



Transportation Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 1
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair: Councillor Tim Tierney
Vice-Chair: Councillor Catherine Kitts
Councillors Jessica Bradley, George Darouze, Steve Desroches, Sean Devine, Laura Dudas, Glen Gower, Laine Johnson, Wilson Lo, Matt Luloff and Ariel Troster
Mayor Mark Sutcliffe (Ex Officio)

1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public

Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; information items not subject to discussion; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and hybrid participation details.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.

Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on February 8, 2023 in Transportation Committee Report 1.

The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations was 4 pm on Wednesday, January 25, and the deadline to register to speak by email was 8:30 am on Thursday, January 26.

This draft Minutes document contains a summary of the disposition of items and actions taken at the meeting. This document does not include all of the text that will be included in the final Minutes, such as the record of written and oral submissions. Recorded votes and dissents contained in

this draft Minutes document are draft until the Minutes of the meeting are confirmed by the Committee. The final draft Minutes will be published with the agenda for the next regular Committee meeting and, once confirmed, will replace this document.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 TRC Minutes 31 – Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Carried

4. Office of the City Clerk

4.1 Transportation Committee Terms of Reference

File No. ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0003 - City-wide

Ms Caitlin Salter MacDonald, Manager, Council and Committee Services, Office of the City Clerk, and Ms Vivi Chi, Director, Transportation Planning, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department, responded to questions from Councillor Johnson related to the Committee's draft Terms of Reference and how they relate to the Transportation Master Plan, to be considered by the Committee later this year. In response to questions regarding a commitment to prioritizing safety in the Committee's Terms of Reference, Chair Tierney suggested that staff liaise with the Councillor's office to discuss appropriate wording before this item rises to Council on 8 February 2023.

With discussions having concluded, the report recommendation was put before Committee and was 'CARRIED', as presented.

Report Recommendation

That the Transportation Committee recommend Council approve its Terms of Reference, as outlined in this report and attached as Document 1.

Carried

5. In-Camera Items

There were no *In-Camera* Items.

6. Information Previously Distributed

6.1 Wellington Street Temporary Road Closure

With the will of the Committee, the above item, listed on the Transportation Committee agenda as *Information Previously Distributed*, was lifted for the Committee's consideration by the introduction of the following Motion:

MOTION N° TRC 2023 - 01-01

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kitts:

That, pursuant to Subsection 89(3) of the Procedure By-law (being By-law N° 2022-410), the Transportation Committee approve that the Rules of Procedure be suspended to allow for the consideration of the item listed as:

***IPD A – WELLINGTON STREET TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
(ACS2023-PWD-TRF-0001)***

CARRIED

The Vice-Chair then read out the following Motion:

MOTION N° TRC 2023 - 01-02

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kitts:

WHEREAS on February 23, 2022, Council approved a motion to temporarily close Wellington Street between Bank Street and Elgin Street until the end of 2022 and that the road not re-open until such a time that a report is brought forward to Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS the IPD sent to Council on January 17, 2023, indicated that staff will bring forward a report to Transportation Committee once the Traffic Study that is set to begin shortly has been completed; and

WHEREAS Traffic Services conducted a review of traffic impacts due to the closure, and concluded that the current closure is manageable based on 2022 traffic volumes, however, have observed some impacts of detoured traffic on the road network in the area; and

WHEREAS the return to the office of Federal Government employees will lead to increased pedestrian, cycling and traffic volumes in the downtown core and along with planned major construction projects in the area, will lead to increase congestion; and

WHEREAS the City has received requests from residents, businesses and visitors to re-open Wellington Street; and

WHEREAS the increased congestion and impacts of detoured traffic can increase the number of potential risks to pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS opening Wellington Street will provide additional capacity for vehicles travelling in the downtown core, thereby reducing the impact of the return to work of Federal Employees and planned lane reductions as a result of construction in the area; and

WHEREAS staff can currently, in consultation with Ottawa Police Services, Ottawa Fire Services and Ottawa Paramedic Services, choose to temporarily close Wellington Street and other city streets for special events, security reasons or to allow for lawful protests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in consultation with Ottawa Police Services, Ottawa Fire Services and Ottawa Paramedic Services, Wellington Street between Elgin and Bank Street be re-opened to all traffic as soon as it is operationally feasible as determined by the Director of Traffic Services but no sooner than March 1st, 2023 to allow for the replacement and installation of traffic infrastructure in the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff explore options for temporary road closures of Wellington Street between Elgin Street and Bank Street during the summer of 2023 for special events and community programming or for the safety and wellbeing of the residents of Ottawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Managers of Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development and Public Works continue ongoing discussions with Federal officials regarding the potential of a redefined Parliamentary Precinct, with appropriate consultation with local businesses and residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff ensure that appropriate easements, city infrastructure, future transportation plans, land valuation process, impact of any changes to bus routes on the capacity of downtown street including accesses and entrances to O-Train stations and any potential land exchange are considered in all discussions with federal officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff continue to work with Public Service and Procurement Canada on finalizing a traffic study and report back to Transportation Committee and Council in the first quarter of 2024 or as soon as the study is complete including an update on ongoing discussions, recommendations and any requests resulting from the negotiation framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED staff regularly liaise with the mayor's office and the local Councillor to identify opportunities to increase programming and seek out partnerships to improve the beautification and animation of the Wellington Street.

Ms. Vivi Chi, Director, Transportation Planning, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development (PRED) Department, and Mr. Philippe Landry, Director, Traffic Services, Public Works Department, were present to respond to questions.

The Committee then heard from the following public delegations, offering their views on the possibility of reopening Wellington Street:

1. Mr. Derrick Simpson, President, Centretown Community Association and Chair, CCA Transportation Committee
2. Hon. Andrew Cardozo*, Senator
3. Mr. Stephen MacDonald
4. Mr. William van Geest⁺, Living City Program Coordinator, Ecology Ottawa

5. Ms Linda Mathies+, Parkways for People
6. Mr. Dave Robertson
7. Mr. Gabriel Rivett-Carnac
8. Mr. Kevin McHale, Executive Director, Sparks Street BIA and Mall Authority
9. Mr. Ben Cool-Fergus

Written submissions were also received from the following:

1. Ms Brenda Knight* (Residents of Park Square - 151 Bay Street)
2. Mr. John Grant*
3. Mr. Edgar M. Toro*
4. Mr. Jarno van der Kolk*
5. Mr. Tom and Ms Sue Janson*

[+ Slide presentations/visuals, held on file with the Office of the City Clerk]

*[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions and presentations are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]*

During Committee's consideration of the Motion, Councillor Troster proposed the addition of a temporary bicycle lane as follows:

That the re-opening plan include a temporary protected bike lane with the use of flex posts to retain the cycling connections in between temporary closures and re-openings and to protect active transportation users from vehicular traffic.

Councillor Troster also proposed the following:

Direction to Staff:

That staff provide an update to Committee and Council by memorandum identifying the framework for what the seasonal closure and animation (of Wellington Street) would involve, and to lay out the parameters for such a project, before the Spring of 2023.

With discussions having concluded, Motion N^o TRC 2023 - 01-02, as amended, was put before Committee and was 'CARRIED' on a vote of 12

‘Yeas’ to zero ‘Nays’, as follows:

WHEREAS on February 23, 2022, Council approved a motion to temporarily close Wellington Street between Bank Street and Elgin Street until the end of 2022 and that the road not re-open until such a time that a report is brought forward to Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS the IPD sent to Council on January 17, 2023, indicated that staff will bring forward a report to Transportation Committee once the Traffic Study that is set to begin shortly has been completed; and

WHEREAS Traffic Services conducted a review of traffic impacts due to the closure, and concluded that the current closure is manageable based on 2022 traffic volumes, however, have observed some impacts of detoured traffic on the road network in the area; and

WHEREAS the return to the office of Federal Government employees will lead to increased pedestrian, cycling and traffic volumes in the downtown core and along with planned major construction projects in the area, will lead to increase congestion; and

WHEREAS the City has received requests from residents, businesses, and visitors to re-open Wellington Street; and

WHEREAS the increased congestion and impacts of detoured traffic can increase the number of potential risks to pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS opening Wellington Street will provide additional capacity for vehicles travelling in the downtown core, thereby reducing the impact of the return to work of Federal Employees and planned lane reductions as a result of construction in the area; and

WHEREAS staff can currently, in consultation with Ottawa Police Services, Ottawa Fire Services and Ottawa Paramedic Services,

choose to temporarily close Wellington Street and other city streets for special events, security reasons or to allow for lawful protests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in consultation with Ottawa Police Services, Ottawa Fire Services and Ottawa Paramedic Services, Wellington Street between Elgin and Bank Street be re-opened to all traffic as soon as it is operationally feasible as determined by the Director of Traffic Services but no sooner than March 1st, 2023 to allow for the replacement and installation of traffic infrastructure in the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff explore options for temporary road closures of Wellington Street between Elgin Street and Bank Street during the summer of 2023 for special events and community programming or for the safety and wellbeing of the residents of Ottawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Managers of Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development and Public Works continue ongoing discussions with Federal officials regarding the potential of a redefined Parliamentary Precinct, with appropriate consultation with local businesses and residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff ensure that appropriate easements, city infrastructure, future transportation plans, land valuation process, impact of any changes to bus routes on the capacity of downtown street including accesses and entrances to O-Train stations and any potential land exchange are considered in all discussions with federal officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff continue to work with Public Service and Procurement Canada on finalizing a traffic study and report back to Transportation Committee and Council in the first quarter of 2024 or as soon as the study is complete including an update on ongoing discussions, recommendations and any requests resulting from the negotiation framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED staff regularly liaise with the mayor's office and the local Councillor to identify opportunities to increase

programming and seek out partnerships to improve the beautification and animation of the Wellington Street, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the re-opening plan include a temporary protected bike lane with the use of flex posts to retain the cycling connections in between temporary closures and re-openings and to protect active transportation users from vehicular traffic.

YEAS (12): Councillors J. Bradley, G. Darouze, S. Desroches, S.Devine, L. Dudas, G. Gower, L. Johnson, W. Lo, M. Luloff, A. Troster, C. Kitts and Chair T. Tierney

NAYS (0):

Carried

7. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

8. Inquiries

8.1 TRC 23-01 - Windrow Snow Removal

Snow windrows present an inconvenience to residents across the city and are particularly difficult for both seniors and people with disabilities to clear. While other Canadian municipalities have experimented with or are actively involved with windrow clearing programs, the City of Ottawa does not currently provide this service. Instead, the City has created both the Snow-Go and the Snow-Go Assist programs that connect seniors and people with disabilities with reputable contractors and provides moderate financial assistance for those considered low-income. While these programs are helpful, residents have been asking the city to consider a more robust windrow removal program.

1. Can staff provide a detailed overview of the uptake on both the Snow-Go and Snow-Go Assist program? This should include the volume of residents that take advantage of the program, the cost to administer the program, and the annual amount of subsidies provided to eligible residents.
2. Can staff provide an estimated cost as well as resource requirement for the following scenarios:

Municipality clears windrows from driveways for seniors and those with disability

- a) Tax supported city-wide; service provided to seniors and those with disability only
- b) Service provided to seniors and those with disability based upon full cost user pay system
- c) Service provided to seniors and those with disability based upon a partial cost recovery system

8.2 TRC 23-02 - Comparison of Snow Removal Service Standards

Please provide a comparison of the snow removal service standards for the City of Ottawa and other Canadian municipalities with comparable size and weather, including service response times, areas of responsibility (i.e. sidewalks/private laneways, etc.), associated bylaws, and the level of service for various classifications of roads.

9. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 23, 2023.

Original signed by
C. Zwierzchowski, Committee
Coordinator

Original signed by
Councillor T. Tierney, Chair