



Hamilton

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning Division

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: January 13, 2014	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Authority to Legally Approve Traffic Signal and Pavement Marking Designs, Systems and Drawings (PW14003) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Martin White, C.E.T. Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering (905) 546-2424, Extension 4345
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That, as required by the Highway Traffic Act of the Province of Ontario, the Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering, or official designate, be authorized to provide legal approvals of traffic signal designs, traffic signal systems design and pavement marking designs on behalf of the City of Hamilton.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 144, Subsection 31 of the Highway Traffic Act requires a municipality to formally designate a person to approve traffic control signals or traffic control signal systems. The designated person must be competent, qualified and selected through Council resolution.

A recent structuring in Traffic Operations & Engineering has necessitated re-assignment of signing authority for traffic signals and pavement marking designs. The designs typically include pavement marking layouts as well as signal head placement requirements. The Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering has the primary responsibility for the final approval of traffic control signals, pavement markings and signal system designs

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications.

Legal: Revising the designation for authority to approve traffic control signals, pavement markings and systems, is a requirement of the Highway Traffic Act and ensures the City of Hamilton is compliant with legal obligations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Previously, signing authority for traffic control signals and signal systems was designated to the Senior Project Manager which was a result of previous restructuring of the Public Works Department and the Traffic Section. Given the current structure, it is therefore necessary to revise this designation to the most appropriate position in the Traffic Operations & Engineering Section. The Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering has the primary responsibility for the final approval of traffic signals, pavement markings and traffic signal system designs and is therefore the appropriate choice to be designated for this responsibility.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

N/A

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is a requirement of the Highway Traffic Act (section 144, 31) that "...no traffic control signal system or traffic control signal used in conjunction with a traffic control signal system shall be erected or installed except in accordance with an approval obtained from a person designated to give such approvals by the municipality or other authority that has jurisdiction over the highway or the intersection."

As a result of the recent Public Works restructuring, it is appropriate to reallocate the delegated authority to the appropriate staff members. A revision to the designated position of authority is, therefore required. The Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering or his official designates, now have the responsibility of final approval of traffic control signals, pavement markings and signal systems, and the Manager should be considered as the person designated to give such approvals.

The process of approvals will be as follows with respect to traffic signals, pavement markings and traffic signal system designs and drawings. Title blocks will be added to drawings for the following:

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1. Initials from Technical staff for approval
2. Final approval signature from Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering or official designates

The Official Designates from Traffic Operations & Engineering will include the following positions, in no specific order, within the Corporation;

Superintendent of Traffic Engineering
Superintendent of Traffic Operations
Superintendent of Business Services

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

The City of Hamilton can choose to abstain from designating a person to approve traffic signals, pavement markings and signal systems, however this may result in significant liability risk and professional oversight to ensure consistent quality and safety.

The City of Hamilton could also acquire expertise from a Consulting Firm to sign off documents; however, this would result in additional expenses and reduce efficiency in the design and approval process.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

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.
- 2.4 Identifying management staff members ensures that designs are implemented per city standards and installed in a safe manner

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

- 3.4 Enhance opportunities for administrative and operational efficiencies.
- 3.3 Designs and recommendations are provided by the technical staff and appropriate authority from management on designs and drawings.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

None