



**SUBJECT:** Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program Extension Agreement

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Corporate Strategy

Report Number: CS-03-22

Wards Affected: Ward 1

File Numbers: 155-03-01

Date to Committee: n/a

Date to Council: January 18, 2022

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### **Recommendation:**

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Burlington transfer payment amending agreements extending the term and scope of the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling agreement dated March 26, 2018, and any other ancillary document or further amendments required to the agreement between the City of Burlington and the Province of Ontario regarding the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program, to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

That the by-law authorizing the execution of amending agreements with the Province of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Transportation for the Province of Ontario for the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program, substantially in the form attached as Appendix A to Report CS-03-22, be enacted.

### **PURPOSE:**

#### **Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Improve integrated city mobility
  - Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
  - Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
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#### **Background and Discussion:**

In 2018 the City of Burlington's application to the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program was approved. This program provides funding for capital projects that support new or expanded commuter cycling infrastructure. The City has used the funding to complete improvements to the Francis Road Bikeway. The City's funding allocation was \$640,000.

In June 2021, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) informed us that the program deadline had been extended to December 31, 2021. The City applied for the extension which allowed for final components of the project completion to be assigned to the program funding.

### **Strategy/process**

Completion of the Francis Road Bikeway did not require the City's total funding allocation. A program extension and request to use the remaining funding for the installation of physically protected cycling facilities on Plains Road West from Spring Gardens Road to Waterdown Road was submitted and approved by the MTO in December 2021.

Plains Road has been identified in the City's Cycling Plan as part of the Spine Network and requiring a protected facility. This important east-west vehicular corridor contains adequate space for a dedicated, separated cycling facility adjacent to the travel portion of the roadway. Separated cycling facilities provide the greatest protection for cyclists. This direct connection will attract commuter cyclists who are critical in achieving a higher cycling mode share.

The project will include the addition of physically protected cycling facilities on Plains Road West from Spring Gardens Road to Waterdown Road: off-road cycle track on the north side of the road and buffered bike lanes with bollards on the south side of the road. Protected intersection treatments and bike signals are also part of the overall project.

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### **Financial Matters:**

The City's initial allocation was \$640,000. A requirement of the program was that the City contribute 20 per cent of eligible costs to each eligible project. The total cost of the Francis Road Bikeway was \$726,664. The City's portion was funded from Park Dedication Reserve Fund.

At the end of 2021 there was a balance of \$118,846 in the OMCC program account. This balance will be used to offset the cost of implementing protected cycling facilities along Plains Road West from Spring Gardens Road to Waterdown Road. The total cost of the protected cycling facilities project work on Plains Road West is \$3,250,000.

## **Source of Funding**

For the Plains Road project, the City's portion of the project funding will come from the City's capital budget program.

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## **Climate Implications**

Burlington City Council declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 in response to the concerns about the impact that a changing climate is having on the city and communities around the globe. On April 20, 2020, Council approved a Climate Action Plan which provides a framework to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which are identified as the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts.

Burlington's Climate Action Plan identified that the transportation sector was responsible for 44 per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2017. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognizes that shifting modes from private cars to more transit, walking, and cycling trips is a main mitigation option for reducing GHG emissions, but in order for sustainable modes to be utilized, safe and efficient infrastructure is required.

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) report calculated that a 14 per cent increase in cycling mode share globally would result in an 11 per cent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By switching short trips that are easily cyclable distances, from car to cycling trips, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be significantly reduced.

Seven program areas with greatest impact to reduce fossil fuels are highlighted in the Climate Action Plan; one of which is the Integrated Mobility Plan. The Cycling Plan is one component of the forthcoming Integrated Mobility Plan and presents foundational work that will be included in the multi-modal plan.

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## **Engagement Matters:**

N/A

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## **Conclusion:**

The City of Burlington is grateful to Province of Ontario for this funding and the various program extensions that have enabled us to provide commuter cyclists with a safe cycling network throughout the city. Increasing the cycling mode share will contribute favourably towards Burlington's goal of building a multi-modal transportation system.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Government Relations Manager

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**Appendices:**

- A. By-law 05-2022

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.