

**Members' Motion submitted to Public Works and Infrastructure Committee**

Meeting date: 30 March 2026

Moved by: Councillor A. Troster (on behalf of Councillor T. Kavanagh)

**Motion Title: Motion – Councillor A. Troster - Road Murals**

ACS File No.: ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0024

Ward: City-wide

**Motion d'un membre soumise au Comité de l'infrastructure et des travaux publics**

Date de la réunion : le 30 mars 2026

Motion de : Conseillère A. Troster (pour la conseillère T. Kavanagh)

**Titre de la motion : Motion – Conseillère A. Troster - Murales de rue**

Dossier n° (ACS) : ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0024

Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville

**Motion**

**WHEREAS Road murals provide significant community benefits. By capturing drivers' attention, they help calm traffic and improve pedestrian safety, creating streets that feel more welcoming and secure; and**

**WHEREAS Beyond safety, these murals celebrate local culture and history, fostering a sense of identity and pride among residents; and**

**WHEREAS Road murals also make neighborhoods more visually appealing and distinctive, attracting visitors and supporting tourism, reflect local culture and history, strengthening community connections and make neighborhoods more inviting and distinctive; and**

**WHEREAS** There are currently no clear directives from the City of Ottawa to communities on how to safely implement road murals, and that residents have been requesting clear guidance to begin projects for some time.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that staff develop regulations regarding murals on City roads including:

- which streets are permitted to have on-street murals (e.g. residential vs arterial)
- location considerations such as minimum distance from curbs and intersections
- aesthetic safety issues to ensure that they do not obstruct or mimic traffic signs/devices
- accepted paint types which are skid-resistant, non-reflective, and durable
- regulations around the maintenance and removal of degrading murals
- funding for accepted projects be integrated under the Ward Temporary Traffic Calming budget
- right of way and road closure considerations during the painting process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff work towards developing:

- clear information for residents interested in creating a road mural, such as a 'how-to' guide
- a permit application method for residents that is clear, and accessible online; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these regulations be completed by the end of Q2 2026.

**Motion**

**ATTENDU QUE** les murales de rue procurent d'importants bienfaits communautaires, car en attirant l'attention des automobilistes, elles contribuent à modérer la circulation et à améliorer la sécurité des piétons, ce qui rend les rues plus accueillantes et sécuritaires; et

**ATTENDU QU'au-delà de la sécurité, les murales mettent en valeur la culture et l'histoire locales, renforçant le sentiment d'appartenance et la fierté chez les résidents; et**

**ATTENDU QUE les murales de rue améliorent le cachet visuel et distinctif des quartiers, ce qui attire les visiteurs et favorise le tourisme, reflète la culture et l'histoire locales, renforce les liens communautaires et rehausse le caractère invitant et unique des quartiers; et**

**ATTENDU QUE la Ville d'Ottawa n'a jamais donné de directives claires aux communautés sur la création sécuritaire de murales de rue, et que les résidents réclament depuis quelque temps que de telles directives soient transmises au début des projets;**

**PAR CONSÉQUENT, IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le personnel rédige des règles sur les murales de rues incluant ce qui suit :**

- les rues où les murales seront permises (p. ex., artères ou rues résidentielles);
- les questions d'emplacement, notamment la distance minimale entre la murale et la bordure de rue et les intersections;
- les questions esthétiques de sécurité, les murales ne devant pas obstruer les panneaux et dispositifs de signalisation ni trop leur ressembler;
- les types de peinture permis, qui seront durables, antidérapants et anti-reflet;
- les questions d'entretien et d'effacement des murales vétustes;
- l'obligation d'intégrer les projets acceptés au budget des mesures temporaires de modération de la circulation dans les quartiers;
- les questions de droit de passage et de fermeture de rues pendant la réalisation d'une murale;

**IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QU'il soit demandé au personnel de produire :**

- de l'information claire pour les résidents souhaitant créer une murale de rue, par exemple un guide pratique;
- une méthode de demande de permis accessible en ligne et facile à suivre pour le public;

**IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QUE ces règles soient prêtes d'ici la fin du deuxième trimestre de 2026.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COMMENTS**

Traffic Services within the Public Works Department has been actively developing criteria for decorative paint applications on City roadways. Decorative applications are not intended to serve as regulatory or guidance pavement markings which are defined in the [Ontario Traffic Manual \(OTM\) Book 11 – Pavement, Hazard and Delineation Markings](#).

Staff have recently received the *Decorative Crosswalk Pavement Marking Guidance* from the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), which will be formally incorporated into the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada, Sixth Edition* at a later date. While this guidance is specific to decorative crosswalks, many of the principles are broadly applicable to other decorative roadway treatments, including community murals. Applying this guidance will support the development of criteria that ensure decorative marking applications do not compromise roadway safety or operational effectiveness.

Traffic Services remains positioned to complete the required criteria for decorative paint applications on City roadways within the Q2 timeline.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications or concerns.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Services is aware of the Motion and will be in attendance to answer any questions.

## **Disposition**

If carried at Committee, this motion will be submitted to City Council for consideration on April 8, 2026.

Staff in the Public Works Department will implement the recommendations in this motion, as appropriate.