TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Speros Kanellos, Director of Real Estate & Construction Services
John Johnson, Manager of Facilities, Real Estate & Construction Services

DATE OF MEETING: November 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Downtown Core Municipal Public Washrooms

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On August 4th, 2009, staff was directed by Council to report back on the issue of current municipally operated public washrooms. The direction from Council did not specify the scope of the request, therefore, staff has focussed on the downtown area in consideration of the concentrated pedestrian activity in this area. The report will also discuss potential capacity for expansion in relation to the development of future municipal projects in the downtown area.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for information purposes only.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

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<th>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER</th>
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<td>Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties &amp; Emergency Services</td>
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<th>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</th>
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<td>Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</td>
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

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<tr>
<th>Commissioner/Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Beach, Sustainability &amp; Growth</td>
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<td>Lanie Hurdle, Community Services</td>
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<td>Denis Leger, Transportation, Properties &amp; Emergency Services</td>
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<td>Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</td>
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(N/R indicates consultation not required)
OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:
The City of Kingston provides safe, clean and accessible public washrooms for its residents and visitors in a number of City-owned buildings that are regularly accessed by the public. In addition, it has been requested by council to seek opportunities to develop more public washrooms. Municipally owned buildings that are regularly accessed by members of the public should have washroom facilities that are fully accessible. This does not mean that every washroom must be fully accessible, but that the building should provide at least one washroom for those with challenges. This report will focus on the downtown core, the public washrooms the City presently has and will suggest which future municipal developments may provide additional public washroom capacity. This report does not examine the range of municipal public washrooms that are presently in other City facilities such as recreational centres, community centres and parks.

Current Locations
In the downtown core, there are accessible municipal public washrooms in three locations:

City Hall – Market Square Wing
In the lower, Market Square Wing, washrooms can be accessed from both the north (accessible ramp) and south courtyards and are available seven days a week, from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. When the ice rink is operating (early December to mid March), these washrooms are open until 10:00 pm. When there are special events in Springer Market Square, the washrooms are kept open to an appropriate time, based on when the event ends. These washrooms, constructed in 2009, are fully accessible with hands free automatic components, toilets, urinals and hand washing sinks. These washrooms have cameras monitoring the entrances to each of the two washrooms and a "panic" button for use in an emergency.

City Hall – Main Floor
Inside City Hall, there are two public washrooms, one for males and one for females. Both are partially accessible with the limiting factors being the lack of automatic power door openers and limited space in the accessible cubicles (Universal Accessibility Audit of 216 Ontario Street, City Hall, 2004). As part of the 2011 work plan, consideration will be given regarding the installation of power assisted doors on both of these washrooms. These washrooms are available to the public only when City Hall is open, which varies depending on the day and time of the year.

Tourist Information Centre
There are two large washrooms areas that can be accessed at the back (the water side) of this building. These washrooms have very high use with the numerous public events that take place in Confederation Basin and as many tour buses stop in front of City Hall and their passengers are directed to these washrooms. These are accessible and are open seven days a week, from April to Labour Day, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (summer hours) and Labour Day to the end of November until dusk. There is no video or audio monitoring at this location and no panic/emergency button. As part of the 2011 work plan, consideration will be given to safety and security enhancements while respecting individual's privacy.

Vandalism
Vandalism has not been a problem in any of the currently open municipally operated public washrooms discussed in this report.

In addition, sharps containers have recently been installed in the washrooms in the Market Square Wing and in the Tourist Information Centre washrooms. This step was taken to protect City staff and others from potential needle punctures.
Possible Future Development of Downtown Municipal Public Washrooms
There is the potential of adding additional municipal public washroom capacity in the near future as the City rehabilitates its properties or undertakes municipal developments.

It is recommended that municipal, accessible, public washrooms should be incorporated into the design and developed
- If a new transit hub is built in the downtown area,
- If a new municipal administrative building is constructed, and/or
- In the North Block municipal developments.

Additional Information
There are currently 29 washroom locations in various parks throughout the City, some of these in the downtown area. The review of the adequacy and location of these washrooms will take place as part of future studies commissioned by staff.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:
N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:
N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:
All new and renovated municipal public washrooms should be constructed or renovated to the City of Kingston Facilities Accessibility Design Standard.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
N/A

CONTACTS:
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John Johnson, Facilities Manager, Real Estate & Construction Services (613) 546-4291, Ext. 1241

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:
Jamie Brash, Supervisor of Facilities, Real Estate & Construction Services

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:
N/A