Transit Assessment

PURPOSE:

This document provides guidance for the preparation of a Transit Assessment which may be required for the submission of an application under the *Planning Act*. All Transit Assessments shall follow the guidelines referenced in this document.

A Transit Assessment provides information to assess the ability of the existing or planned transit services to accommodate the additional development related transit demand and identifies when new or increased services or infrastructure may be required. A Transit Assessment ensures the development will promote and facilitate transit as a primary mode of transportation, resulting in a reduction in auto trips to other modes of transportation.

A Transit Assessment may be required when a development has the potential to create or increase transit trips, resulting in the need for improvements to existing services or facilities or provision of additional capacity / new routes or services. The need for a Transit Assessment will be identified during the Formal Consultation stage. The need for a Transit Assessment is a discretionary submission item in the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Rural Hamilton Official Plan for the submission of an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, Plan of Subdivision, and Site Plan Control Application.

PREPARED BY:

The Transit Assessment must be prepared by a consultant registered as a Professional Engineer in the province of Ontario. The consultant must affix their stamp and seal and specifically identify the engineer who prepared the work. The consultant is expected to

be a qualified transportation consultant experienced in transportation or transit planning.

CONTENTS:

The need for a Transit Assessment and the terms of reference for the Assessment are to be confirmed through a pre-study consultation with Transportation Planning staff.

The Transit Assessment may be provided as a standalone document or as a separate section within a broader document containing the required transportation studies.

The Transit Assessment may be required to:

- Identify the existing transit routes serving the study area including frequency of service;
- Identify when existing routes and services are operating at or near capacity;
- Identify other modes of active or sustainable transportation options within the study area that provide first mile / last mile connections to existing transit stops or stations;
- Assess age-friendly accessibility to the transit network from the site, ensuring ease of use for older adults and individuals with mobility challenges;
- Identify equity-deserving populations that may access the site and evaluate transit network connections to meet their needs;
- Outline how the development will connect to the existing or future transit services;
- Outline the expected change in ridership due to the development proposal;
- Provide recommendations on changes to existing transit service to support the development such as increased frequency or route modifications/extensions;
- Identify the need for new transit service to support the development and proposed routing and frequency of service; and,

- Provide recommendations on transit stop or station upgrades to enhance user comfort and experience, including street enhancements to ensure safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling access to and from the proposed site.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Transportation Assessment Guidelines | City of Hamilton

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development Department and Hamilton Street Railway

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