



**Public Works Committee  
MINUTES  
9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, July 8, 2008  
Hamilton Convention Centre  
One Summer's Lane  
Albion Rooms A, B and C**

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**Present:** Mayor F. Eisenberger  
Chair R. Powers  
Vice Chair C. Collins  
Councillors B. Bratina, T. Jackson, M. McCarthy, S. Merulla,  
D. Mitchell

**Absent with Regrets:** Councillor L. Ferguson – City Business  
Councillor D. Mitchell – Vacation

**Also Present:** Councillors B. McHattie, M. Pearson  
J. Rinaldo – A/City Manager  
S. Stewart – General Manager, Public Works  
G. Davis – Sr. Director, Capital Planning and Implementation  
D. Hull – Director, Transit Operations  
J. Dahms – Manager, Transit Planning and Customer Service  
C. Lee-Morrison – Manager, Capital Planning and  
Implementation  
J. Stephen – Manager, Capital Planning and Implementation  
N. D'Souza – Project Manager, Capital Planning and  
Implementation  
C. Biggs – Legislative Assistant, City Clerk's

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**1. Free Transit Deep Discount Fare Policy and Other Strategies Employed to Create a High Ridership Transit System (PW08082) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

**(Merulla/Collins)**

- (a) That staff continue with the implementation of Council's Ridership Growth and Asset Management Plans (2006) strategy to promote Transit Ridership Growth and Council's current discount fare policies;

- (b) That staff undertake an expansion of the Employer Commuter Pass Program for the City of Hamilton and introduction of the Employer Commuter Pass for Hamilton employers in 2009 in accordance with the prior recommendation of the Transit Steering Committee and subsequent endorsement by Council.
- (c) That direction be provided to staff as to which Free Transit initiatives, as outlined in Appendix "A" attached hereto, or others, to include in their 2009 Business Plan and Budget submission;
- (d) That the City of Hamilton provide free fare transit on smog and heat days not exceeding 2 smog and heat days in 2008;
- (e) That the Emergency and Community Services Committee be requested to remove the item respecting feasibility of providing full or partial free transit to Hamilton residents from their Outstanding Business List.

**CARRIED as amended**

**2. Downtown Transportation Master Plan Five-Year Review (PW08083) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

**(Eisenberger/Collins)**

- (a) That the five year review of the 2001 Downtown Transportation Master Plan (DTMP) be endorsed and the General Manager of the Public Works Department be authorized and directed to file the five year review, as per the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2007), on the public record with the Municipal Clerk for a thirty day public review;
- (b) That upon the completion of the thirty day public review, the General Manager of the Public Works Department be authorized and directed to program and include the recommended projects, (as shown in Appendix A), in the five year review of the Downtown Transportation Master Plan in the capital budget for future years;
- (c) That with respect to the Gore Park Pedestrianization Plaza Initiative, the concept of Closing the South Leg of Gore Park, to begin as a pilot project, be endorsed, and
  - (i) All HSR buses will be redirected to the North side of Gore Park and the proposed Multi-Modal Transit Terminal, consistent with the final recommendations for the Multi-Modal Transit Terminal, to allow for a focus on pedestrians; and
  - (ii) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to undertake a functional design study, which will include a consultation and communications strategy, at an approximate cost of \$100,000, subject to approval through the 2009 budget process;

- (d) That the capital costs of reconstruction associated with the implementation of the Gore Park Pedestrianization Plaza Initiative be brought back to the 2009 budget process or later date for consideration;
- (e) That the items dealing with Gore Park pedestrianization and removal of buses from the Gore Park area be removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List. **CARRIED as amended**

**3. Downtown Multi-Modal Transportation Centre (PW08084) (City Wide)  
(Item 7.3)**

**(Bratina/Eisenberger)**

- (a) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to proceed with implementation of the on-street MacNab and Hunter (within the GO Station Facility) alternative as the preferred option for the Downtown Multi-Modal Transportation Centre (Option A);
- (b) That the General Manager, Public Works, be authorized and directed to file the Downtown Multi-Modal Transportation Centre Environmental Report with the Municipal Clerk for a minimum thirty (30) day public review period;
- (c) That the General Manager, Public Works, be authorized and directed to utilize funds in capital Project ID#5300685001 to implement Option A and that additional funding for the facility be subject to the 2009 Capital Budget process;
- (d) That the General Manager, Public Works, be authorized and directed to plan for the implementation of the preferred option by 2010, including the removal of buses from Gore Park. **CARRIED**

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Clerk reported that there were no changes to the agenda.

**(Jackson/Bratina)**

That the agenda be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

None.

**(c) STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

**(i) Free Transit Deep Discount Fare Policy and Other Strategies Employed to Create a High Ridership Transit System (PW08082) (City Wide)**

Don Hull, Director of Transit, provided a power point presentation on the results of their investigation on the feasibility and impacts of the costs for the entire public transit system being paid for by the general levy in order to provide free public transit to the citizens of Hamilton, copies of which were distributed to the Committee.

The presentation outlined the following:

- Recommendations contained in Report PW08082
- Next steps
- Introduction/background
- Findings
- Financial/Analysis
- Executive Summary
  - Part 1 – Free Transit
- Research Findings – Free Fares
  - Part 2 – Deep Discount Fares Policy
  - Part 3 – Strategies, both internal and external to transit, to create ridership growth
- Background
- Analysis/Rationale
- Future Growth – Research Findings
- Relationship between Trips/Capita, Average Fare and Service Hours/Capita

A copy of the presentation has been retained in the Office of the City Clerk for the public record.

The Committee acknowledged and thanked Don Hull and his staff for their efforts in compiling the report and all of the information contained therein.

The Committee commented that all of the free transit initiatives as outlined in Appendix “A” attached hereto are worthy of consideration; however, in terms of implementation, there will be various levels of costs involved. As a result, Chair Powers requested each member of the Committee to identify their 3 top priorities from the list of 14 initiatives and forward those to Don Hull, Director of Transit, prior to the Council meeting on July 11. At that time, Mr. Hull will report back to Council and seek Council direction on which initiatives are to be further investigated and reported back to the Public Works Committee. The report back should also include financial i.e., lifecycle of roads, environmental, social and economic benefits, health issues, and that input be obtained from the appropriate City departments..

**(Merulla/Collins)**

That the following be added as sub-section (d) and the balance of the recommendations renumbered accordingly:

- (d) That the City of Hamilton provide free fare transit on smog and heat days not exceeding 2 smog and heat days in 2008;

The Amendment **CARRIED** on the following recorded vote:

Yeas: Powers, Bratina, Collins, Merulla  
Total Yeas: 4  
Nays: Eisenberger, McCarthy, Jackson  
Total Nays: 3  
Absent: Ferguson, Mitchell  
Total Absent: 2

The remaining recommendations were split for voting purposes:

Sub-section (a) CARRIED.

Sub-section (b) CARRIED.

Sub-section (c) CARRIED.

Sub-section (d) CARRIED on a standing recorded vote.

Sub-section (e) CARRIED.

Councillor M. McCarthy requested that she be recorded as opposed to sub-sections (a), (b) and (c).

The Motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

**(ii) Downtown Transportation Master Plan Five-Year Review (PW08083)  
(City Wide)**

Natasha D'Souza, Project Manager, Capital Planning and Implementation, gave a power point presentation which was distributed to the members of the Committee.

The presentation included:

- Outline, including study process, review of implemented/outstanding projects, New Projects (Gore Park Pedestrian Plaza/Farmers' Market/Library Improvements); consultation with the public and stakeholders; recommendations
- Project study area
- Study process

- Findings from the review
- 2 major projects completed from 2001
- Projects yet to be implemented
- York Blvd./Wilson Street 2-way conversion
- Recommended 2-way conversions
- Recommended pedestrian improvements
- Cycling improvements
- Projects not recommended for implementation at this time
- Projects not included in the original Master Plan recommended to be implemented
- Gore Park Pedestrian Plaza
- Recommendation for Gore Park Pedestrian Plaza
- Consultation.

Staff also indicated a typo on Appendix "A" to Report PW08083 under "Primary Road Network Changes", York/Wilson Two-way conversion, the EA schedule column should read "B", not "A+", and requested that this be recorded in the Minutes.

The Committee commended staff on the detail of the information presented.

A copy of the presentation has been retained in the Office of the City Clerk for the public record.

**(Collins/Merulla)**

That the following be added as sub-section (d) and the balance of the recommendations renumbered accordingly:

- (d) That the capital costs of reconstruction associated with the implementation of the Gore Park Pedestrianization Plaza Initiative be brought back to the 2009 budget process or later date for consideration.

**Amendment CARRIED**  
**Motion as amended CARRIED**

**(iii) Downtown Multi-Modal Transportation Centre (PW08084) (City Wide)**

Christine Lee-Morrison, Manager, Capital Planning and Implementation, gave a power point presentation, copies of which were distributed to the Committee.

The presentation included:

- Outline, including transportation plans, public consultation/documentation, design alternatives (Option A – MacNab Street; Option A – Hunter Street; Option B – Full MacHab Street), Municipal Class EA Process, preferred alternative, urban design concepts (MacNab Street cross section and overview), cost comparison (full MacNab and MacNab/GO Hunter; next steps

A copy of the presentation has been retained in the Office of the City Clerk for the public record.

The Committee commended staff on the detail of the information presented.

**(d) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)**

Scott Stewart provided a verbal update on Metrolinx and specifically, timelines for submission for funding. He advised that a report will be presented to the Public Works Committee in early September.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor R. Powers  
Chair  
Public Works Committee

Carolyn Biggs  
Legislative Assistant  
July 8, 2008