



**SUBJECT: Transportation Plan – Policy Directions**

**TO: Committee of the Whole**

**FROM: Transportation Services**

Report Number: TS-14-16

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 830-03

Date to Committee: September 20, 2016

Date to Council: October 3, 2016

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**Recommendation:**

Receive and file Transportation Services report TS-14-16 providing the Transportation Plan vision statement and new policy directions.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present the “New Directions” reporting letter, attached as appendix A, created in collaboration with Brent Toderian of TODERIAN UrbanWORKS (TUW). The reporting letter articulates the key transportation policy directions that are required to support a city growing up within its urban boundary.

The workshop facilitated by Transportation Planning staff and Brent Toderian will present the DRAFT Transportation Vision statement for Burlington’s new era of mobility. A vision that has been inspired by Burlington’s Strategic Plan 2015 – 2040 which supports sophisticated city-building as we transition to a city growing up, rather than out.

The goal of this workshop is to facilitate open and candid dialogue and to solicit feedback and commentary from members of Council on the presented reporting letter, so that any changes can be captured before the text becomes the basis for community engagement.

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**Strategic Alignment:**

A City that Grows

- Intensification

#### A City that Moves

- Increased Transportation Flows and Connectivity

#### A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles

#### An Engaging City

- Good Governance

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## **Background and Discussion:**

The DRAFT Transportation Vision sets the framework for the Transportation Plan, which represents a fundamental change in the way we will approach mobility in the years to come.

The vision has inspired a series of powerful “New Directions” which establish the general framework for mobility within the City of Burlington, and are closely aligned with the Official Plan. In order to make the DRAFT Transportation Vision a reality, significant new policy directions are necessary. The Transportation Plan will be designed around the eight “New Directions” that, when implemented, will support our city-building efforts and aspiration to Grow Bold. To support a city that will build up, build smart and build beautiful.

The Transportation Plan will be rooted in the new transportation vision, “New Directions”, and a series of implementation policies and action items under each direction.

It is imperative to note that the Transportation Plan is being prepared in recognition of, and to support, the city’s strategic vision to stop sprawl and instead grow through intensification. Transportation Planning staff have had an active role participating on the Official Plan Policy Review team and as such, participation in developing OP policy has provided influential input into the development of the “New Directions” and represents efficient and sustainable integration of land use, transit and transportation.

The proposed transformational policy shifts are summarized in the following eight “New Directions”:

**Table 1 – “New Directions” Summary**

Title		Description
1	Align Land Use & Transportation	Land-use decisions including density, mix of uses and quality of urban design contribute to a fabric that supports walking, biking and public transit. Fully integrate land-use and transportation decision-making at every level including policy-making and budgeting to ensure that future decisions facilitate a transportation network that supports intensification.
2	Rethink Streets	Abandon the “old” way of thinking, replace the term “road” with “street” and recognize that streets do more than just move automobiles, they are “people-places” and have the potential to be key assets in the civic life of our city.
3	Reprioritize Mobility Choices	Reprioritize decision-making in order to support intensification and allow active & sustainable mobility choices to “catch-up” to the auto and reach an ambitious level of attractiveness in order to realize a true multi-modal city.
4	No New Car Capacity	Intensification with further car-oriented design will only result in continued auto-dependency, expensive infrastructure and an overall failure. Confirm that through the intensification strategy, mobility will be facilitated not through increased auto capacity, but by allocating existing space and budget for walking, biking and public transit. Strategic reallocation of existing car capacity for active and sustainable mobility choices.
5	Make Walking Delightful	Change the culture, decision-making, policy and budget to make the city rapidly more walkable – achieve the strategic goal of becoming a leader in walkability.
6	Make Biking Delightful	Move in a timely way to create a minimum network of safe, connected bike infrastructure with continued network expansion over time. Emphasis on initiatives to build an urban biking culture and achieve the “Gold Standard” for cycling.
7	Make Transit Delightful	Support significant and strategic improvement of transit coverage, service and experience in order improve the branding of public transit as an attractive mobility option. Develop policy to support levels of density that will translate to increased ridership.
8	“Walk the Talk”	Dedicate energy and attention to ensuring that the plan is followed-through. Strategically position the city for successful implementation of the Plan and align budget allocations to the new mode hierarchy.

## **Financial Matters:**

N/A

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## **Connections:**

The proposed policy directions represent a fundamental shift away from suburban planning to urban city building. They are closely connected to two other key city planning processes, the Official Plan Review and Transit Planning; as well as future Mobility Hub Area Planning.

In July, Council endorsed the Urban Structure and Intensification Policy directions in support of the Official Plan Review. The successful implementation of the Official Plan policy directions will rely upon the implementation of a Transportation Plan that will enable a shift towards walking, cycling and transit – as proposed through the “New Directions”. The Transportation Plan, as guided by the policy directions presented in this report, will support the urban structure and intensification framework through the introduction of fundamental shifts to mobility and interconnected land use and transportation planning.

The policy directions outlined in this report not only support more desirable and complete communities, but also aid in the creation of more efficient and desirable transit services. The policies developed through the Transportation Plan will guide future growth plans for transit and support strategic growth.

The integration of this work with other key initiatives undertaken through both the Planning & Building Department and Capital Works Department represents a paradigm shift in how the city will align land use, transit and transportation infrastructure decision making.

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## **Public Engagement Matters:**

Staff from Communications, Transportation, Planning and Building, Transit and other city departments have been working together to develop a comprehensive communications plan that is aligned with the Strategic Plan, one that includes key messages in support of all corporate plans, with a specific focus on messages related to growth, intensification and city-building.

Next steps include sharing the draft vision and eight draft “New Directions” with the public as a re-launch for the new Transportation Plan. The intent is to initiate a

community conversation, leveraging the work currently underway as part of the corporate-wide communication strategy and look for opportunities to inform, consult and involve the community.

Our intent is to proactively explain to the public the “origin story” of the DRAFT Transportation Vision and eight “New Directions”, identifying the parallels between the already approved Strategic Plan and Council’s commitment to city-building. Public engagement will reiterate that the community has an opportunity to comment on whether we’re on the right track in terms of alignment with the endorsed Strategic Plan and overall arching goals of intensification, and asking if we have taken the right approach. Most importantly, we will invite the public to comment and recommend specific policies, actions or initiatives that should be the priority of the city in order to realize the Transportation Vision and successfully implement the “New Directions”.

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### **Conclusion:**

Council’s in-principle endorsement of the DRAFT Transportation Vision and eight “New Directions” will represent a critical step in establishing the framework of the Transportation Plan, and in enabling staff to develop and bring forward supporting policies and actions required to evolve vision into reality.

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Respectfully submitted,

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### **Appendices:**

- a. TODERIAN UrbanWORKS Reporting Letter – Transportation vision and New Directions

### **Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.