SUBJECT: Legalization of Segway Personal Transporters on City Sidewalks and Parks (PW08021) - (City Wide)

PUBLIC WORKS Outstanding Business List

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law No. 01-215 and City of Hamilton Parks By-law No. 01-219 be revised to allow any person who is fourteen years old or older, whose mobility is limited by one or more disabilities, conditions or functional impairments, to operate a Segway Personal Transporter on City sidewalks, paths and multiuse trails, and that the appropriate amendments to the Traffic and Parks by-laws be passed and enacted;

(b) That the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law No. 01-215 and City of Hamilton Parks By-law No. 01-219 be revised to allow a member of the Hamilton Police Service to operate a Segway Personal Transporter on City sidewalks, paths and multiuse trails, and that the appropriate amendments to the Traffic and Parks By-laws be passed and enacted;

(c) That the item relating to Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities regarding use of Segways be removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
City Council is in receipt of a request from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to allow persons with disabilities to use the Segway personal transportation device on City sidewalks, paths and multi-use trails. Segways may provide an alternative to motorized scooters currently in use. As well, the Hamilton Police Service has received approval to lease a Segway Personal Transporter, as a three month pilot project, to determine its effectiveness for use for patrolling City streets. Staff support these alternative transportation modes. As such, staff recommend amending City of Hamilton Traffic By-law No. 01-215 and the Parks By-law No. 01-219, to allow such use of Segways, by any person who is fourteen years old or older, if his or her mobility is limited, and by members of the Hamilton Police Service. This recommendation is in conjunction with the amendment in the Highway Traffic Act.

BACKGROUND:
The information / recommendations contained within this report have City wide implications.

In an effort to remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities, The Ministry of Transportation has amended Regulation No. 488/06 of the Highway Traffic Act to allow the use of Segway Personal Transporters on public roads, sidewalks and multiuse paths. Changes have been made to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act to recognize Segway Personal Transporters as motorized vehicles, subject to being permitted under Municipal By-laws. City Council is in receipt of a request from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to allow the use of such motorized devices by persons with disabilities on City sidewalks, paths and multiuse trails. Also, Deputy Police Chief Ken Leendertse has advised staff that Hamilton Police Service plans to lease a Segway Personal Transporter for 3 months, as a pilot project, to patrol City sidewalks and parks. City by-laws presently prohibit such uses, and the provincial legislation specifically requires local approvals. As such, staff recommend that City of Hamilton Traffic By-law No. 01-215 and Parks By-law No. 01-219 be amended to allow use of Segways by these two user groups for the duration of the Ministry of Transportation pilot project.

Concern was expressed about the enforcement options for the use of Segways, in the case where a user was operating in a reckless or unsafe manner. The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities discussed enforcement options and ultimately concluded that the police officers would use discretion in determining whether to ask for identification or proof of the right to use the Segway. This was deemed to be sufficient with the Hamilton Police Service and no formal requirement to carry special identification would be recommended at this time.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:
Segway Personal Transporters are battery operated vehicles that can carry one person in a standing position at speeds up to 20 km/h. Applications of this relatively new transportation mode within the workplace has been directed at improving efficiency, enabling workers to cover more ground in less time. Planned trial introduction of Segways into the workplace by the Hamilton Police Service may prove to enhance their response capability and reduce their reliance on gasoline-powered vehicles. The
Segway is beginning to gain popularity with the general public as well and may serve as a practical alternative to scooters or motorized wheelchairs for some individuals.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

As an alternative to the recommendations, Council may choose to take no action. This option is not recommended as the potential benefits of the Segway use to the Police Service and disabled citizens could not be realized.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial/staffing or legal implications.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

This change to the City of Hamilton Traffic and Parks By-laws would support the “Services adapted to different communities” goal by supporting the needs of the mobility challenged as per the “Innovate Now” Public Works Strategic Plan.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Hamilton Police Service and the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities were consulted.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Climate-related risks are managed; Greenhouse Gas emissions are reduced.
Less emission will be emitted by the use of Segways.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Investment in Hamilton is enhanced and supported.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No