Memorandum

To/Attention: City of Hamilton  Date: March 1, 2018
From: IBI Group
Subject: Mountain Brow Trail Feasibility Master Plan
        Public Consultation Summary

Introduction

The City of Hamilton & IBI Group are developing a Feasibility Master Plan for the Mountain Brow Trail, a proposed recreational trail that will follow the escarpment edge as closely as possible from the east terminus of Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area in Ward 8 to the west terminus of Devil’s Punch Bowl in Ward 9. Roughly 25 km in length and spanning 4 wards, the trail will take advantage of views and provide connectivity between wards.

A major component of the feasibility study is public involvement. As part of the engagement process, the City of Hamilton hosted four (4) Public Information Centres (PIC) and an online survey to present the preliminary layout of the trail and garner feedback on how the existing portions of the trail are being used, and how they may be used in the future.

This memo summarizes the consultation process and findings.

Consultation Summary

Four PICs were held, one in each ward where the trail is proposed. The dates and times for the PICs were scheduled as summarized in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1- PIC Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward 6</th>
<th>Ward 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 13, 2017</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>6:00pm-8:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House with a presentation from</td>
<td>Open House with a presentation from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Library Meeting Room,</td>
<td>Sherwood Library Meeting Room,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>467 Upper Ottawa St.</td>
<td>467 Upper Ottawa St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton L8T3T3</td>
<td>Hamilton L8T3T3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward 8</th>
<th>Ward 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 21, 2017</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 22, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>6:00pm to 8:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House with a presentation from</td>
<td>Open House with a presentation from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chedoke Multi-Use Bocce Club,</td>
<td>Winterberry Heights Church,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 Chedmac Dr,</td>
<td>300 Winterberry Dr,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, ON L9C 7R5</td>
<td>Stoney Creek, ON L8J 3Y1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The PICs were advertised 1-2 weeks prior to the date of the PIC through the City of Hamilton’s website, the City of Hamilton’s Twitter Feed and through the local paper – Hamilton Mountain News (Wards, 6, 7 & 8) and Stoney Creek News (Ward 9). City of Hamilton’s Manager of Landscape Architectural Services also did an interview with Cable 14 News on November 30, 2017. Residents of properties directly abutting the proposed trail alignment also received mailed notices about the PIC. The advertisement is included in Appendix A and the notice sent to participants is included in Appendix B.

For all of the PICs, City of Hamilton and IBI Group staff were on hand to review information and discuss the project with participants. The PICs were scheduled to begin with a presentation outlining the objectives of the sessions, the proposed trail route, and identified areas of interest (opportunities and constraints), explaining definitions of any terms and processes used throughout the development process, and informing participants about the steps that will follow1.

**Formal presentations at PIC #1 & PIC #3**

In addition to the formal presentation, participants were guided to one of four stations (any order) to participate in:

1. **Dotocracy** - a dot matrix questionnaire which allowed users to describe how they currently use the existing trail, how they expect to use the completed trail and improvements they would like to see implemented as part of the Mountain Brow Trail project.

2. **Investment Jar** – users were asked to indicate their preference for either:
   i. a fully connected trail route experience, with amenities instituted later on; or

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1 For Ward 7, the presentation was withheld, since the small number of participants allowed for one-on-one discussions with facilitators. The presentation for Ward 9 was also withheld, since there were no participants.
ii. sections of trail installed with full amenities, leaving connections to be made later.

3. **Roll Out Plan** – users were asked to identify – using dots - where they lived, where they usually access the trail, where they park and where they would like additional parking. There were also asked to mark the route they take to their preferred access point(s) using markers.

4. **Alternate Routes** – consisted of a context plan, the trail broken into five (5) sections and a comments board. Users were asked to indicate their preference for the proposed alignment or an alternate route in five (5) locations

Users were also encouraged to use sticky notes to leave additional comments on the comments board or on the roll-out plan.

**PIC Materials including the Dotmocracy, Investment Jars & Roll Plan**
Attendees were asked to sign in, but it was not mandatory. In total, 39 residents were recorded as having attended across the four (4) PICs, with PICs in Ward 6 and 8 being the most well-attended (20 and 14 respectively).

For users who were not able to attend any of the consultation events, an online survey was made available to allow participation from as many residents as possible. Similarly to the PICs, the online survey was advertised through the City of Hamilton’s website, Twitter Feed and advertised in local papers. From this process, ninety-two (92) respondents completed, or took a portion of, the Mountain Brow Trail Survey. Some residents also directly emailed responses to Project Manager. Results are a composite of the three methods of resident feedback.

A copy of the online survey is included in Appendix C.

City of Hamilton tweet advertising the Mountain Brow Trail Survey
Summary of Feedback

The results summarize below reflect the combined input from the PICs and the online surveys.

Demographics

There was a fairly even spread across age groups, with the exception of those under 15 years old as shown in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2 Demographics of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Online Survey</th>
<th>PIC Meetings</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 35</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 - 45</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 - 55</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 - 65</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Responses</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trail Use and Access

Most respondents expect to use the trail daily (25%) or a few times per month (52%), with the top three activities being walking/hiking (28%), Bicycling (20%) and nature viewing/sightseeing (15%) (refer to Exhibit 3). The majority of respondents use sections of existing trail along the brow for fitness/exercise (32%), enjoyment of nature (28%) and for access to special destinations: historic sites, waterfalls, parks, etc. (20%) (refer to Exhibit 4). Throughout the year, the majority of respondents use the trails in the evenings (39%) on weekdays and in the mornings (34%) or afternoons (31%) on weekends.
The majority of the respondents arrive at the existing trails walking/running (45%), driving (27%) or biking/rollerblading/skateboarding (18%), spend 30 minutes to 2 hours (62% 30 minutes – 1 hour; 32% 1-2 hours) and travel 1-10 kilometres (67% 1-5 kilometres; 24% 6-10 kilometres).
Overall, respondents were comfortable using the different types of facilities that are proposed to be used along the Mountain Brow Trail, as shown in Exhibit 5.

**Exhibit 5 - Feedback on the different facility types proposed for the Mountain Brow Trail**

![Bar chart showing comfort with various facility types](chart.png)

**Trail Improvements**

Respondents were asked to indicate their top three (3) wish list improvements for the Mountain Brow Trail (refer to Exhibit 6). The top three responses were scenic views/lookout points (13%), year-round maintenance (12%) and lighting (10%). Other amenities mentioned, but not listed, included free 2-3 hour parking, washrooms, and pedestrian bridges at key locations, such as Kenilworth Access, Upper Centennial Parkway and the Jolleycut.
Exhibit 6 - Respondents' “Wish List" of trail improvements

Respondents are generally in favour of installing the length of the proposed trail when given the choice to install:

a. a fully connected trail within a shorter timeframe, with amenities added over time (66%); or
b. segments of trail installed within a shorter timeframe, with full amenities installed first, full connecting those segments over a longer period of time (34%).

Online respondents were also asked to identify the Ward which should be prioritized for development first or to select a continuous/connected trail that spans all the wards. 62% were in favour of a continuous/connected trail, 18% prioritized the segment in Ward 8, 10% prioritized the segment in Wards 6 & 7 and 2% prioritized the segment in Ward 9.

Exhibit 7-11 show respondent's choices for the proposed route or alternate routes in five (5) locations. Respondents were in favour of the proposed route in two (2) locations – Sanatorium Road (57%), and Mountain Brow Boulevard (75%). Respondents preferred the alternate route of Scenic Drive/Fennell Avenue (76%) to Denlow Avenue/Garth Street (24%). There was no preference for either First Road East/Doasoco Trail (50%) versus Upper Centennial Parkway/Ridge Road (50%), or Claremont Drive/Inverness Avenue (47%) versus Claremont Access/Jolley Cut (44%).
Exhibit 7 Feedback on Alternate Routes – Sanatorium Road vs Scenic Drive

Exhibit 8 Feedback on Alternate Routes - Denlow Avenue vs Scenic Drive
Exhibit 9 Feedback on Alternate Routes - Claremont Drive vs Brantdale Avenue vs Claremont Access

Exhibit 10 Feedback on Alternate Routes - Mountain Brow Boulevard vs Upper Ottawa Street
Exhibit 11 Feedback on Alternate Routes - First Road vs Upper Centennial Parkway

General Input

Outside of the formal survey, City of Hamilton & IBI Group staff at the PIC noted specific input from residents. General feedback received included:

- Support for a trail that emphasizes the brow’s natural beauty and unique views; This was accompanied by a desire to emphasize trail alternatives that stayed as close to the brow as possible
- Desire for the trail to be respectful of the community context, particularly from a privacy and access perspective; On the other hand, many residents expressed the desire for a continuous multi-use trail (rather than varying facility types) in order to maintain a consistent, high quality ‘trail’ experience’ along the full corridor
- Residents expressed a desire for the trail route to include high level transformational changes such as grand pedestrian bridges where key vista locations coincide with difficult road crossings, road closures to provide Hamilton’s version of the High Line (New York) as well as proposed trail routes that remain close to the brow in areas that are currently in private ownership and/or are in sensitive natural areas. While these ideas have merit from a long term visioning perspective for Hamilton Mountain Brow as a destination, these ideas are not immediately feasible based on the prioritization criteria used in the study and have not been included in the primary or alternative routes at this time.
- Desire to use the trail project to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, for example where sidewalks are currently missing
• Desire for trail etiquette education to address safety concerns about multiple users on a single path

Conclusion

In general, the community supports the development of the Mountain Brow Trail. They have expressed issues of feasibility, maintenance and safety, which will be investigated as the design of the trail progresses in future stages of work. Respondents have also made additional suggestions about the nature of the trail vision, the routing, and amenities, which will be investigated as part of the feasibility study.

Most respondents are eager to see the progression of the project, and to understand with more certainty issues around property ownership, preserving mature plant material, path and roadway safety as well as the trail’s proximity to the Brow of Hamilton Mountain.
Appendix A – PIC Advertisements
Appendix B – Notice sent to Residents adjacent to the Mountain Brow Trail
Appendix C – Online Survey