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2015 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Status of Bloor Street – Dupont Street Bikeway Study

Issue/Background:

There has been longstanding interest by many in the cycling community to evaluate the feasibility of a bicycle facility on Bloor Street. A bicycle facility along Bloor Street could be one of the most significant bikeways in the City bikeway network due to the length and location of the corridor and the high level of commuting by bicycle in this part of the city. Any changes required to implement a bikeway could have substantial impacts on transit service, auto mobility, commercial loading and/or on-street parking.

The desire for an Environmental Assessment ("E.A.") for a parallel corridor along Dupont Street has also been identified. From network planning and cost-benefit perspectives, there are advantages to combining the Bloor Street and Dupont Street corridors together into one study given that changes to one of the two parallel streets will affect the other. See Appendix 1 for a map of the proposed study area.

Staff therefore recommended that a combined Bloor Street - Dupont Street Bikeway E.A. Study be undertaken. At its meeting on November 13, 14, 15 and 18, 2013, City Council adopted this recommendation, directing Transportation Services to undertake a combined Bloor Street – Dupont Street Bikeway E.A.

Key Points:

- As a result of other priorities for bikeway network development, most notably the Richmond – Adelaide Bikeway E.A. Pilot Project, a large push for a host of other on-street cycling facilities, as well as the development of an RFP to retain a consultant for bikeway design services, Transportation Services was unable to commence the Bloor Street – Dupont Street Bikeway Study in 2014.
- Amendments to the Municipal Class E.A. process are expected to be enacted within two to three months. The amendments will provide greater clarity for E.A. requirements as they apply to cycling facilities. It is anticipated that implementing bicycle lanes on Bloor Street or Dupont Street would be considered a pre-approved project, and therefore not subject to a Municipal Class E.A. process.
- Rather than undertake an E.A. study, Transportation Services will commence a preliminary feasibility study in 2015 which would identify design options and associated impacts for Bloor Street – Dupont Street bikeways.

- As part of the preliminary feasibility study exercise, design options will be evaluated based on feasibility and cost. The key issues are the removal of on-street parking and reduction in the number of traffic lanes. The results of the feasibility study would enable staff to review potential design options and their impacts with the affected Ward Councillors and decide on the most pragmatic approach for moving this project to a more detailed evaluation and consultation process. The short list of alternatives would be considered for implementation as a pilot project in 2016, subject to City Council approval.
- Based on the results of the feasibility study and possible implementation and subsequent evaluation of a pilot project, Transportation Services would proceed with an E.A. Study in 2016, if one is required.
- These E.A. Studies are funded from Transportation Services Capital Budget for "Engineering Studies". There is currently a backlog of outstanding studies and therefore funding for a Bloor Street – Dupont Street Bikeway E.A., previously estimated to cost approximately \$450,000, would need to be considered in light of other priorities and commitments. If funds in this program are not sufficient to undertake this E.A. Study, if one is required, due to these other priorities and commitments, a request will be made as part of the Transportation Services 2016 Capital Budget submission to increase the "Engineering Studies" budget specifically for this project so that the E.A. can be proceed in 2016.

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