Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Budget Public Input Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Regional Council Chamber
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario


Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

None declared.

Chair’s Opening Remarks

S. Strickland made opening comments regarding the purpose of the meeting, noting that no Council decisions will be made during this public input meeting.

Delegations

1. Greg Clark, Kitchener, expressed his concerns with Regional Council using reserve funds to offset tax increases; he does not believe that this strategy is sustainable. He shared his views that reductions in services may be short-sighted, especially given the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

2. Richard Chambers, Waterloo Region Age Friendly Committee, advocated for free Grand River Transit (GRT) service for older adults, aged 65 years and older. He proposed a pilot project of free service one or two days per week or during non-peak times, similar to services provided in other municipalities.

3. David Marskell, CEO, THEMUSEUM, thanked Regional Councillors for their ongoing support of key cultural institutions in the Region. He gave a presentation to the Committee; a copy is appended to the original minutes. He provided an overview of

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COVID-19 impacts on the activities and staffing of THEMUSEUM. He shared details about the planned 2021 tribute to the Rolling Stones, Unzipped, and sought Regional funding to cover the advertising for this event.

4. Judah Oudshoorn, Kitchener, expressed his concerns with systemic racism in Waterloo Region. He stated that he has a background in the justice system and believes that the police budget should be reduced by 15% with the funds being redirected to Black-led local groups.

5. Andrew Bennett, Executive Director, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, addressed the Committee regarding funding for local arts and culture. He shared testimonials from community supporters and noted that the Symphony has served more people virtually in 2020 than it had been able to serve in the past. He encouraged Regional Council to continue funding support as the need is greater now and will continue to be for the next several years.

6. William Chesney, President, Board of Directors, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, shared with the Committee the importance of contributions made by artists, arts and culture organizations and workers in the Region. He highlighted several local artists and organizations that have enriched the local art scene as a result of having received an Arts Fund grant, despite the COVID-19 challenges. He urged the Committee to approve the recommendation to maintain the current funding levels to organizations.

7. Samantha Estoesta, ReAllocateWR, shared her views that all residents should have access to affordable housing and child care regardless of their income level. She encouraged Regional Council to reallocate money from the province to child care centres, refocus police efforts and allocate funds from the police budget to organizations that support the local Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community.

8. Kelly Smith, President, FRIENDS of Waterloo Region Museum, highlighted the fundraising efforts of the group in support of the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum. She stated that the group is not deterred by COVID-19 pandemic challenges and that fundraising events are planned for 2021, as is a cheque presentation.

9. Tom Strickland, Cambridge, provided a presentation outlining his proposal for funding of Cambridge cycling initiatives, a copy is attached to the original minutes. He requested that Regional Council consider a reallocation of budget funding to support cycling initiatives in Cambridge, specifically a Galt Core AAA Connection Ring Road. He summarized the infrastructure needs to create connections to seven (7) key destinations by 2025. He stated that he has shared his proposal with city and Regional staff and looks forward to collaborative discussions in the future.
10. Susan Cadell, Kitchener, stated that she is in favour of a reallocation of police funds to support local Indigenous people. She urged Regional Council to be critical of what is being proposed by the police budget and advocated for greater funding for upstream prevention programs.

11. Scott Morton Ninomiya, Chair, Truth and Reconciliation Working Group - Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, addressed the Committee in support of the ReAllocateWR proposal and he urged Regional Council to adopt the proposal. He spoke about his experiences with restorative justice and his belief that BIPOC members do not receive the same police response as he would if they were to call 911. He referenced world class models in upstream prevention and requested that Regional Council ensure safety for everyone in the Region.

12. Caleb Redekop, Kitchener, stated that he supports the ReAllocateWR proposal. He shared his experiences assisting street-involved people where the need for funding is great, as is the need to be creative in dealing with mental health and addictions. He stated that policing is not the only solution to achieve public safety and, in response to a Committee question about which programs should be funded, he referred to the ReAllocateWR website for a summary of tools and options.

Call for Delegations

S. Strickland called for other delegations wishing to address the Committee; no one came forward.

Motion to Go Into Closed

Moved by J. Erb

Seconded by K. Kiefer

That a closed meeting of Regular Council be reconvened on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:15 p.m., electronically, in accordance with Section 239 of the “Municipal Act, 2001”, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

* e) the security of the property of the municipality or local board
   f) litigation or potential litigation in relation to a matter affecting the municipality
   g) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to negotiations carried out on behalf of the municipality

Carried

The Budge Public Input meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
Committee Chair, S. Strickland

Committee Clerk, S. Natolochny
I visited @themuseumkitchener for the fun DinoDriveThru exhibit with my friend Jordan recently, and from now until Friday, October 30 - you can...
Picklefest, Santa Calls
D2L PARTNERSHIP & FREE GRT FOR STUDENTS
SONICA and
The Age of Big Weird Feathered Things
Thank You!
2021 Regional Budget
Cambridge Cycling Proposal
Budget Re-Allocation

Tom Strickland Dec 16, 2020
Assumptions

• 2020 Regional budget detail still valid for 2021-2025 Plans

• Regional road project budgets include cycling upgrades detailed in the City Cycling Master Plan
7 Key Destinations - AAA Connections 2020

Blair

Blair

Preston Core

Preston Core

Galt Core

Galt Core

Cedar/St. Andrews

Cedar/St. Andrews

Hespeler Core

Hespeler Core

Cambridge Centre

Cambridge Centre

South Cambridge Centre

South Cambridge Centre
Planned AAA Connections by 2025
Assuming Changes made as in the City’s Master Plan

Blair 2023  Preston Core  2024  Cambridge Centre
                      2025 With Backtracking

Galt Core
Cedar/St. Andrews
South Cambridge Centre
Hespeler Core
Potential Cycling Budget Savings – Dual MUTs

• Roads with (2021-2025) budgets for dual multi-use trails:
  • Myers Road, 3.4 KM
  • Maple Grove Road, Hespeler to Fountain, 4.3KM
  • Fountain Street, 401 to Maple Grove, 2.2 KM

• What if we did single rather than dual MUTs?
  • 9.9 KM saving - $3.1 MM based on City Cycling Master Plan costs
What is Needed for Full AAA Connections by 2025?

- **Blair** (2023)
  - Preston Core
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
      - + .3 KM MUT/Cycle Track
  - Galt Core
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
    - Cedar/St. Andrews
    - Paris
  - South Cambridge Centre
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
  - Cambridge Centre
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
    - Hespeler Core
      - 1.2 KM MUT

- **Paris**
  - **South Cambridge Centre**
    - 3.8 KM AAA
    - (City + Region)
  - Galt Core
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
  - Preston Core
    - Ring Road + Wayfinding
  - **Blair** (2025)
    - .3 KM MUT (City)
Galt Core AAA Ring Road Proposal (Region + City)

Core Ring Road = 3.0 KM
Spur Connectors = .8 KM

Spurs connect directly to:
Blair Road (Great) Trail
Paris Rail Trail
Dan Spring Trail
Mill Creek Trail

Wayfinding to:
Preston
South Cambridge
Cedar/St. Andrews
Cambridge Centre
Proposal Summary

• Save 9.9 km of MUT by building single (not dual) MUTs
• Reallocate saving to build 5.6 km of critical AAA connections (some Regional, some City roads)
• Resulting complete web of AAA connections across the city would be a much more effective use of tax dollars
Questions?