City of Kingston
Report to Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee
Report Number EITP-14-011

To: Chair and Members of the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee

From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Acting Director, Recreation and Leisure Services

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2014

Subject: Streets Alive Kingston

Executive Summary:

8-80 Cities is a non-profit organization based in Toronto, Canada. They are dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit and visit vibrant parks and public places. Their approach is to engage people and communities across multiple sectors to inspire the creation of cities that are easily accessible, safe and enjoyable for all. They achieve their mission through grant projects, advocacy work and innovative services.

On July 12, 2013, 8-80 Cities received funding from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for their project Opening our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario. As project partners, Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health (KFL&A Public Health), in cooperation with the City of Kingston, has received guidance and support in the development of an Open Streets initiative, called Streets Alive Kingston, to be led by KFL&A Public Health and scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 28, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Open Streets programs involve opening up streets for people to practice free healthy physical recreation by temporarily closing the streets to automobile traffic. These programs usually occur for 5 to 6 hours on a Sunday. The goal of the Open Streets program is to promote healthy and active lifestyles. The Streets Alive Kingston program will be a free and accessible program for all residents, with the strength of this program being its use of existing municipal infrastructure to create an accessible and safe opportunity for residents of all ages and abilities to be active and connect with their community. The program will highlight the municipality’s infrastructure improvements and beautification efforts along the route, help to encourage walking and cycling and, as a result, increase resident’s awareness of the supportive environments in their community.
The City of Kingston’s 2010 Parks & Recreation Master plan identified key lifestyle trends and noted “In order to facilitate healthy lifestyles, all levels of government are examining ways to increase physical activity and participation levels through the introduction of programs, funding and other initiatives”. Further to that, promoting a holistic approach to personal well-being was identified with the Open Streets concept additionally complementing the following Sections and recommendations:

- Section 3.6. Recommendation 28: Inventory the program mix to ensure that there is a mix of no-cost/low-cost programs and services that are accessible to all residents.
- Section 3.7 Recommendation 30: Continue to foster the development of existing and new emerging sport culture and recreational activities that may be popular with under-represented populations and ensure that these opportunities are available to all Kingston residents.
- Section 4.4: Continue development of community partnerships to better support existing partners and partnership base in the delivery of services.
- Work with local partners, including KFL&A Public Health, to support Kingston Gets Active initiative.

As part of the larger 8-80 Cities initiative, Kingston would be one of four communities across Canada participating in this pilot program. The other three cities participating in the “Opening our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario” are Toronto, Windsor and Thunder Bay.

Recommendation:

THAT the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee recommend to Council the approval of the Streets Alive Kingston route, as outlined in Exhibit A to Report Number EITP-14-011, and associated road closures; and

THAT Council approve the reallocation of the Cycle Sunday budget in the amount of $10,000 to the Streets Alive Kingston event to offset logistics costs.
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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Commissioners:

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston
Options/Discussion:
An Open Streets program in Kingston would support existing plans and initiatives supported by the City including:

Sustainable Kingston Plan:

- Contribute to the goal of making Kingston “Canada’s Most Sustainable City”.
- Build on lessons learned and best practices from other communities.
- Support the development of transportation infrastructure to encourage pedestrian cycling and public transit modes of transportation.
- Reduce single occupancy and short-distance motor vehicle use.
- Market leisure activities that highlight Kingston’s unique heritage.
- Develop niche tourism markets including sport tourism, leisure travel, cultural tourism and eco-tourism.
- Provide and promote affordable, accessible recreation and leisure opportunities that support healthy and active lifestyles.

Participants on the Streets Alive Kingston Working Group include representative(s) from: the City of Kingston, KFL&A Public Health, Volunteer Coordinator, Coordinator of Program Activities, Coordinator of Communications, along with more than ten volunteer representatives made up of relevant community partners and interested community members.

City staff from Recreation and Leisure Services, Public Works, Transit, Traffic and a representative from Downtown Kingston have been meeting throughout the process to ensure all logistics are considered related to traffic control, transit re-routing and public awareness. Ongoing consultation and engagement is planned with the business community as part of the planning process.

Event organizers have also worked in cooperation with Kingston Police in the development of the 3.5 km route and identified where road closures and officers will be required to ensure route safety of participants, volunteers, residents and visitors.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

By-Law Number 2004-190 A By-Law to Regulate the Use of City Streets

By-Law Number 2003-209 A By-Law to Regulate Traffic
Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

The Streets Alive Kingston event would utilize existing infrastructure (roadways and parklands) where accessibility accommodations have been made to ensure maximum participation can be achieved.

Financial Considerations:

As part of the City’s approved 2014 operating budget, $10,000 was allocated to the Cycle Sunday event following the success of last year’s event. As the majority of the committee members, stakeholders and volunteers are now part of the Streets Alive Kingston event and based on the funding received from 8-80 Cities, in partnership with KFL&A Public Health and the City, staff are recommending the reallocation of the Cycle Sunday budget to offset logistical expenses (i.e.: officers, park and road closure permit fees, etc.) for the 2014 Streets Alive Kingston pilot project.

Streets Alive Kingston will be a free and accessible program for all residents. This will be a non-profit generating program and will be funded through financial and in-kind contributions of the project partners, successful grant applications and sponsorships. The value of the work by 8-80 Cities as part of this project is approximately $30,000. KFL&A Public Health, as one of the local partners, has already contributed $2,500 to 8-80 Cities towards the total project cost.

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

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Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Map of Open Streets 2014 Draft Route