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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 12, 2012
FROM:	EDWARD SOLDO, P.ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTAITON
	BLACKFRIARS STREET – TRAFFIC STUDY

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Roads and Transportation, the following information report related to traffic on Blackfriars Street **BE RECEIVED** for information.

BACKGROUND

Purpose:

This report provides Committee and Council with the results of the traffic study on Blackfriars Street.

Context:

On July 25, 2012, Council requested the Civic Administration to undertake a traffic study on Blackfriars Street and report back to the Civic Works Committee.

Background

On July 16, 2012, the Planning and Environment Committee considered an application by Southside Construction Management Limited for a proposed amendment to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law relating to the property located at 75 Blackfriars Street. The additional permitted use to the subject site is a gymnasium in association with a permitted office use. Concerns have been expressed by area residents regarding the amount of traffic the subject site may generate and the impact this traffic will have on the neighbourhood and the Blackfriars Bridge. In addition, residents expressed concerns regarding existing traffic volume and speed on Blackfriars Street.

Discussion

It is estimated that a maximum of 200 vehicles a day will be turning in and out from the subject site. Blackfriars Street is a two lane secondary collector that carries approximately 4,000 vehicles a day which provides a secondary access route to downtown. Secondary collector roadways are designed to carry up to 5,000 vehicles a day. Based on the existing traffic conditions, it is not anticipated that the additional traffic volume will have a significant impact on Blackfriars Street or on the Blackfriars Bridge.

On-street limited parking is currently permitted on sections of the south side of Blackfriars Street and is not allowed on the north side. From Albion Street east of Wharnclyffe Road to Wilson Avenue, 1 hour limited on-street parking between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm is allowed. From Wilson Avenue to Napier Street, 2 hour limited on-street parking between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm is allowed. It should be noted that parked vehicles create a traffic calming environment by reducing the road width and effectively reducing the vehicular speed on the street.

The City is conducting a risk assessment review for Blackfriars Bridge as the first phase in the development of a long-term strategy to protect the bridge. A transportation review has been conducted as part of the noted study. The following is a brief summary of the traffic review as part of the risk assessment study:

- The existing maximum peak hour traffic volumes on Blackfriars Bridge are 400 eastbound vehicles during the morning peak hour and 275 westbound vehicles during the afternoon peak hour.

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- Additional peaks in traffic typically occur in both directions prior and after events at the John Labatt Centre. On Friday and Saturday nights, increased westbound traffic can also be observed between 11:00 pm and 3:00 am.
- In 2009, a traffic speed study was conducted along the roadway and the bridge. It identified that approximately 22% of motorists exceeded the posted 50 km/h speed limit. This is below the average in comparison to other secondary collectors in London, where approximately 40% of the traffic exceeds 50 km/h.

On August 17 and 22, 2012, the London Police conducted speed enforcement near the Blackfriars Bridge. The following is brief summary of the result received from the London Police-Traffic Management Unit:

- Average speed of west-bound traffic – 35 km/h
- Average speed of east-bound traffic - 40 km/h
- Top speed for west-bound traffic - 52 km/h
- Top speed for east-bound traffic - 39 km/h
- Total length of time conducting enforcement was 2.5 - 3 hours. The afternoon rush hour was included during this enforcement period.
- No provincial offence notices were issued.

Summary

- Blackfriars Street is a two lane secondary collector that carries approximately 4,000 vehicles a day, which is 1000 vehicles a day less than maximum for this class of road.
- The new development will generate a maximum of 200 vehicle trips a day that will be entering and exiting the site which is not a significant increase in the overall volume.
- Traffic speed studies by the City and the London Police showed no abnormal speeding issues on Blackfriars Street.
- On-street limited parking is currently permitted on sections of the south side of Blackfriars Street, creating a traffic calming affect which helps to control vehicle speed.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
	
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