CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Environment & Sustainable Infrastructure Division

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee
WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 8
COMMITTEE DATE: May 16, 2011
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Mohawk College Transit Hub (PW11036) - (Ward 8)
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department
PREPARED BY: Alan Kirkpatrick (905) 546-2424, Extension 4173
SIGNATURE:

RECOMMENDATION
(a) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to negotiate any and all contracts, agreements, forms, applications or other documents (collectively “Agreements”) as may be required with respect to the provision of Metrolinx Quick-Win funds for, the construction of, and the City’s use of, a new mixed-use/multi-modal transit facility and related transit amenities on Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology (“Mohawk College”) campus;
(b) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to execute all negotiated Agreements as described in (a) above, in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor and City Clerk.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
In April, 2008, the City of Hamilton received funding of $29.8 million from Metrolinx to be used for municipal capital expenditures for transit vehicles and infrastructure to support rapid transit line improvements to the B-Line and A-Line rapid transit corridors. The City has already utilized approximately $16.7 million with the purchase of eighteen (18) articulated sixty (60) foot buses, as well as A-Line feasibility work and studies relating to topographic/legal surveys along the B-Line.
On January 26, 2011, Council approved Report PW08074b which identified five (5) projects that would be funded with the remaining $13.1 million, that will go towards
participation in a mixed-use/multi-modal building at Mohawk College with HSR transit amenities.

The proposed project at Mohawk College includes the provision of public transit service to the campus at a new mixed-use/multi-modal building to be constructed in the southwest corner of Fennell Avenue and West 5th Avenue. The building is anticipated to be opened for September 2013. The City’s portion of the project costs relate to specific HSR operational needs including; passenger waiting area, a transit-only driveway around the new building, a transit-only traffic signal on Fennell Avenue, bus-bay on the west side of West 5th Street and road works at West 5th Street and Monarch Drive, are all being funded from the Metrolinx Quick-Wins Reserve Account.

Report PW11036 seeks Council’s direction to staff to negotiate all necessary contracts and agreements with Mohawk College. The contracts and agreements will be required for the design and construction of the mixed-use/multi-modal building project and the provision of public transit services to the new facility and related operations and maintenance agreements.

Alternatives for Consideration - Page 5

Financial / Staffing / Legal Implications

Financial: There are no funding implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Staff will report back to Committee prior to entering into any contractual obligations which address any capital funding and operating funding requirements for the City’s portion of this initiative. It is anticipated that the specific City-related components for HSR to operate on this site will be fully funded from the Metrolinx “Quick-Wins” Reserve Fund. Financial details will be provided when the contract and agreements between the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College have been negotiated.

Staffing: No staff implications.

Legal: Legal Services will assist staff by providing advice with respect to the negotiation and preparation of all contracts between the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College, that may be required for the use of the Metrolinx “Quick-Wins” funding towards the construction of the new facility and agreements related to the provision of transit services to the new facility.

Historical Background

Metrolinx was created by the Government of Ontario to develop and implement transportation plans for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), including the cities of Hamilton and Toronto, and the regions of Durham, York, Peel and Halton. Its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) provides a strategic, long-term vision for a coordinated transportation system across the GTHA and will guide decision making about future infrastructure investments.

The Province, through Metrolinx, approved Hamilton’s “Quick Wins” proposals intended for capital funding to upgrade the existing B-Line and for a new A-Line Rapid Transit
BRT service. These projects will provide a new express transit service connecting the Downtown, GO Bus & Train Station on Hunter Street, Mohawk College and the Airport as a precursor to future Rapid Transit or Light Rail service on Upper James Street. The amount of $16.7 million of the $29.8 million awarded to the City of Hamilton has already been utilized for the purchase of eighteen (18) articulated sixty (60) foot buses, as well as A-Line feasibility work and studies relating to topographic/legal surveys along the B-Line.

Mohawk College is progressing with the implementation of projects related to its Campus Master Plan. Several key initiatives of which relate to transportation, include:

- the introduction of the U-Pass program (an HSR transit pass available to all students during the school semesters which is similar to the U-Pass currently available to McMaster University students);
- provision of a new, transit-only, internal roadway (included in the mixed-use/multi-modal building) to be used by HSR;
- exploration of other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives to encourage active transportation modes along with carpooling service to support the ultimate goal of reducing the use of single occupancy vehicles (SOV) as a transportation mode to and from the campus; and
- changes to its parking operation to make alternative forms of transportation to and from the campus more attractive.

Mohawk College is proposing the construction of a mixed-use/multi-modal building on the southwest corner of Fennell Avenue and West 5th Avenue. A proposed site plan is included in Appendix “A” to this report. A transit-only internal roadway is proposed around this new building to accommodate the transit services that HSR would like to continue to provide to Mohawk College and the surrounding area. Implementation of transit-priority measures at key intersections will also be included as a further incentive to use public transit.

A Steering Committee has been organized which includes representatives of Mohawk College and various departments within the City that will need to have input into the design and the operation of transit services at this location.

The City and Mohawk College, will be undertaking the required Environmental Assessment (EA) framework utilizing the Municipal Transit Regulation process for the transit service-related components of the project. The site is defined as a “facility designed to accommodate passenger transfer activity between transit modes and other travel modes, and may include passenger pick-up and drop-off, and park and ride lots. Transit stations may include; overpasses/underpasses for pedestrian use, passenger service buildings, shelters or structures, benches, fare collection equipment, amenities and facilities”.

In order for the City to become formally involved in this project, it is recommended that staff negotiate all necessary documents and agreements so that there are clear and binding expectations and deliverables set out for both parties. This will support the construction of the mixed-use/multi-modal building so that the project can proceed and HSR can continue to provide transit service to this site.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The City of Hamilton has numerous policies and plans in place that support rapid and/or higher order transit in Hamilton. A few of the key documents are outlined below. In addition to the various plans related to City initiatives, an increased emphasis on public transportation is found in Mohawk College’s Campus Master Plan.

Provincial Policies
- Regional Transportation Plan - BIG MOVE (November 2008) for the GTHA
- MoveOntario 2020
- Places to Grow

Hamilton Plans/Policies/Visions
- Corporate Strategic Plan
- Public Works Strategic Plan
  - Communities
    - Focusing transit at this key-destination
  - People
    - Improving transit accessibility, particularly convenient for Mohawk College students and St. Joseph’s Hospital staff and visitors
  - Processes
    - Supports Mohawk College’s Campus Strategic Plan with transit
    - Relates to A-Line services
  - Finances
    - Increasing HSR Ridership
    - City portion funded through Metrolinx Quick-Win Reserve Fund

- City of Hamilton Official Plan
- Transportation Master Plan (TMP)
- Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS)
- Vision 2020
- Hamilton Transit Ridership Growth Plan
- Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Plan
- Corporate Energy Policy

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

This project involves a wide variety of staff in order to fully coordinate the planning, design and implementation of transit service to this new location at Mohawk College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Engineering</td>
<td>Supports report and will continue with traffic operational aspects of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Management</td>
<td>Supports direction of report and coordination of associated capital projects on adjacent roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department | Comments
--- | ---
Engineering Design | Supports direction of report and coordination of design requirements of associated Capital projects on adjacent roads.
Legal Services | Provided assistance with respect to this Report. Will provide support with respect to the negotiation and execution of all pertinent Agreements as required.
Rapid Transit & Financial Planning | Supports report and the City’s share being utilized from the identified Metrolinx Quick-Wins Fund.
Transit (HSR) | Supports report and will continue with transit operational aspects of the project and participate in the contract negotiations.
Ward 8 Councillor | The Councillor is aware of the matter and wishes to be involved in Committee meetings as the project moves forward.

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation to proceed with the negotiations of agreements and participate with the mixed-use/multi-modal facility at Mohawk College is based on the following:

- The project aligns with the transportation policies and strategic directions of the City approved by Council;
- The project supports the HSR’s service objectives and provides for a transit focus for the A-Line and other transit services on the escarpment;
- The project provides improved and convenient passenger transfer facilities;
- The project places an emphasis on public transit intended to result in increased transit ridership as outlined in the City’s Transportation Master Plan for both Mohawk College and the expanded St. Joseph’s hospital across the street; and
- The project supports continued direct transit service to Mohawk College, coordinates with Mohawk College’s U-Pass program and the College’s plans to reduce single-occupancy vehicles and parking included in their Campus Master Plan.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Alternative 1 - Do not approve the use of the Metrolinx Quick Win Reserve funds – Not Recommended.

If we do not utilize the reserve monies for its intended use, the Province may recover up to and including the amount of funds provided. This may negatively impact the reputation of the City of Hamilton and future funding requests.

Alternative 2 - Do not provide transit service on the Mohawk College campus – Not Recommended.
If the HSR cannot utilize the existing internal campus roadway (existing or proposed), they would be required to direct all passenger transfers and connections to occur on-street, either on West 5th Avenue or on Fennell Avenue. This would also impact the routing of other transit services and would result in inconvenient passenger transfers and connections.

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**


**Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization**
- More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus.
  - The collaboration of the Rapid Transit and Strategic Planning sections to deliver the Quick Win projects supports teamwork.

**Financial Sustainability**
- Financially Sustainable City by 2020
- Effective and sustainable Growth Management
- Delivery of municipal services and management capital assets/liabilities in a sustainable, innovative and cost effective manner
- Generate assessment growth/non-tax revenues
- Sustainable Tri-parti Government Agreement

**Social Development**
- People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma

**Environmental Stewardship**
- Aspiring to the highest environmental standards

**Healthy Community**
- Plan and manage the built environment
- Adequate access to food, water, shelter and income, safety, work, recreation and support for all (Human Services)

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

Appendix “A” - Current Conceptual Plan of a Mixed Use Building on Mohawk College campus southwest corner Fennell Avenue and West 5th Avenue
Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.
Values: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork

Appendix “A” to Report PW11036
Conceptual Plan of a Mixed Use Building on Mohawk College
Campus Southwest Corner Fennell Avenue and West 6th Avenue