



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Recognition and support of Burlington's 2SLGBTQIA+ Community through City Infrastructure Initiatives

TO: **Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.**

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date to Committee: June 8, 2021

Date to Council: June 22, 2021

Motion for Council to Consider:

In recognition and support of Burlington's 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) Community, direct staff to review the following city infrastructure initiatives:

- a) Refer the results of the survey entitled "Rainbow Crosswalk Survey" and direct the Director of Transportation to implement six (6) additional Pride (rainbow) crosswalks, using pre-established criteria, by Q4 2022, based on input from the community survey, to be funded by the Transportation Reserve Fund.
- b) Direct the Director of Transportation to conduct a review in 2023 on rainbow crosswalks, including additional consultation on future locations and report back to CPRM no later than Q2 2023.
- c) Direct the Director of Roads Parks and Forestry to report back to EICS no later than Q3 2021 with options for including Pride (rainbow) themed benches as an option in the Councillor Bench Program.
- d) Direct the Director of Transportation to report to CPRM no later than Q4 2021 on expanding the Street Banner Program to include a Pride (rainbow) themed option with sufficient time to implement by June 2022, the report shall include options, locations, cost and identify a funding source.

Reason:

Rainbow Crosswalks, benches and banners are visible ways to show that our city stands with our 2SLGBTQIA+ community. They help to send a strong message of welcome and support to everyone in our community and advances our city's values, including those of equity, diversity and inclusion.

After the installation of our first Rainbow Crosswalk in 2020, there was intention to do broad community consultation for future locations. That action was put on pause due to COVID-19; however, interest from the community for additional crosswalks picked up, especially around schools, following the recent decision by the Halton Catholic District School Board of Trustees to not fly the Pride flag for Pride month in June.

An online public survey was prepared to expedite community consultation and respond to the community's requests for additional locations in time to report to the community and City Council by June (Pride month) on locations and next steps.

The survey, posted between May 7th and May 23rd, asked the community to choose their top six locations from a list of locations developed in consultation with council, members of the former Rainbow Crosswalk Project Team, and recommendations received to date from the community. The members of that Project Team included representation from the following organizations:

- Burlington Inclusivity Advisory Committee
- Halton Regional Police Service
- St. Christopher's Church
- Halton District School Board
- Positive Space Network
- PFlag Canada – Halton

Some locations on the list were pre-qualified by city staff, as they need to be at an intersection protected by a stop sign or signal, have good pavement condition, and ideally be in a prominent location with good visibility.

A copy of the survey and results are attached as Appendices A and B, which includes suggestions for additional locations and public comments.

The goal is to install up to six locations by the end of 2022. Any locations not selected at this time can be considered in future years.

Option A) Based purely on votes, the top 6 choices based on community feedback are:

1. Fairview Street and Drury Lane (HCDSB) – Ward 2
2. Upper Middle Road and Quinte Street (Corpus Christi) – Ward 5
3. New Street and Teen Tour Way – Ward 2
4. Upper Middle Road at M.M. Robinson school entrance – Ward 3
5. Dundas Street and Tim Dobbie Drive (Hayden) – Ward 6
6. Walkers Line and Constable Henshaw Blvd. – Ward 6

As indicated in the public survey, we committed to making the final choices based on a combination of “this survey, other community input and ensuring distribution throughout different wards across the city.” The above choices would result in unequal weighting between wards (with 3 total in ward 2, 2 in ward 6, and none in either ward 1 or 4).

Option B) To provide a more equal distribution across the city and incorporate all six wards, the following alternate six choices are an option here with all choices still being taken from the top 10 in community votes:

1. Fairview Street and Drury Lane (HCDSB) – Ward 2
2. Upper Middle Road and Quinte Street (Corpus Christi) – Ward 5
3. Upper Middle Road at M.M. Robinson school entrance – Ward 3
4. Dundas Street and Tim Dobbie Drive (Hayden) – Ward 6
5. New Street & Belvenia (Nelson) – Ward 4 (still came in the top 10)
6. Plains Road West and Botanical Drive (RBG) – Ward 1 (still came in the top 10)

Should any of these not be suitable locations for any implementation reason, other suggestions should be considered as they have been ranked by the community through the survey results.

Financial/funding considerations: The crosswalks are a contracted service and cost roughly \$10,000 per location. The funding source for this program is suggested to be the Transportation Reserve Fund, which has an uncommitted balance of \$11,187,945 as of March 31, 2021 per Report F-18-21.

Rainbow Benches

As part of the Councillor Bench Program, initiated in the last term of council, each council member can select one bench each year to be installed at a qualifying location of their choice in conversation with their constituents.

This motion asks staff to review the procurement requirements for benches, and any incremental funding needs and source, and report back to Committee and Council with options for committee and council to consider in Q3 2021. Rainbow Benches are in place in other municipalities, such as the Towns of Lincoln and Milton. An example of what a rainbow bench looks like is attached as Appendix C.

There is an opportunity as part of the Councillor Bench Program, for councillors to select a rainbow bench location in their ward, to be installed in 2021 or 2022. The existing funding available for this program is \$5000 per location, which includes the bench, concrete pad, and installation.

Rainbow Flag Street Banner Program

Through internal consultation, a suggestion to explore rainbow flags being installed on street poles during the month of June (Pride month), as part of the Street Banner Program. The motion asks staff to review the costs, potential locations and funding source, and report back to Committee and Council by Q4 2021 with options. This timeline would allow implementation by June Pride Month 2022, subject to approval by Committee (CPRM) and Council.

Outcome Sought:

That in recognition and support of Burlington's 2SLGBTQIA+ community, by way of these infrastructure initiatives, will further demonstrate that everyone is welcome and valued here in our City.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Not Required
Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: Approved as per form.

City Manager: Approved.