

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: May 21, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG.....

Activation of King William Street and Downtown Revitalization

WHEREAS, the Downtown Hamilton Office Report (PED 23081) approved the development and implementation of placemaking and animation projects and programs in the Downtown Core. The City's mandate to undertake placemaking initiatives also resides within the 2021-2025 Economic Development Action Plan, the 2024-2028 Tourism Strategy and the 2020 Art in Public Places Policy;

WHEREAS, the 10-year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy currently being developed by the Economic Development Division identifies the need for a long-term strategy to improve the downtown area, with creative activation being one of multiple potential methods of improving public perception of the downtown core;

WHEREAS, staff are proposing the pedestrianization of King William street from James street to Hughson street for the duration of mid-July until mid-August. The pedestrianization will create a downtown public space in which activations may occur;

WHEREAS, King William was identified as a potential site for a pedestrianization due to the following:

- Proximity to downtown employment nodes;
- King William is not a major vehicular travel route;
- The significant volume of pedestrian passers-by;
- Nearby restaurants and cultural venues that would benefit from increased foot traffic;
- Available street closure assets such as the WoodGate sculpture at James Street North and King William;
- A beneficial acoustic environment; King William does not have excessive noise from traffic, which allows for acoustic performances; and,
- Previous placemaking events having taken place on the street during daily closures run both by the City's Placemaking and Public Art section, and the Downtown Business Improvement Association;

WHEREAS, a majority of King William businesses have been consulted on both the viability and impacts caused by the closure of the segment of King William to vehicular traffic; and,

WHEREAS, lighting and its impact on perceived public safety has been identified as a crucial factor in the downtown by the YWCA Gender Based Safety Audit commissioned by the City's Healthy and Safe Communities Department, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's "Transforming Downtown: Business Leadership Roundtable" report, and in consultation with restaurant businesses along King William.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council approve one-time funding up to \$100,000, to be allocated from the Ward 2 Area Rating Reserve 108052 funding account towards infrastructure for the pedestrianization of King William as a pilot for summer 2025, with funding being allocated to the 2025 road closure, local artists for activations, contract event staff, event furniture, and other event services and equipment;
- (b) That "Ed's Concrete Products Ltd." be contracted to provide durable temporary site furnishings that meet City standards for outdoor public spaces;
- (c) That the "Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement Area" be contracted to lead operation of the pedestrianized area of King William in 2025 in collaboration with City staff and community partners;
- (d) That Placemaking Public Art and Projects section staff (Planning and Economic Development) and Signals and Street Lighting section staff (Public Works Department) be directed to implement a temporary suspended lighting scheme along King William Street from James Street to Hughson Street, with a possible extension along King William Street from Hughson to John Street;
- (e) That Council approve one-time funding up to \$100,000 to be allocated from the Ward 2 Area Rating Reserve 108052 funding account towards the installation of a temporary suspended lighting scheme; to cover the costs of the three-year pilot project; and,
- (f) That The City of Hamilton staff be directed to contract "Classic Displays" to design and install the temporary lighting installation, to be in place for Q3 of 2025.