000
Pavement markings (Capital Project ID 4032020048)	\$50,000
Traffic calming bump-outs (Capital Project ID 4032020053)	\$20,000
Pedestrian Countdown Timers (Capital Project ID 4032020053)	\$ 5,000

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At the July 13, 2018 City Council meeting, the following resolution was passed:

7.10 To Create a Hamilton General Hospital Safety Zone
(Green/Merulla)

WHEREAS, friendly Streets Hamilton, an initiative of Environment Hamilton and Cycle Hamilton, have been working to support and engage community stakeholders in securing safer cycling and walking conditions in urban Hamilton;

WHEREAS, friendly Streets Hamilton engaged over 200 community stakeholders and residents in assessing current challenges and barriers to walking and biking in the Beasley, Keith, and Gibson-Landsdale neighbourhoods;

WHEREAS, residents of the Beasley, Keith, and Gibson-Landsdale neighbourhoods have raised concerns about the challenges they face when walking or biking in the area;

WHEREAS, the area surrounding the Hamilton General Hospital in particular has a high volume of trucks and vehicles, with insufficient pedestrian crossings and bike lanes, making it hazardous for patients, visitors, and residents navigating the area; and,

WHEREAS, a natural foot-route to the hospital entrance from the parking lot and to the medical centre with over 2,000 patients per month attend Stroke Clinic at that corner which is currently unsafe due to high truck traffic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That an overhead pedestrian crossing with appropriate signage be installed on Victoria Avenue North at Copeland Avenue to be funded out of the Ward 3 Capital Reserve account 108053 to the upset amount of \$75,000;
- (b) That the appropriate staff report back on the feasibility of re-routing trucks away from Victoria Avenue North and Wellington Avenue North;
- (c) That the appropriate staff report back to the Public Works Committee respecting creating an alleyway bike path with direct access to the hospital; and,
- (d) That staff be directed to investigate any additional traffic calming measures that would enhance the safety of the area surrounding the Hamilton General Hospital.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The following key stakeholders have been consulted with respect to the development and content of this report:

- Friendly Streets Hamilton;
- Hamilton Health Sciences;
- Transportation Planning;
- Public Health Services;
- Corporate Services, Finance and Administration; and
- City Clerks.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on directions that were provided at the July 13, 2018 Council meeting the following provides an outline of each item:

Pedestrian crossing on Victoria Avenue North at Copeland Avenue:

A pedestrian activated traffic signal was installed and commissioned on May 12, 2020 at the intersection of Victoria Avenue North and Copeland Avenue as per Council direction. This new signal assists with the safe crossing of pedestrians to the medical facilities on the east side of Victoria Avenue North.

Re-routing trucks away from Victoria Avenue North:

Planning and Economic Development's Transportation Planning division is in the process of undertaking a review of the Truck Route Master Plan. The feasibility of re-routing trucks away from Victoria Avenue North and Wellington Avenue North, as per the direction provided, will be contemplated as part of this initiative.

Creation of an alleyway bike path:

The east-west connection from Ferguson Avenue to the Hamilton General Hospital has been identified by Planning and Economic Development's Transportation Planning division. Bicycle lanes to the primary bicycle parking facility at the hospital will be installed in 2021. The installation of the cycling connection will require approximately sixteen (16) signs, five (5) bicycle pavement marking stencils, and minor modifications at access points, including bollards, to provide clear wayfinding guidance for cyclists travelling both eastbound and westbound along the hospital's internal access roadway and Copeland Avenue.

Traffic calming measures:

Transportation Operations & Maintenance conducted a thorough examination of the areas around the Hamilton General Hospital taking into consideration enhanced traffic calming options and through the lens of Vision Zero principals. A variety of enhancements were identified and are summarized as follows:

- Designate abutting roadways in proximity of the Hamilton General Hospital as Community Safety Zones (CSZs). Identification of these roadways as a CSZs will double the fines for any traffic violations and permit the use of Automated Speed Enforcement in the future. The extents of the CSZs on each roadway will be established via the installation of signage at the limits of the designated area;
- Enhance all pedestrian crosswalks located on the roadways within the CSZs around the Hamilton General Hospital. Enhancements would include the installation of ladder crosswalk pavement markings to further enhanced their visibility to all road users; and
- Install curb bump-outs at strategic locations, specifically where pedestrian crossings are located to further enhance pedestrian safety by shortening the crosswalks and providing ‘pinch-points’ that would act as a traffic calming measure for motorists. The bump-outs would be installed without negatively impacting roadway operations such as reducing vehicle capacity.

Hamilton General Hospital Work Plan

The following action items are recommended to be implemented in the area of Hamilton General Hospital in 2020 and 2021, also shown in Appendix “B” attached to Report PW20079:

1. Designation of Community Safety Zones and installation of associated signage on roadways abutting the Hamilton General Hospital, specifically:
 - Barton Street East – Ferguson Avenue North to East Avenue North;
 - Wellington Street North – Simcoe Street East to Robert Street;
 - Victoria Avenue North – Robert Street to Shaw Street; and
 - Birge Street – Wellington Street North to Victoria Avenue North.
2. Install ladder crosswalks, crosswalk pavement markings at designated pedestrian crosswalks, specifically:
 - Barton Street East and Victoria Avenue North;
 - Barton Street East and Wellington Street North;
 - Victoria Avenue North and Copeland Avenue; and
 - Wellington Street North and Copeland Avenue.
3. Install a curb bump-out on the southeast corner of Barton Street East and Wellington Street North.

4. Install pedestrian countdown timer signals and examine the benefit of implementing a pedestrian lead phase at intersections that currently do not include them, specifically:
 - Barton Street East and Victoria Avenue North; and
 - Wellington Street North and Copeland Avenue.
5. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the above enhancements to measure their effectiveness and to determine if the abutting roadways around the Hamilton General Hospital would benefit from additional roadway safety and traffic calming measures.

Future City-wide Hospital Safety Enhancements

Based on the evaluation and review of the proposed measures after they have been installed, Transportation Operations & Maintenance will examine if similar enhancements would be suitable to be applied at the other hospitals in the City.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could approve portions of the recommended implementation plan; however, this would/could reduce the overall effectiveness of the measures in terms of overall safety of road users.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

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.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW20079 – Community Safety Zone By-law Amendment

Appendix “B” to Report PW20079 – General Hospital Proposed Enhancements