**RECOMMENDATION**

That, as required by the Highway Traffic Act of the Province of Ontario, the Senior Project Manager of Signals and Systems, or designate, be authorized to provide legal approvals of traffic signal drawings and systems design on behalf of the City of Hamilton.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 144, Subsection 31 of the Highway Traffic Act requires a municipality to formally designate a person to approve traffic control signals or traffic control signal systems. The designated person must be competent, qualified, and selected through Council resolutions.

Following a recent restructuring in Public Works, a change in divisional organization necessitated re-assignment of signing authority for traffic signal designs. The designs typically include pavement marking layouts as well as signal head placement requirements. The Senior Project Manager of Signals and Systems has primary responsibility for the final approval of traffic control signals and signal system designs and is therefore the best choice to be designated for this responsibility.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3
FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A
Staffing: N/A
Legal: Revising the designation for authority to approve traffic control signals and systems, is a requirement of the Highway Traffic Act and ensures the City of Hamilton is compliant with legal obligations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Previously, signing authority for traffic control signals and signal systems was designated to former positions including the Manager of Traffic Engineering and Operations, the Commissioner of Public Works and Traffic in the former City of Hamilton and the Senior Director of Roads in the former Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. Given the current structure it is, therefore, necessary to revise this designation. The Senior Project Manager of Signals and Systems has the primary responsibility for the final approval of traffic signal and traffic signal system designs and is therefore the best choice to be designated for this responsibility.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Corporate Services, City Clerk confirmed procedure on submitting full recommendation report.

Corporate Services, Treasury Services, Risk Management were consulted to confirm importance of complying with legislation and that the new appointment is a reasonable and economically sound approach to satisfying the requirement.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is a requirement of the Highway Traffic Act (section 144, 31) that “…no traffic control signal system or traffic control signal used in conjunction with a traffic control signal system shall be erected or installed except in accordance with an approval obtained from a person designated to give such approvals by the municipality or other authority that has jurisdiction over the highway or the intersection."

Under the current structure, authorization previously given to the Manager of Traffic Engineering and Operations, to approve traffic control signals, is no longer valid. A revision to the designated position of authority is, therefore, required. The Senior Project Manager of Signals and Systems now has the responsibility of final approval of traffic control signals and signal systems, and should be considered as the person designated to give such approvals.
ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

The City of Hamilton can choose to abstain from designating a person to approve traffic signals, resulting in significant liability risk.

The City can acquire expertise externally, however, this would result in additional expenses and reduce efficiency in the design and approval process.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN


Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization

- Approval of traffic control signals by a designated technical position allows the City of Hamilton to keep authorization internally, expressing a high degree of expertise and excellence within the Municipality.

Financial Sustainability

- Traffic signals and pavement marking drawings are key components of developments and road reconstruction projects. By establishing internal approval processes, services can be delivered with superior quality and in a cost effective manner.

Intergovernmental Relationships

- The Provincial and Federal governments and related agencies recognize and expect municipalities to provide their own expertise in approvals of traffic signals and signal systems, on the roadway network. By complying, the City of Hamilton is able to maintain good relations with other levels of government, which can help to Influence federal and provincial policy development to benefit Hamilton.

Growing Our Economy

- The approval of traffic signals is an important component of a process that influences the growth and development of our communities, through residential developments, commercial developments and governmental services.

Social Development

- With internal authorization to approve traffic signals, the City of Hamilton can ensure that the requirements of safe and accessible traffic signal operation and infrastructure are maintained.
Healthy Community

- The City of Hamilton utilizes industry guidelines to plan, design and construct a traffic signal network that incorporates safety on a number of levels. These include, an advanced electrical plant with robust grounding and bonding and lighting systems; a signal timing operation to help minimize crashes; an accessible signal design to accommodate all users. Updating the process to assign legal authority within the Public Works Department, will assure that the proper measures are in place to deliver on the health and safety aspects of traffic control signals.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

None