To: Chair and Members  
Planning & Economic Development Committee  
PED05163/PW05119

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Date: October 14, 2005

Re: Hamilton Goods Movement Study - Rail Access To The Hamilton Airport, Downtown and Hamilton Port

Council Direction:

Staff were directed by Council to incorporate an assessment of rail access plans from the Airport to downtown and the Hamilton Port.

Information:

The Airport Summit held in 2004 suggested the Hamilton Goods Movement Study be pursued supporting Council’s approved Economic Development Strategy and further development of the Aerotropolis and Port Clusters. The Hamilton Goods Movement Study Report PED05006 was presented to and received by Council June 24, 2005.

The Hamilton Goods Movement Study was funded and led by all three levels of government and area transportation businesses. It examined the City's potential to become an integrated regional inter-modal transportation centre within the Golden Horseshoe and servicing the Toronto to Windsor and Toronto to Niagara trade corridors. Employment and skills required to sustain the transportation cluster’s long term success were reviewed and identified in the Study.

The Hamilton Goods Movement Study and its findings were referred to the Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS) and Transportation Master Plan. City budget cost implications for inclusion of the Hamilton Goods Movement Study recommendations into departmental work plans will be submitted to the Planning and
Economic Development Committee this fall. Further, staff were requested to incorporate an assessment of rail access plans from the airport to downtown and the Hamilton Port. Transportation, environmental, and engineering expertise would be required to address the airport-downtown-port rail access feasibility study. This major initiative would have significant implications financially and for all levels of government. Thus outside expertise would be sought to address Council’s directive. Staff estimate the cost of the Feasibility Study to be in the $250,000 range and would pursue cost sharing funding from all levels of government.

The Public Works Department will be the lead working in concert with a multi-departmental working group representing Economic Development, Finance, the Ontario Provincial Government and the Government of Canada as well as any other relevant department and/or agencies. Due to Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS) commitments staff would undertake the Feasibility Study in 2007 – 2008.

This report is consistent with Vision 2020 goals such as sustainable community, economic growth through investment, infrastructure and opportunities for residents. Further, it advances the City’s goal of “Growing the Local Economy”.

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