

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Division

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARDS 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15
COMMITTEE DATE: November 18, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Greenbelt Cycling Route (PW13087) - (Wards 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Daryl Bender Project Manager, Alternative Transportation (905) 546-2424, Extension 2066
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That City staff work with staff representing the Greenbelt Foundation to formalize the Greenbelt Route through Hamilton as identified in Appendix "A" to Report PW13087, based on approval received by the affected Ward Councillors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Greenbelt Route** is an initiative of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, and is planned to be a 460 km cycling route through Ontario's Greenbelt, including approximately 80 km through Hamilton. City staff has been working with this external group to develop the segment of this route through Hamilton, mostly in rural parts of the City. The primary task is to post signage along this route in 2014. Minimal construction works are required for this project as the aim is to utilize existing cycling infrastructure as much as possible. Much of the Greenbelt Route follows corridors as identified in the Cycling Master Plan and the Recreational Trails Master Plan. Tourism Hamilton is a critical partner to ensure amenities along the route are included in promotional materials.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Greenbelt Foundation will provide the signage at no cost and the City's annual Bike Route Capital Account will finance the installation of the signage and any minor improvements required on the route identified. These tasks are estimated to be twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). Some portions will be constructed as previously planned capital works, pending capital budget approval for the scheduled year.

Staffing: Status quo.

Legal: No legal implications were identified.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting and sustaining the Greenbelt, with funding provided by the Province. They create hiking guides, promote agricultural activities, and sponsor summer festivals including the Greenbelt Harvest Picnic at Christie Lake Conservation Area. City staff was first approached to consider a suggested route for the Greenbelt Route in the fall of 2012. Following that meeting, a study was formalized by the Greenbelt Foundation and the project was announced publicly by the Greenbelt Foundation in May 2013. The Greenbelt Route is planned to be a 460 km cycling route through Ontario's Greenbelt, including approximately 80 km in Hamilton. The aim of the project is to have a route finalized and ready for public promotion in early 2015. Thus the route will be established by the various municipalities in the next few months and signage will be installed in 2014.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The City's Cycling Master Plan, "Shifting Gears 2009", identified a well-connected network of planned cycling infrastructure, both urban and rural, and the proposed Greenbelt Route is consistent with this plan. Much of the Greenbelt Route follows various segments of this city-wide network. Shifting Gears 2009 also recognizes the merit of working with Tourism Hamilton and private businesses to foster cycling tourism. The proposed route also relies on some trail routes as identified in the City's Recreational Trails Master Plan.

The recently released Provincial Cycling Strategy (2013) recognizes "Increased Cycling Tourism Opportunities" as one of five strategic directions.

Finally, the focus of a recreational cycling route through the Greenbelt promotes the rural elements of Hamilton.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Preparation of this report included consultation with the Councillors who represent the specific wards through which the route is planned, the Hamilton Cycling Committee, and

the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Adjacent municipalities were consulted through the Greenbelt study process to ensure the connections to neighbouring municipalities are seamless. The planning of the route is a joint effort of Landscape Architectural Services and Transportation Planning and Mobility Programs, and included cooperation with Hamilton Tourism, Road Operations, Geomatics and Corridor Management, and Parks and Cemeteries.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Greenbelt Route was designed to follow a significant portion of the planned and existing cycling network in Hamilton as identified in the City's Cycling Master Plan, "Shifting Gears 2009" and in the City's Recreational Trails Master Plan. Some other segments of the proposed route follow low traffic volume roads that do not require any special cycling infrastructure. The route selection also considered elements such as crossings of major roadways, topography, vistas, waterfalls and proximity to amenities along the route. The proposed route as described in 'Appendix A' reflects the current plans for the route through Hamilton, but there may be some modifications to this route dependant on comments yet to be received and changes due to the design of future alignments constructed through the capital budget process. An example of future modifications is the routing change to the new eco-passage near the Eramosa Karst once it is constructed. Hamilton Tourism has provided information from their database of amenities and businesses along the route that will add to the cycling experience for visitors.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Alternative 1 - City Chooses to not support the Greenbelt Route Initiative

The City could choose to not participate in this Greenbelt cycling project but this would demonstrate a lack of cooperation with the Provincial Greenbelt initiative. Staff do not recommend this alternative.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.4 Improve the City's transportation system to support multi-modal mobility and encourage inter-regional connections.

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

2.1 Implement processes to improve services, leverage technology and validate cost effectiveness and efficiencies across the Corporation.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

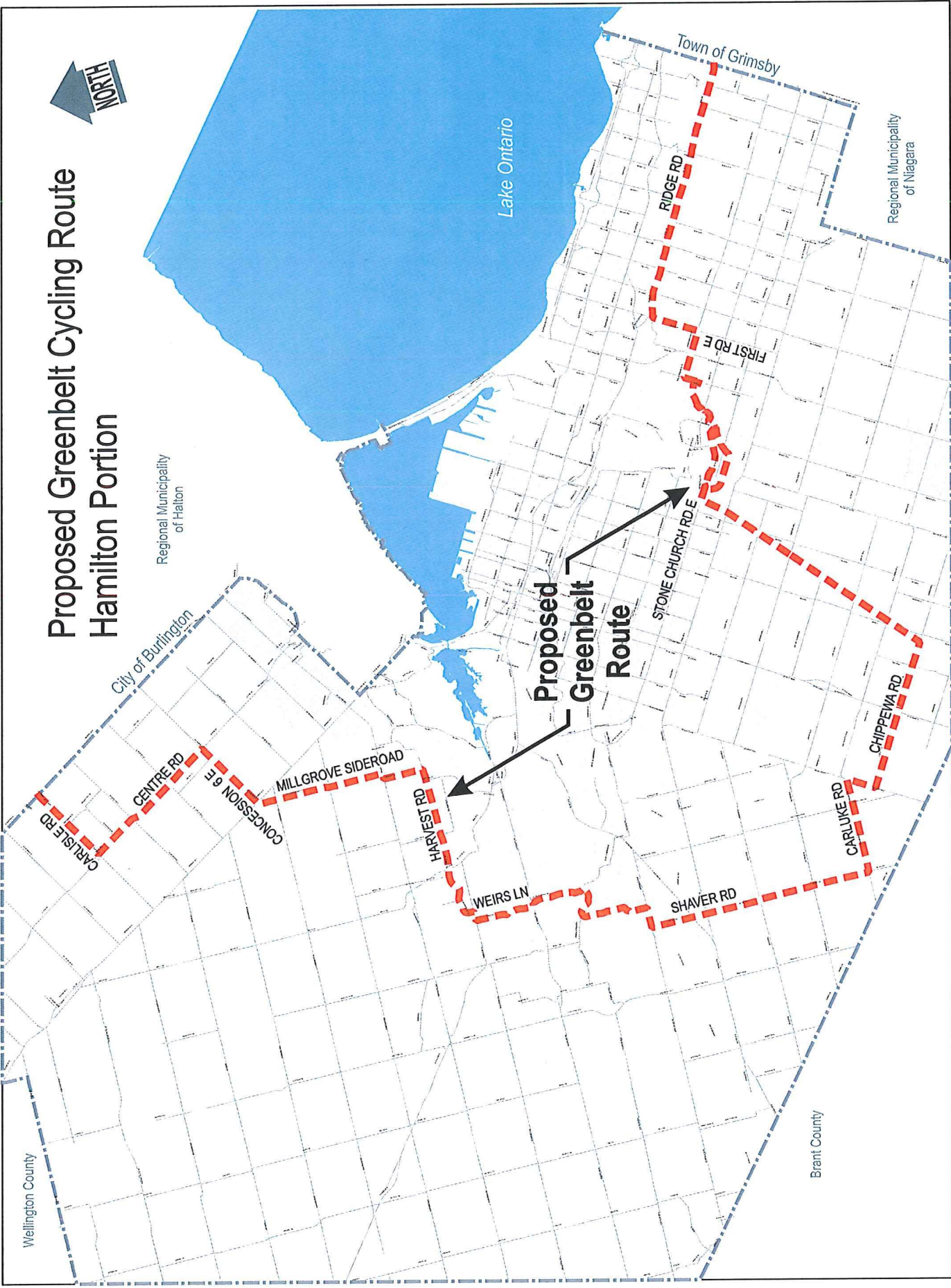
Strategic Objective

3.1 Engage in a range of inter-governmental relations (IGR) work that will advance partnerships and projects that benefit the City of Hamilton.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Appendix "A" Map of the Proposed Greenbelt Cycling Route through Hamilton

Proposed Greenbelt Cycling Route Hamilton Portion



Wellington County

City of Burlington

Regional Municipality of Halton

Lake Ontario

Town of Grimsby

Regional Municipality of Niagara

Proposed Greenbelt Route

Brant County

CARLISLE RD

CENTRE RD

CONCESSION 6 E

MILLGROVE SIDEROAD

HARVEST RD

WEIRS LN

SHAVER RD

STONE CHURCH RD E

RIDGE RD

FIRST RD E

CARLUKE RD

CHIPPEWA RD