




INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 4, 2020
SUBJECT:	(Re)envision the HSR Project Status Update (TRN2002)(City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Debbie Dalle Vedove Director, Transit Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	for 

At the end of 2019, each Councillor met with staff to discuss (Re)envision the HSR which aims to reconfigure the transit network and transform customer experience. The COVID-19 pandemic has broadly impacted the City of Hamilton including activities within (Re)envision project timelines.

The original (Re)envision timeline included the following milestone deliverables to Council:

- **June 2020:** Guiding Principles for (Re)envisioning the HSR
- **Summer 2020:** The proposed network reconfiguration
- **Fall 2020:** A financial strategy to support the reconfiguration, as part of 2021 budget deliberations
- **June 2021:** Implementation of the new network and customer experience enhancements

Throughout (Re)envision, HSR has planned extensive public consultation activities to support the transition to the new network design. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Hamilton paused all in-person public engagement efforts. Due to the abrupt end of the school year, McMaster's Department of Civil Engineering will require additional

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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time to complete planning and design input for the proposed network reconfiguration. Key HSR staff, along with stakeholders across other City departments have been diverted towards the emergency and are unable to support the original project deadlines.

As a result of the unforeseeable pandemic, the original timeline for (Re)envision will be modified. Importantly, (Re)envision will leverage the fundamental learnings and stakeholder relationships established to date and incorporate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic into an updated design and plan.

Fortunately, the province has extended the original Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) deadline from March 30, 2020 to July 1, 2021. The extension will enable (Re)envision project and the HSR to strategically adjust to the new reality.

Understanding how customer expectations and behaviours may shift post-COVID will be crucial to support ridership stability, and eventually growth. The (Re)envision team is exploring innovative ways to engage with the community and in the near term will resume efforts to conduct revised forms of public and customer engagement, using approved engagement practices (e.g. digital engagement).

Given the pandemic, the Guiding Principles for (Re)envisioning the HSR will be presented in the Fall of 2020. At that time, an updated project timeline will be shared.

Transit will continue to play a vital role as Hamilton reopens and the economy is restarted. Now more than ever, the outcomes of (Re)envision are crucial to the City of Hamilton's recovery and its longer-term sustainability.