

Date: March 15, 2022	Originator's files:
To: Chair and Members of General Committee	
From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works	Meeting date: March 30, 2022

## **Subject**

**Changing Lanes – Draft Complete Streets Guide**

## **Recommendation**

That the comments received from the public and stakeholders are considered in the final Complete Streets Guide, to be presented to Council for endorsement at a future date as outlined in the corporate report dated March 15, 2022, from the Commissioner of Transportation & Works, entitled “Changing Lanes – Draft Complete Streets Guide”.

## **Executive Summary**

- The Changing Lanes project is delivering three City of Mississauga Transportation Master Plan Action Items: A new street classification system, a Complete Streets Guide, and updated Engineering Design Standards.
- A multi-disciplinary consultant team, working closely with staff, has developed a draft Complete Streets Guide (draft Guide), which includes a new street classification system.
- Once adopted by the City of Mississauga, all street projects in Mississauga will use the Complete Streets Guide to inform street planning and design, and the new street classification system will be incorporated into the Mississauga Official Plan.
- This Guide will inform safety-driven design changes to City streets, supporting the City's commitment to Vision Zero.
- The draft Guide can be found at <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/changing-lanes>, and comments will be received until May 1, 2022.
- A final Complete Streets Guide will be brought to Council for endorsement in the second quarter of this year.

## Background

The City of Mississauga launched the Changing Lanes Project to update, develop and implement new tools for staff, developers, and other street providers to ensure City streets are safe and more convenient for all users. To do so, the Changing Lanes project is delivering the following Transportation Master Plan Action Items:

- Delivering Complete Streets Guidelines, updating the City's approach to street planning and design (Action #1);
- Developing a new street classification system, to be included in Mississauga's Official Plan (Action #2); and
- Undertaking a review and update of the City's road engineering design standards (Action #3).

The City retained urban design and landscape architecture firm DTAH and engineering firm HDR Inc. to deliver a Complete Streets Guide and street classification system for the City of Mississauga. Working closely with staff from across the Corporation, the draft Guide, including a street classification system, is ready for public comment. The draft Guide is a 'made in Mississauga' approach to street design and decision-making, reflecting the needs and concerns of the community while incorporating best practices from national organizations, peer cities, and advocacy organizations.

Once the Guide is complete, staff will deliver Action #3, by reviewing and updating the City's engineering design standards to align with the Guide.

## Comments

Figure 1 below presents the draft Guide's Complete Streets definition. Complete Streets guidelines and policies work to ensure that multiple types of street users can be accommodated, feel comfortable and be safe sharing the street, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers. Improvements may include installing cycling facilities, building new sidewalks, adding dedicated public transit lanes, and implementing traffic calming measures, among other interventions.

### Figure 1: Defining Complete Streets

Complete Streets in Mississauga are designed for all ages, abilities, and modes of travel. Safe and comfortable access for pedestrians, bicycles, transit users and people with disabilities is not an afterthought, but an integral planning feature of Complete Streets.

Adapted from [www.completestreetsforcanada.ca](http://www.completestreetsforcanada.ca)

Chapter 1 of the draft Guide is attached as Appendix 1 of this report, which provides the policy context for Complete Streets in Mississauga and the application and limits of the Guide. The draft Guide is available online at <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/changing-lanes>. The Guide

provides direction to staff, developers, and others to incorporate Complete Street concepts into the planning, design, rehabilitation and maintenance of new and existing City of Mississauga streets.

Recognizing that all streets are different and no single design solution exists, the draft Guide establishes minimum and preferred design values that provide for flexibility in street design, while still meeting the test of good engineering judgment. To manage the street design decision-making process, the draft Guide establishes a standardized Street Delivery Process. As Mississauga grows and matures, space for new facilities on the City's streets is under pressure. The Guide's Street Delivery Process mandates that the procedures, techniques, and performance indicators of the Guide are applied in a context-sensitive way, with the safety of all users of highest concern, with the most vulnerable first.

The draft Guide is organized into the following chapters. Chapters 5 and 7 provide implementation strategies for the Guide and are not included in the draft on the *yoursay* project site for review. They will be added to the Guide when it is brought to Council in the second quarter of 2022.

- **Chapter 1 Introduction** provides the policy context for Complete Streets in Mississauga and the application and limits of the Guide.
- **Chapter 2 Process** defines the Street Delivery Process.
- **Chapter 3 Defining Street Context** presents the new street classification system for the City of Mississauga. This classification system will be incorporated into the Mississauga Official Plan.
- **Chapter 4 Techniques** provides guidance on planning and designing for Complete Streets, with guidance for the pedestrian realm and placemaking, infrastructure, transit, cycling facilities, the travelway, and intersections.
- **Chapter 5 Ensuring Success** will include tools to audit Complete Streets achievements.<sup>1</sup>
- **Chapter 6 Demonstrations** includes demonstrations of how a street or intersection may be designed when applying the techniques of the Guide.
- **Chapter 7 Implementation** will include details on project prioritization, costing, and recommended actions to help implement the Guide.<sup>1</sup>
- **Appendix 01 and 02** include a map and demonstration cross-sections of the new street classification system.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapters 5 and 7 will include implementation strategies for the Guide and are not included in the draft. They will be added to the Guide when it is brought to Council in Q2, 2022.

### **Complete Streets and Vision Zero**

At the core of the Complete Streets approach is a commitment to making streets safer for all users, with the most vulnerable users considered first. The draft Guide was informed by the City's commitment to Vision Zero and will help lead to safer streets. Through its recommendations and design guidance, the draft Guide will assist in achieving many of the Engineering Actions of the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, endorsed by Council on November 24, 2021. For example, the draft Guide includes lane width and design speed recommendations to improve speed compliance on City of Mississauga streets.

### **Application and Limits of the Guide**

Once endorsed, the Guide will apply to all City of Mississauga street projects advanced through the City's Roads Capital Program or reviewed by City staff through development applications. The Guide defines a street as the entire right-of-way, from property line to property line. Design guidance for both mid-block and intersection design are included in the Guide.

The Region of Peel is responsible for all Regional roads within the City of Mississauga, and Region of Peel standards and guidelines apply to all Regional roads. Where a Regional road intersects with a City street, Region of Peel standards and guidelines also apply. Cycling and pedestrian facilities on Regional roads are operated and maintained by the City of Mississauga, and design for these elements are developed collaboratively with the Region. City and Regional staff work closely to design and build safer, more complete streets, advancing the Region and the City's commitment to Vision Zero.

Region of Peel staff support many specific design considerations in the Guide that can help promote active and sustainable modes of transportation and enhance safety on streets. When the Region undertakes the review and update of the Region's Road Characterization Study, the City's Complete Streets Guide will be taken into consideration to help inform this work.

## **Strategic Plan**

The Complete Streets Guide supports all of the City's Strategic Pillars for Change. The Guide provides specific guidance and techniques to make the City's streets safer and more complete for all users. These changes will help improve access and provide more options for residents to move around for any purpose, which supports the *Move*, *Belong*, and *Connect* pillars. The Guide provides direction to make street designs responsive to the surrounding area's context and needs, and resident and businesses want to locate in places where streets support their needs, supporting the *Prosper* pillar. The Guide also includes specific guidance on making the City's street infrastructure more resilient and adaptable to climate change, supporting the *Green* pillar of the Strategic Plan.

## Engagement and Consultation

The project team developed a targeted engagement plan to gather input and feedback from technical and community stakeholders:

- A project Technical Advisory Committee representing City divisions and the Region of Peel meets regularly to inform and review project deliverables;
- Three Community and Industry workshops were held, with representatives from local advocacy organizations, schools and post secondary institutions, conservation authorities, BIAs, ratepayer associations, the development community, represented by BILD, the business community, and neighbouring municipalities;
- One Expert Review Panel meeting was held, including representatives of neighbouring municipalities, conservation authorities, MTO, Region of Peel, schools and post secondary institutions, advocacy organizations, such as the Centre for Active Transportation and 8 80 Cities, and the development community, represented by BILD;
- Presentations were made to the Road Safety Committee, Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee to inform committees and gather feedback on project directions; and
- The project has maintained a website at <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/changing-lanes>, where primers and engagement summaries have been posted, and an FAQ page has been updated regularly.

Input received through these activities has been an invaluable resource to the project team for the draft Guide's development. In general, workshop attendees have been supportive of the Changing Lanes project's intent and direction. Summaries of engagement activities and comments received can be found on the project's [website](#).

The project team looks forward to receiving comments from members of the Mississauga community, developers, and other interested parties on the draft Guide which has been posted to the Changing Lanes project site at <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/changing-lanes>. Stakeholders who participated in the project to-date will receive an email with a link to the draft Guide and a request for comments. The Technical Advisory Committee, Road Safety, Mississauga Cycling Advisory and Accessibility Advisory Committees will also be advised that the draft Guide is available for review. In addition, through the City's social media outlets, the general public will be advised that the draft Guide is posted to the project website for their review. Comments can be submitted on the website until May 1, 2022. Once public comments have been received, a final Guide will be completed, including Chapters 5 and 7 on ensuring success and implementation. The final Guide will be brought to Council for endorsement in the second quarter of 2022.

## Financial Impact

There is no financial impact if the recommendation of this report is approved. The draft Guide, once finalized and endorsed, will be used by staff when developing street designs as part of the City's Roads Capital Program, as well as to inform the review of development applications. Any financial impacts will be brought forward through the regular Business Planning and Budget process.

## Conclusion

The Complete Streets Guide provides a comprehensive approach to building safer, more complete streets in Mississauga. Once endorsed, it will direct staff, developers, and other street design practitioners to prioritize safer, slower speeds for all users of a street in a way that enhances quality of life while improving how a street functions. The draft Guide has been posted on the *yoursay* Mississauga site for review and comment by the public and stakeholders until May 1, 2022. A final Complete Streets Guide will be brought back to Council for endorsement in the second quarter of this year.

## Attachments

Appendix 1 – City of Mississauga Complete Streets Guide Chapter 1



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for

Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

Prepared by: Alex Legrain, MCIP, RPP, Project Leader Transportation Planning