# RECOMMENDATION

That the ad-hoc temporary closure of King Street (South Side) from James St. to Hughson St. for summer events starting on June 1st and ending September 30th, which include four anchor events organized by Public Works - Transportation Demand Management, be approved subject to the following conditions:

(a) That the prior approval of the Chief of Police or his designate be received, and that such permits or authorizations as may be required by the Chief of Police or his designate be obtained;

(b) That all detour signing and warning boards be installed in advance by the Public Works Department, on the affected roadways, if deemed necessary by the General Manager of Public Works;

(c) That all barricading be subject to the approval of the General Manager of Public Works or designate;

(d) That the applicant ensures that clean up operations are carried out immediately before the re-opening of the road;

(e) That no property owner or resident within the closure be denied access to their property upon request;
(f) That all property owners and tenants within the closure area be notified by the applicant, prior to the closure, in a form acceptable to the General Manager of Public Works.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. **Closure of the South Side of King Street between James St. and Hughson St.**

   The request for the closure of the south side of King Street directly supports Transportation Demand Management initiatives that intend to help residents increase their physical activity levels and improve their overall health by walking, cycling and taking transit.

   The four anchor events that the Public Works - Transportation Demand Management/Smart Commute will plan in cooperation with the Downtown BIA include:

   - Sunday, June 12, 2011 (10 am to 5 pm)
   - Thursday, June 16, 2011 (11:30 am to 1:30 pm)
   - Sunday, September 18, 2011 (10 am to 5 pm)
   - Thursday, September 22, 2011 (11:30 am to 1:30 pm)

   While these dates are predetermined, other organizations who wish to close the South Side of King Street can do so, with permission from the Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT) and the General Manager, Public Works.

   The four anchor street closures are intended to support key dates in the promotion of sustainable transportation and help establish Gore Park and the south side of King Street (between James Street and Hughson Street) as the key staging and congregation area for these events. The closures support Open Streets Hamilton, Downtown BIA proposed events, First Ontario Credit Union grand opening, various healthy living vendors during the Transportation and Healthy Living fair, Public Health exhibits, Canadian Environment Week, Pollution’s Probes’ Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Clean Air Commute Week and all the members of the Transportation Management Association including: McMaster University, Hamilton Health Sciences, Mohawk College, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Horizon Utilities, McMaster Innovation Park, Green Venture, Environment Hamilton and others.

2. **Downtown Hamilton BIA’s Gore Park Promenade Program**

   This report also addresses a direction from the March 22, 2011 General Issues Committee to provide recommendations regarding the Downtown BIA’s Promenade Summer Market Program in Gore Park (details provided on page 4 of this report). The recommendations support the implementation of the BIA’s Gore Park Promenade Program.

**Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 6**
FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Funding for street closure events associated with Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives will be covered through the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Capital Budget and external funding from the Ministry of Transportation’s TDM Municipal Grant Program estimated at $5,000 in 2011.

If there are specific expenses related to other organizers participating in the events, the costs are recovered from them.

Part of the MTO - TDM Municipal Grant program the City of Hamilton is participating in also assists in the funding of these types of events that support and encourages Transportation Demand Management activities and promotes alternative transportation options.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Closure of the South Side of King Street between James St. and Hughson St.

The request for the closure of the south side of King Street in the aforementioned areas, and at the potential request of other groups over the summer, directly supports transportation demand management initiatives that intend to help residents get active by walking, cycling and taking transit. They also promote downtown renewal and activity. The anchor street closure requests support key dates in the promotion of sustainable transportation and help establish Gore Park and the south side of King Street (between James Street and Hughson Street) as the key staging and congregation area for these and other similar events. These include:

**June 12:** Open Streets Hamilton (www.openstreetshamilton.ca), Downtown BIA kick-off event and First Ontario Credit Union Grand Opening.

**June 16:** Transportation and Healthy Living Fair – 20 to 40 exhibitors will be in Gore Park and on the south side of King Street to promote sustainable and healthy living to all those who participate. This event coincides with the Smart Commute Hamilton Clean Air Commute Week, the proposed Downtown BIA weekly event, and Totally Transit Thursday – a program offering free transit to all those who participate in the Clean Air Commute competition. A listing of last year’s Clean Air Commute Week can be found here: http://www.smartcommutehamilton.ca/en/events/cleanaircommute.

**September 18:** Open Streets Hamilton and Downtown BIA closing event.

**September 22:** International Car Free Day exhibits including a parking space gathering, various sustainability oriented vendors, addresses by local celebrities and politicians,
and a celebratory atmosphere, along with a Bike to Work Day event. An overview of last year’s events can be found here: http://www.smartcommutehamilton.ca/en/events/carfreeday

One of the key intents of such anchor events is to encourage citizens to use streets in more sustainable and healthy ways that promote cycling, walking and transit use. The Open Streets Hamilton event, Downtown BIA events, Smart Commute events and the events associated with International Car Free Day promote this goal and focus on citizen participation, inclusivity and healthy communities. These programs raise awareness for international sustainable mobility and healthy cities movements; attract citizens and tourists to the downtown core, while demonstrating the City’s commitment to healthy living, sustainable transportation and community action.

The Public Works Department will provide warning boards and detour signs in advance of the closure, as well as deliver the necessary barricades and road closure supplies. Hamilton Police Service will assist by installing the barricades and directing traffic at all signalized intersections within the closure limits.

2. Downtown Hamilton BIA’s Gore Park Promenade Program

At its meeting on March 22, 2011, General Issues Committee directed staff to provide recommendations to Committee regarding the following requests from the Downtown Hamilton BIA, regarding its proposed Downtown Promenade summer market program in Gore Park:

- Provide the use of the park at no charge
- Waive the $100 zoning fee
- Use existing full-time and summer staff to clean park
- Streamline the licensing and health permits to accommodate vendors

A meeting was held with the relevant staff from the Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT) and Kathy Drewitt, Executive Director of the Downtown Hamilton BIA, to discuss each of these issues. As a result, staff determined that:

- The Promenade does not require the $100 zoning fee
- Existing full-time and summer Park staff, supplemented by project staff hired by the BIA, will be sufficient to properly maintain Gore Park during the Promenade program. Should this prove not to be the case, the BIA will pay for the additional staff required to properly maintain the Park, as determined by SEAT and the General Manager, Public Works
- Staff who process health and other permits will work with the Downtown Hamilton BIA to help ensure proper permitting
- Parking meters on the north side of the south leg of King St. will not need to be bagged during the Promenade, as the event will be held entirely within the boundaries of Gore Park and parking can occur during the event
- The rental fee for use of Gore Park during the Promenade is not applicable, and the total fee of $2,970 will be waived

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

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At its April 13, 2011 meeting, Council approved a motion to waive the rental fee for the Gore Park Promenade.

At its April 14, 2011 meeting, SEAT approved the Gore Park Promenade event, subject to the conditions that apply to all organizers of events on outdoor City property regarding the provision of proof of insurance and similar requirements. This means that the Gore Park Promenade will take place as proposed by the Downtown Hamilton BIA, with the Park rental fees waived as per Council direction.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The City has a policy for delegated authority for short term road closures. The policy states that delegated authority is given for events from previous years as long as: the event takes place in the same location as the previous year, and during the same time of day and day of week and does not include the serving of alcohol. These events do not conform to this policy as they amend two Open Streets Hamilton events with an additional street closure and propose two additional closures on June 16 and September 22, 2011, which previously have not been events that required a closure. Furthermore, the delegated authority granted in this report will allow the Special Events Advisory Team and the General Manager, Public Works to approve other closures of the South Side of King Street (from James Street to Hughson Street) in an ad-hoc fashion over the summer months (from June 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011) for the purposes of promoting the Gore as a vibrant area of the City, supportive of active lifestyles and sustainable transportation.

These events promote a healthy environment aligning with the Public Works Strategic Plan “Innovate Now!”

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The following were consulted with and were in favour of the event:

- Ward Councillor
- Hamilton Police Service
- Special Events Advisory Team
- HSR
- Public Health
- Downtown BIA
- Green Venture
- Environment Hamilton
- Open Streets Hamilton
- Ward Councillor
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College
- St. Joseph’s Healthcare
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Horizon Utilities

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

These proposed events are expected to encourage employees of various businesses the area along with residents in the area; to walk, cycle and take transit to Gore Park to
learn more about healthy living, enjoy the services of vendors in the downtown BIA, save money by using sustainable modes of transportation, improve work-life balance and contribute to the popularity and diversity of the downtown core. The success of the events will be measured based on operational details, participation levels and participant feedback.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Alternatively, Council may elect to deny the application for the temporary road closures. However, considering the Special Events Advisory Team has reviewed and approved these events, staff does not support this alternative.

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**


**Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization**
- A culture of excellence
- More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus
- Council and SMT are recognized for their leadership and integrity

**Financial Sustainability**
- Delivery of municipal services and management capital assets/liabilities in a sustainable, innovative and cost effective manner
- Address infrastructure deficiencies and unfunded liabilities
- Generate assessment growth/non-tax revenues

**Intergovernmental Relationships**
- Influence federal and provincial policy development to benefit Hamilton
- Acquire greater share of Provincial and Federal grants (including those that meet specific needs)
- Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

**Growing Our Economy**
- A skilled and creative labour pool that supports new employers
- A visitor and convention destination

**Social Development**
- Residents in need have access to adequate support services
- People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma

**Environmental Stewardship**
- Natural resources are protected and enhanced
- Reduced impact of City activities on the environment
- Remove Hamilton Harbour from Great Lakes area of concern list by 2015
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- Reduce the impact of Hamilton's industrial, commercial private and public operations on the environment
- Aspiring to the highest environmental standards

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

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

None