



## Governance and Priorities Committee Report For the Meeting of January 21, 2016

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee      **Date:** January 14, 2016  
**From:** Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning  
**Subject:** Biketoria Network – Public Engagement Update

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While the first corridor of protected bike lanes is proceeding to final design and construction starting soon, the #Biketoria network planning process is underway. Upon Council consideration of the proposed network in late October, the consultancy team of Urban Systems, Gehl and Associates, 8 -80 Cities, and Alta Planning + Design, initiated the public engagement process to seek input and feedback on a proposed All Ages and Abilities cycling network of protected bike lanes.

Initial engagement has included the establishment of a technical advisory committee, a kick-off weekend of public events including the "Biketoria Summit", and a pop-up bike lane, as well as an online and social media presence, and three neighbourhood salons in three different areas of the city were held. These engagement activities were an opportunity to share the recommended network and proposed cycling facilities and to start to test preferred options with the community in terms of connectivity, potential separations, and benefits and impacts along various corridors. An estimated 2,500 people have participated to date, and further engagement is required.

The recommended Biketoria network is premised on the design of a minimum grid of protected bikes lanes within the downtown core, known as the "hub", with neighbourhood connectivity east-west and north-south, known as "spoke" corridors. Informed by public input and extensive technical review, the Biketoria consultancy team, will make a final recommendation on an All Ages cycling network to City Council in the spring of 2016. It will outline concept designs for the priority corridors, a capital implementation plan with prioritized corridor sequencing, and recommendations for future consultation.

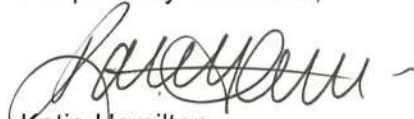
To date, the engagement approach has been broad, and has attracted a lot of interest, and constructive feedback. However it has moved quickly, and further engagement is still required with neighbourhood residents and businesses, and their associations, before recommending a network to Council. There are a few specific areas where impacts are greater, or perceived to be greater, and in areas where limited alternatives exist to address some community concern.

In particular, more detailed engagement is required within neighbourhood urban villages. Cook Street businesses have submitted a petition to Council opposing any protected lanes on Cook Street. Staff have followed up to provide accurate information and have offered a meeting.

In December, staff also indicated a meeting for neighbourhood associations representatives would occur for an update on the early feedback received through the public engagement process, and to discuss further public engagement opportunities specific to their neighbourhood needs. The potential scenarios within each neighbourhood vary broadly, and as such there are various opportunities to advance further discussions. This meeting is being scheduled for the first week of February, and the date confirmed before this report is considered by Governance and Priorities Committee.


With the recently approved schedule for accelerated local area planning, including the Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan in development now, staff feel there are opportunities to integrate the detailed dialogue on specific corridors within those processes, in particular those that are outside the minimum downtown grid. Upon approval of the network, this may allow for a more holistic complete streets approach to corridor planning, and provide residents and businesses a greater understanding and influence over the opportunities and trade-offs in specific areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Hamilton  
Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**

  
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**Date:**

Jan 15, 2016  
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