
Subject: Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee Refinements

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Recommendations

1. That the reporting structure for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee **BE TRANSFERRED** from Planning and Economic Development Committee to Public Works Committee.
2. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to Public Works Committee.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide Planning and Economic Development Committee an update on the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee (GNCRC).
- The GNCRC was established in the early 1990s to advise Regional Council on the completion of the Greater Niagara Circle Route and to collaborate with appropriate agencies to complete the project.
- The original mandate of the GNCRC has been achieved. The trail is now in a position where it requires operational oversight.
- Planning staff and Public Works staff ask that the GNCRC be transitioned to an operational oversight role to support the work of the Active Transportation Sub-Committee (a Public Works Advisory Committee).

Financial Considerations

This report and its recommendations have no financial impact to the corporation.

Analysis

Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee (GNCRC)

The GNCRC was established in the early 1990s to advise Regional Council on the completion of the Greater Niagara Circle Route and to collaborate with appropriate

agencies to complete the project. At the time the GNCRC was struck, Planning and Public Works reported to Regional Council through the same standing committee. This standing committee structure ultimately evolved to each department reporting to Regional Council separately. During this evolution, the GNCRC remained with Planning Services, as the development of the trail was a land-use planning exercise in collaboration with the local municipalities.

The trail was substantially completed in 2007, with several side projects added in the intervening years. As the trail has achieved significant completion, the original mandate of the Committee has been accomplished. The GNCRC Terms of Reference (TOR) remain original to when the Committee was struck, and are no longer relevant.

The GNCRC did not meet between 2016 and 2019. However, the GNCRC has now been repopulated with municipally-appointed representatives. The group met on February 5, 2020, with a new focus of supporting the work of the Active Transportation Sub-Committee (a Public Works Advisory Committee) and aims to provide operational oversight for the trail system. At this first meeting, the Committee provided input on updating the GNCRC TOR.

Providing that the transfer of reporting to Public Works Committee is approved, Public Works staff will bring forward an updated GNCRC TOR for approval via the Transportation Steering Committee.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council could choose to not to accept this recommendation, however, due to shift in mandate, the GNCRC can be better supported by Public Works.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

An updated TOR for the GNCRC and reassignment of reporting will strategically enforce a commitment to healthy and vibrant communities.

Other Pertinent Reports

None.

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