



Governance and Priorities Committee Report For the Meeting of October 22nd, 2015.

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** October 9, 2015

From: Katie Hamilton, Director Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
Jonathan Tinney, Director Sustainable Planning & Community Development
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Subject: #Biketoria Interim Report: Long-term Bicycle Network & Priority Corridor Identification

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information and direct staff and consultants to proceed with public engagement and detailed conceptual design of priority corridors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following up on the October 8, 2015 Governance and Priorities Bicycle Network and Priority Corridors Project Update Report, the following report provides City Council with an overview of the methodology, analysis and results which has informed the Consultants' recommendations to enhance Victoria's "All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network" and proposed priority corridors. The consultancy team includes local engineering and planning firm, Urban Systems in partnership with leading international cycling organizations Gehl Architects, 8 80 Cities, and Alta Planning. This report also outlines the next steps for engaging with citizens and other stakeholder groups on the proposed priority corridors and detailed conceptual design for Council consideration in early 2016. The proposed priority corridors identified to present to the public for further consultation include the following:

North – South priority corridors include:

- Harbour Road / Wharf Street / Belleville Street
- Government Street / Gorge Road
- Cook Street / Graham and Fifth Street
- Begbie Street / Shelbourne Street

East – West priority corridors include:

- Pandora Avenue / Oak Bay Avenue
- Humboldt Street / Fairfield Road
- Fort Street
- Haultain Street / Bay Street & Kings Road

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with the following:

- A summary of the research and technical analysis that has informed the assessment and enhancement of the bicycle network and priority corridors;
- The recommended priority corridors; and
- The approach and activities planned as part of a #Biketoria Communications and Engagement Strategy, to seek community feedback on the proposed network, priority corridors, and design concepts for the proposed priority corridors.

BACKGROUND

City Council has committed to complete a Multi-Modal Transportation Network by building an 'All Ages and Abilities' cycling network by 2018. On May 21, 2015, Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals for consulting services to review and enhance the cycling network in Victoria. This work aligns with Council's strategic direction outlined in the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan objective to "Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network". To achieve this objective, Council allocated \$7.75 million for cycling and pedestrian improvements over the next three years. To support this initiative a world-class team of consultants have been tasked with the following:

- Review and analyze public input received during public engagement on the bike network in 2014;
- Review and enhance the bicycle network approved in 2014;
- Recommend an 'All Ages and Abilities' bicycle network and priority corridors based on detailed analysis;
- Establish and consult with a Technical Advisory Committee representing a diverse portfolio of stakeholder groups to provide input and advice on the proposed priority network and detailed conceptual designs;
- Develop detailed conceptual designs and order of magnitude costing for both the identified priority corridors and completion of the entire proposed network
- Implement a focused citizen engagement process to collect input; and
- Prepare and present an interim and final report to Council, including an implementation plan to develop priority corridors.

This report introduces the Consultants' Biketoria Interim Report, prepared by Urban Systems in collaboration with Gehl Architects, 8 80 Cities, and Alta Planning, which highlights the assessment and enhancement of the 'All Ages and Abilities' bicycle network and the recommended priority corridors to engage with citizens on conceptual designs. It also provides a high level overview of future engagement process for the duration of the project.

OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

To ensure that the City's future bicycle network investments accommodate a broad range of ages and abilities, and encourages a greater cycling mode share, the network analysis assessed the 2014 Bicycle Network and public engagement activities. Through this work, a more focused set of guiding principles was developed and tested with the Technical Advisory group to guide further development of the network analysis. The consultants also undertook an extensive analysis of a number of criteria to assess potential options for the primary network design as detailed in Appendix A of this report.

Based on an analysis of the recommended network from 2014, and technical assessments relating to support comfort, completeness, convenience, demand, and feasibility, the Interim report provides a recommended All-Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling network for Victoria with eight recommended

priority corridors. The analysis of options and technical assessment that has resulted in the recommended priority corridors is also outlined in detail in the #Biketoria Interim Report.

Based on the assessment to date, engagement of the public and stakeholder groups has been planned for late October/November. This engagement will seek to confirm the selection of the priority corridors, AAA network, and detailed design concepts.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Building on extensive public engagement in 2014, a high level of public engagement will continue to inform and refine final recommendations to the bicycle network, its priority corridors and associated cycling infrastructure design concepts to encourage more people riding bikes more often. Engagement activities to support the design process and final recommendations include the following:

- Technical Advisory Committee Meetings to provide specific input on the proposed network and detailed design
- A "Biketoria Summit" including subject experts speakers and interactive displays for public feedback
- Open house and priority corridor specific engagement activities to gain feedback for the proposed priority corridors and gather citizen input on preferred design concepts
- Neighbourhood salons (open houses) to present detailed concepts, and the final recommended network
- A social media strategy using a number of mediums, including on-going website updates, online survey, and social media promotion through other avenues to get more information and provide input

Further details of the engagement and consultation activities are outlined in detail in the #Biketoria Interim Report.

NEXT STEPS

Should Council direct staff and consultants to proceed with citizen engagement on the proposed priority corridors, engagement activities will take place with a broad range of stakeholders and citizens to inform the proposed network and conceptual designs beginning in late October. This feedback will be reflected in detailed design concepts and an Engagement Summit summary report that will be shared with members of Council in December.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the analysis and methodology which has informed recommendations to enhance Victoria's All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Bicycle Network and proposed priority corridors. Provided Council supports the work to date, staff will work with the Consultants' to engage with citizens and other government agencies on the proposed network in the Biketoria Interim Report, including further consultation and the development of conceptual designs as the next stage in the process. A final report is expected to be provided to Council in early 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



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Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

_____ October 15, 2015 _____

List of Attachments

Appendix A: #Biketoria Interim Report