




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 20, 2025
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor (PED25051) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Ana Cruceru (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5707
SUBMITTED BY:	Anita Fabac Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Abdul Shaikh Director, Hamilton LRT Project Office Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not applicable.

INFORMATION

The “Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor”, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED25051, provides a set of design objectives and street furniture choices, to guide streetscape and public realm development along the future LRT Corridor. The document is an independent chapter and update to the existing “City of Hamilton Co-ordinated Street Furniture Guidelines” (August 2015), building on best practices and principles highlighted in this report. Along with the guidelines, the standards support the implementation of the “Complete Streets Design Manual” (July

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.

2022) and address a recommendation from Council, associated with the Council approved Complete Streets Design Manual (PED21020(a)/PW21002(a)) (City Wide) staff report, which directs staff to update roadway design manuals and guidelines to reflect the manual. All the affected City asset owners have endorsed the “Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor”. These standards will be an important tool in working with Metrolinx to develop quality public spaces along the LRT corridor.

Standards Summary

The intent of the “Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor” is to identify preferred design solutions for streetscaping and public realm development within the future LRT Corridor, to establish it as a consistent and identifiable streetscape in Hamilton, focusing on harmonization of design, scale, materials, and context. It also provides reference to established City policies, guidelines, and standards (such as the “Hamilton Complete Streets Design Guidelines” (June 2022); the “City of Hamilton Co-Ordinated Street Furniture Guidelines” (August 2015); “Forestry and Horticulture - Design and Preservation Manual for Assets on Public Property” (December 2024); “City of Hamilton Barrier-Free Design Guidelines” (2006); Urban Braille design standards; etc.) which relate to streetscaping.

Currently, the City relies on a limited range of bench and waste receptacle models, with a traditional, Victorian character. The new standards propose a simpler, more streamlined and practical style, sympathetic to the City’s historic character in terms of colour and general outline, while compatible with the evolving architectural context along the Corridor. They establish general objectives, principles of selection, design theme and character, and include a catalogue identifying models of benches, bollards, waste containers, bicycle parking, tree grates and guards, planters, poles, luminaires, and pole arms.

The document provides design direction for pavement and landscaping, as well. Pavement design guidelines are largely based on “The Gore Standard: Hardscape Design” (2019) and the City’s Urban Braille requirements, to achieve quality surface treatment and enhanced accessibility. Landscaping guidelines take note of new and existing Forestry and Horticulture technical requirements and identify opportunities and preferred practices for integrating street trees and other green features in the streetscape.

Another aspect addressed in the document is street furniture placement; it outlines the preferred frequency, conditions, and combination of elements, to support pedestrian comfort and encourage public transit use. Also included are general design guidelines for public realm development in special areas, such as the International Village area,

the Jackson Square frontage, and other potential sites where the project may be able to accommodate wider streetscapes or parkettes.

The street furniture catalogue provides a selection of elements and vendors, reflecting base design objectives and principles and illustrating the desired character and stylistic theme. The selection may be revisited, should special circumstances (such as sourcing issues, context-specific conditions requiring different installation or finish solutions, or other factors aiming to optimize access and maintenance) demand alternative options, similar models or alternative specifications. Alternative choices in specifications or models shall address the objectives, principles, and design theme mentioned in the document and will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Heritage and Urban Design.

The catalogue does not include or support solutions for street furniture with embedded advertising elements along the corridor (largely defined to occupy 50 metres north and south of the right of way), in order to establish a streamlined and quality streetscape aesthetic and to avoid visual clutter. This approach will impact the City's advertising street furniture program and its implementation area. Where proximity to the LRT corridor is preferred, these features may be placed in the future on side streets, to support the re-organization of the local bus network and pedestrian flows. Space availability within the corridor for advertising street furniture placement may be reconsidered in the future.

Policy Implementation

The "Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor" build on best practices and principles highlighted in the Council approved "City of Hamilton Co-ordinated Street Furniture Guidelines" (August 2015) and respond to Section 2.5.3 in this document, which acknowledges the importance of improving the image of transit and the experience of transit passengers along higher order corridors, through unique and consistent street furniture selection. The standards, along with these guidelines, support the implementation of the Council approved "Complete Streets Design Guidelines Manual" (July 2022) and address a recommendation from Council, associated with Council approved staff report Complete Streets Design Manual (PED21020(a)/PW21002(a)) (City Wide), directing staff to update roadway design manuals and guidelines to reflect the manual.

Council Recommendation wording for the Complete Streets Design Manual (PED21020(a)/PW21002(a)) (City Wide) staff report states: "(...)(a) That the Complete Streets Design Manual attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED21020(a)/PW21002(a) be approved as the basis for planning and designing City streets; (b) That staff be directed to update roadway design manuals and guidelines to reflect Complete Streets Design Manual, including, but not limited to, the Construction and Materials

Specifications Manual, Traffic Signal and Pavement Marking Designs Drawings, and other documents identified by staff; (...)"

Consultation

The development of these standards was led by staff in the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Office in consultation with a technical team including representatives from:

- Planning and Economic Development: Heritage and Urban Design, Placemaking Public Art and Projects, Integrated Active Transportation, Transportation Planning and Parking; and,
- Public Works: Transportation, Waste Collections, Transportation Operations, Forestry and Horticulture, Landscape Architectural Services, and Parks and Cemeteries.

The technical team was circulated for review and met on two occasions through 2024. Separate meetings were also held with individual groups throughout this period. Feedback received from circulations and meetings are reflected in the final document.

This document has received endorsement from all of the affected asset owners.

Financial Considerations

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT) ratified in September 2021 includes a condition requiring Metrolinx to build City infrastructure in accordance with the City's standards and guidelines in force three months prior to request for proposal issuance. The LRT Project Office will negotiate the capital cost with Metrolinx through the implementation of the LRT project. If negotiations result in any capital cost contribution from the City, staff will bring information to Council for approval. It should be noted that the City has already allocated an enhancement budget for the LRT project.

Any incremental maintenance costs associated with these standards in post-LRT conditions compared to the existing pre-LRT context will be subject to Council approval through the City's budget process at a later time closer to project substantial completion. It is anticipated that the maintenance costs will be bundled with other City financial obligations for the overall operations and maintenance of the LRT system.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IDEA)

Stated principles in the document and the proposed selection of street furniture prioritize inclusionary and equitable design, to accommodate people with mobility needs or visual impairment and to support safe access and usage across all ages. Bollards will help

**SUBJECT: Street Design and Furniture Standards for the Hamilton LRT Corridor
(PED25051) (City Wide) - Page 5 of 5**

delineate safe pedestrian-only areas; pedestrian-oriented light elements will promote safe use of streets at night; and benches of different types will offer seating options for a variety of contexts, to users of different abilities. The standards also include recommendations for maximum spacing, preferred locations, and appropriate microclimatic conditions for bench placement, to address the needs of an aging population.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED25051 – Street Design and Furniture Standards
for The Hamilton LRT Corridor

Appendix “B” to Report PED25051 – Street Design and Furniture Standards
for The Hamilton LRT Corridor - Appendices