### Council Direction:

The civic gateways project was identified for study as part of Council’s 2001 budget deliberations.

### Information:

In 2001 Council identified the need to install civic gateway features at the major highway entrances to the City. The intent was to develop a sense of entry into the city by enhancing these strategic locations in a way that will present a positive image to its citizens and visitors. A budget amount of $100,000.00 was allocated from the capital budget to study the issue and develop designs.

The Planning and Economic Development Department commenced the Civic Gateway Design Study in 2002 and developed a Terms of Reference for designs for gateway features at five major entry points to the City. Terms of Reference were developed outlining a three phase process as follows:

- **Phase 1**: site identification.
- **Phase 2**: develop design options for each site.
- **Phase 3**: prepare cost estimates and an implementation strategy for each site.
Phase 1: A consultant was retained in 2003 and the first phase of the study was completed in June 2004. This phase identified a number of alternative locations and recommended preferred sites for gateway features based on MTO requirements and sight lines along the 400 series Highways and Highway No. 6 North. The general locations of these sites are as follows:

- The Q.E.W and Fifty Road.
- Highway No. 403 and the Highway No.6 interchange.
- Highway No. 6 and Meddaugh Road.
- Highway No. 403 at the Highway 52 interchange.
- The Q.E.W. at the new Burlington Street/Red Hill Creek Expressway/Centennial Parkway interchange.

Phases 2 and 3: A second consultant was retained in June 2005 and is currently working to complete Phases 2 and 3 of the study; developing designs and implementation strategies for four of the five sites identified in Phase 1. The design for the fifth site, the QEW in the vicinity of the new Burlington Street/Red Hill Creek Expressway/Centennial Parkway interchange, has been left outside of the consultant’s current scope of work due to the new configuration of the Q.E.W. resulting from the construction of the Red Hill Creek Expressway. In addition to the four primary gateway features, this phase of work will also propose a design for a secondary gateway feature that may be installed at less prominent entry points to the City such as Highway No. 6 South, Highway No. 20 and Highway No. 8 as well as other areas in the city.

Consultation with City Departments:

Throughout the process the consultant has been working with a steering committee of City staff from the following departments/divisions:

- Community Planning and Design.
- Economic Development.
- Communications.
- Culture.
- Public Works.
- Tourism.

In response to the new intersection design of the Red Hill Expressway and the QEW, Community Planning and Design staff has also been meeting with the Red Hill Project Team to determine an appropriate site and design for a possible gateway feature near the QEW in this area.
Consultation with MTO:

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario regulates all features on the road allowance of provincial highways and all signs within 400 metres of the right of way. City staff and the consultant have been meeting with the MTO throughout the study process. Draft design options are presently being reviewed by MTO for preliminary comments.

Public Consultation:

Upon the receipt of the results of the MTO review, a public consultation process will be undertaken. Public input will be sought to identify any outstanding issues, confirm the appropriateness of the proposed designs and identify a preferred design option. This public consultation process will be undertaken through the City’s website and at a series of four public open houses to be held consecutively in the communities of Stoney Creek, Flamborough, Ancaster and in central Hamilton. It is anticipated that this consultation will occur early in 2006.

Study Completion:

Pending the outcome of the MTO review and public consultation the Civic Gateway Design Study is scheduled to be completed with a report to Council by August 2006.