



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities

Date:	May 23, 2008
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	Pg080028

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to release the Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities (Attachment 1.0) for stakeholder consultation. During the consultation period Council is requested to grant authority for City staff to apply the Guidelines in the review and approval of new developments.

The Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities will encourage the private sector to develop high quality bicycle parking facilities and will fulfill recommendation 9-5 of the Toronto Bike Plan. The Guidelines will provide planners, developers and property managers with specific strategies to support the design, construction and management of high quality bicycle parking facilities. In addition to new developments the Guidelines may also provide direction for existing buildings undergoing redesign or renovation.

Application of the strategies included in the Guidelines will work toward meeting Official Plan policies and environmental performance targets of the Toronto Green Development Standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

City Planning recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the release of the Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities (Attachment 1.0) for consultation with stakeholders, appropriate City Divisions, Agencies, Boards and Commissions and other interested parties;

2. City Council authorize City Planning staff to apply the draft Guidelines, during the consultation period, in the review and approval of new developments and in the design and development of buildings owned and/or operated by the City of Toronto or any Agency Board or Commission of the City of Toronto; and
3. The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee at the conclusion of the consultation period if modifications to the Guidelines are required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the recommendations of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Toronto Bike Plan recommendation 9-5 “Produce Bicycle Parking Guidelines for Developers” calls for the development of a set of “bicycle parking guidelines for developers and property managers to assist in the provision of high quality bicycle parking facilities.”

http://www.toronto.ca/cycling/bikeplan/pdf/bike_plan_full.pdf

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities are intended to improve the quality of bicycle parking that is secured through the development approval process. Areas of concern include badly designed bicycle racks that do not allow cyclists to lock bicycles securely; a lack of long-term bicycle parking, or insecure long-term bicycle parking that does not adequately protect bicycles; bicycle parking that is difficult to access or designed poorly so that it cannot be used to its intended capacity; and bicycle parking areas that are not properly managed so as to prevent misuse of the facility and to reduce the likelihood of damage or theft of bicycles.

To ensure consistency with existing City policies, programs and guidelines an inter-divisional City staff group was put together for consultation on the Guidelines. The group, led by City Planning, included representation from Urban Design, the City’s Coordinated Street Furniture Project, Toronto Green Development Standard and the Pedestrian and Cycling infrastructure Unit, Transportation Services.

The Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities provides examples and best practices to inform decisions on the design, installation and management of both short-term and long-term bicycle parking infrastructure as well as site design strategies to facilitate bicycle access to parking facilities. These Guidelines fulfill recommendation 9-5 of the Toronto Bike Plan noted above.

COMMENTS

Applying the Guidelines:

The Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities will apply to the design, review and approval of all new developments requiring bicycle parking facilities. The Guidelines will be applicable city-wide. The Guidelines will also apply to the development of bicycle parking facilities at buildings that are owned and/or operated by the City of Toronto or any Agency, Board or Commission of the City of Toronto.

The Guidelines are intended to be read together with the Official Plan, applicable Zoning By-laws, Secondary Plans, the Toronto Green Development Standard (GDS), and all other applicable City standards, policies and guidelines.

The Guidelines are an important example of the City of Toronto's commitment to building a green and sustainable transportation system and they will work towards fulfilling one of the primary goals of the Toronto Bike Plan: "To double the number of bicycle trips made in the City of Toronto, as a percentage of total trips by 2011".

Summary of the Guidelines:

The table below summarizes the key sections of the Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities

Key Sections	Topics Covered
2.3 Short-Term Bicycle Parking	-good vs. poor bicycle rack designs; options for covered bicycle parking, installation guidelines including rack placement and spacing
2.4 Long-Term Bicycle Parking	-bicycle parking options including indoor bicycle rooms, parking garages, bicycle cages, bicycle lockers.
3. Site Design Strategies	- strategies to provide bicycle access including: stairway treatments; bicycle paths on-site; signage; designing for safety, security and convenience; and options for creating attractive, custom designed facilities.

4. Building Management, Operations and Employer-Based Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -includes strategies to maintain and manage short and long-term parking infrastructure in order to facilitate use of bicycle parking; - operational strategies to maximize security for cyclists and their property; and - employer-based strategies to encourage bicycle use.
5. Bicycle Parking Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - includes information on the process required to obtain post-and-ring parking for new developments (where approved); - information on existing city by-laws, policies and guidelines that determine the placement and design of bicycle racks in the public right-of-way.

Consultation:

City Planning Division together with other appropriate City Divisions will initiate a consultation process with industry representatives and stakeholders, affected City Divisions, Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and other interested parties. The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, will report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee at the conclusion of the consultation period if modifications to the Guidelines are required.

CONCLUSION

Designing and developing high quality bicycle parking infrastructure in new and existing developments will go a long way to support and increase the use of bicycles for every day travel needs. Bicycle use plays an important role in the development of a more efficient transportation system in Toronto and in achieving Toronto's greenhouse gas reduction targets of 80% by 2050. The attached Guidelines for the Design and Management of Bicycle Parking Facilities will assist architects, developers, urban designers, planners, building owners and property managers in the design and management of high-quality bicycle parking, thereby providing a vital contribution to a sustainable transportation system and supporting a growing culture of active transport in Toronto.

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SIGNATURE

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Attch.