INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	Bike St John's Master Plan Update and Public Consultation
Date Prepared:	January 16, 2019
Report To:	Committee of the Whole
Councillor and Role:	Debbie Hanlon - Transportation
Ward:	n/a

Issue:

Information about the Bike St John's Master Plan development of the in advance of upcoming public engagement sessions.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

In February 2017, Council adopted the recommendations of the Bike St. John's Task Force Final Report. Council committed to developing safe, comfortable and convenient cycling infrastructure, policies, and programs, and committed to completing a comprehensive bicycle strategy and master plan (CD-R2017-02-20/7). Council hired Trace Planning and Design to complete the master plan in June 2018 (CD-R2018-06-18/14).

In September and October of 2018, Trace used a variety of methods to collect information about where and why people currently ride bikes, and about the barriers and opportunities for cycling in St John's. The following table outlines the fall 2018 engagement opportunities and number of participants. The information collected through these events was used to develop the draft Bike St. John's Master Plan including draft network map and vision statement.

Event	***Date***	***Location***	***Number of people engaged***
Cycling Workshop (by invitation)	September 5, 2018	City Hall	8 people (cyclists)
Bike Fest (a one-day street festival promoting cycling which included educational and fun activities, and a public engagement tent for the St John's Bike Master Plan)	September 14, 2018	Water Street	Despite poor weather conditions, approximately 300 people at any given time with an estimated total of over 1000 attendees. One on one engagement with approximately 5-10% of attendees.
Public Open House	September 17, 2018	City Hall	52 people

School Session	September 18, 2018	École Mary Queen of Peace	20 grade 6 students
St. John's Inclusion Advisory Committee	October 3, 2018	Paul Reynolds Centre	18 committee members
University Session	October 3, 2018	MUN Campus	12 attendees
School Session	October 4, 2018	Cowan Heights School	20 grade 5 students
Online Survey	Ongoing, launched September 17, 2018	Online	200+ responses

A draft bike network map has now been developed and will be shared with council and the public for comment on Wednesday January 23rd through Saturday January 26th. The draft plan aims to connect residents to their neighbourhoods and the greater region using natural areas and street corridors that link economic, recreation and cultural destinations. Material presented through this round of consultation will cover the following topics.

The focus of the draft network at this stage is a **backbone network** which represents a minimal core network of high quality, safe and comfortable cycling routes. The backbone network will be supported by **connecting routes** to bring quality cycling infrastructure closer to people and their destinations. The backbone network will also help to prioritize projects ensuring a citywide network is in place enabling residents to access key destinations.

The **draft network** includes several areas where alternate routes are available to complete a basic connection. Through the upcoming engagement efforts these will be explored, and routing choices will be made as a result. Feedback on all elements of the network will also be welcome to ensure the best information is used to inform the final routes recommended.

One of the key pieces proposed in the draft network is to **upgrades to existing Grand Concourse walking trails**, converting them to shared-use paths. Trails would be enhanced where needed for the safety and comfort of people walking and riding bicycles.

The draft network also identifies a **preliminary facility type** for each route. The type of facility shown (for example, multi-use trail, painted bike lane, physically separated bike lane, etc.) favours modal separation of active transportation users from motor vehicle traffic wherever possible. This was highlighted as important to residents through the Bike St. John's Task Force process and during engagement events in the fall of 2018. It is important to note that the facility type shown at this stage may change as specific routes are investigated in more detail.

Challenge points are marked on the draft network map indicating areas where feasibility and/or cost may be an issue. Through public and stakeholder engagement, it's expected that more challenge points will be added and that solutions or alternatives may be identified.

Multi-modal hubs are marked at key destinations, including around the edges of downtown. These are proposed as a concept to serve the downtown area where tight streets, motor vehicle activity, and steep hills are significant barriers to comfortable cycling. The concept of these multi-modal hubs is to get people to the edge of downtown and provide them with convenient and secure bike parking where they can comfortably continue their trip on foot or by bus. Multi-modal hubs are located near existing transit stops. Additionally, the Metrobus fleet is equipped with bike racks. It's important to note that this concept still allows confident cyclists to ride their bikes downtown and that bike parking throughout the downtown would still be encouraged.

A refined **vision for cycling in St John's** is being presented to council and the public for feedback. It was developed starting with previous vision statements from the 2009 Cycling Master Plan and the 2017 Bike St. John's Task Force, and with public engagement input from September 2018. It also aligns with the City's draft Strategic Plan 2019-2022. This new vision statement was endorsed by the Bike St. John's Advisory Committee at their December 18th meeting. The vision for cycling in St. John's is:

> *A safe, inclusive, and convenient cycling network that is well-connected and reflective of the city's unique topography and climate. As part of an integrated mobility network it is supported by policies and programs that promote a cycling-friendly culture.*

Public and stakeholder engagement events will be held in late-January 2019, as outlined in the following schedule:

Event	*Date*	*Time*	*Location*
Advisory Committee Session (by invitation)	Tuesday, January 22	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	City Hall, Foran/Greene Room 10 New Gower Street
Committee of The Whole Presentation	Wednesday, January 23	9 a.m.	City Hall, Council Chambers
Public drop-in session	Wednesday, January 23	5 to 8 p.m.	Cowan Heights United Church 141 Frecker Drive
Public drop-in session	Thursday, January 24	5 to 8 p.m.	City Hall, Foran/Greene Room 10 New Gower Street
Public drop-in session	Friday, January 25	1 to 3 p.m.	Paul Reynolds Community Centre, 35 Carrick Drive
Public drop-in session	Saturday, January 26	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	St. John's Community Market 245 Freshwater Road

During the drop-in, open house-styled, sessions participants are asked to provide feedback on the vision statement, review the draft network concept, compare different bike route and facility options, and share opinions with the project team. The project team is specifically looking for feedback on these issues:

1. Vision statement (public feedback on draft vision statement)
2. Route selection (For example, comparing route options to bike from point A to B)
3. Bike facility type (Compare your comfort level using different facility types such as painted bike lanes, multi-use trails, etc.)
4. Surface materials (For example, should gravel or asphalt be used on multi-use trails?)

The feedback received during the upcoming engagement sessions will be used to refine the draft Bike St. John's Master Plan, draft network map and validate the current vision statement.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. ***Budget/Financial Implications*** *n/a*
2. ***Partners or Other Stakeholders***
   Residents, Visitors, Memorial University, Grand Concourse, Advisory Committees
3. ***Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans***
   The outlined strategies present opportunities to contribute to the following City strategic directions:
   - Neighbourhoods Build Our City: Improve neighbourhood-level services & Deliver alternative methods for City services and information
   - A City for All Seasons: Support a weather resilient city & Support year-round tourism and industry activity
   - Fiscally Responsible: Develop appropriate user fee policies & Explore cost-sharing programs/foundations/models
4. ***Legal or Policy Implications***
   Bylaw change for will be required for milt-us path upgrades of Grand Concourse trails.
5. ***Engagement and Communications Considerations***
   As discussed above
6. ***Human Resource Implications*** *n/a*
7. ***Procurement Implications*** *n/a*
8. ***Information Technology Implications*** *n/a*
9. ***Other Implications*** *n/a*

Conclusion / Next Steps:

Project team will incorporate feedback from advisory committees, Council, general public into Bike St. John's Master Plan draft.

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Signature:_____

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