

**REPORT NO. 185 of the  
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
of its meeting held February 19, 2014**

**Present:**  
Councillor J. Gignac  
Councillor A. Halberstadt  
Councillor R. Jones  
Councillor H. Payne  
Councillor F. Valentinis, Chair

That the following recommendations of the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee **BE APPROVED:**

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Payne,

I **THAT** the offer from the Ontario Ministry of Sport and Recreation selecting the City of Windsor as one of four Ontario municipalities to participate in the 'Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario' program **BE ACCEPTED;** and

II **THAT** Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to work with the 'Open Street' program coordinators to plan, develop, and implement temporary street opening events in 2014 and 2015 for the purpose of improving access to recreational opportunities;

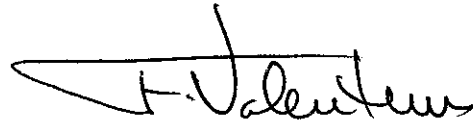
III **THAT** the Planning Department's capital account 7131008 (Community Energy and Sustainability Model) **BE UTILIZED** to fund the Corporation's contribution of \$2,500 as a participant in the Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario program; and

IV **THAT** future Council reports **IDENTIFY** specific project location (street openings) and planned events for the respective demonstration projects.

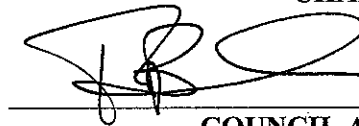
Carried.

**Livelinek #16995, SR2014**

Clerk's Note: The administrative report authored by the City Planner dated January 22, 2014 entitled "Participation in 'Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation' Program" is attached as background information.



**CHAIRPERSON**



**COUNCIL ASSISTANT**

<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>FAX</b>
Alyssa Bird, 8-80 Cities		abird@8-80cities.org		

Handwritten scribbles or marks, possibly initials or a signature, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR**  
**Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"*

<b>LiveLink REPORT #: 16995 SR2014</b>	<b>Report Date: January 22, 2013</b>
<b>Author's Name: Michael Cooke</b>	<b>Date to Committee: February 19, 2014</b>
<b>Author's Phone: 519-255-6543 x6102</b>	<b>Classification #:</b>
<b>Author's Email: mcooke@city.windsor.on.ca</b>	

**To: Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee**

**Subject: Participation in 'Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation' Program**

City Wide: X Ward(s): \_

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

- I That the offer from the Ontario Ministry of Sport and Recreation selecting the City of Windsor as one of four Ontario municipalities to participate in the 'Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario' program **BE ACCEPTED**; and
- II That Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to work with the 'Open Street' program coordinators to plan, develop, and implement temporary street opening events in 2014 and 2015 for the purpose of improving access to recreational opportunities;
- III That the Planning Department's capital account 7131008 (Community Energy and Sustainability Model) **BE UTILIZED** to fund the Corporation's contribution of \$2,500 as a participant in the Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario program; and
- IV That future Council reports identify specific project location (street openings) and planned events for the respective demonstration projects.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

N/A

**2. BACKGROUND:**

On February 13, 2013 Administration were invited to attend a presentation in Council Chambers by renowned healthy community advocate Gil Penalosa. Mr. Penalosa was in Windsor to present his paper at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference

entitled "Healthy & Vibrant Communities Now!" Mr. Penalosa is the Executive Director of 8-80 Cities and has extensive experience working with communities throughout the world to discover the benefits of making walking and cycling a part of everyday life. 8-80 Cities is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to transforming cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit and visit vibrant parks, streets and other public places.

The philosophy of 8-80 Cities rests on the belief that communities can create vibrant and healthy cities if they ensure that the safety and joy of children and older adults are at the forefront of decision making. In his presentation, Mr. Penalosa described the benefits of transforming cities into places where people can walk, bike, access transit and visit vibrant parks and public places, no matter their age, ability, or social status. Whether considering the needs of an 8 year old or an 80 year old, he believes that cities need to plan for the recreational opportunities for all residents.

Based on the positive feedback received during Mr. Penalosa's presentation, Administration was invited to submit an expression of interest to partner with 8-80 Cities in an application to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (OSRCF) under a project "Opening our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario". On March 14, 2013, the City Engineer submitted a letter of interest to the OSRCF (see Appendix 'A'). The letter states that if the application was to be accepted, the approval of City Council would be required.

Confirmation was received stating that the 8-80 Cities application was approved by the OSRCF and includes Windsor, Kingston, Thunder Bay and Toronto as participants in the program.

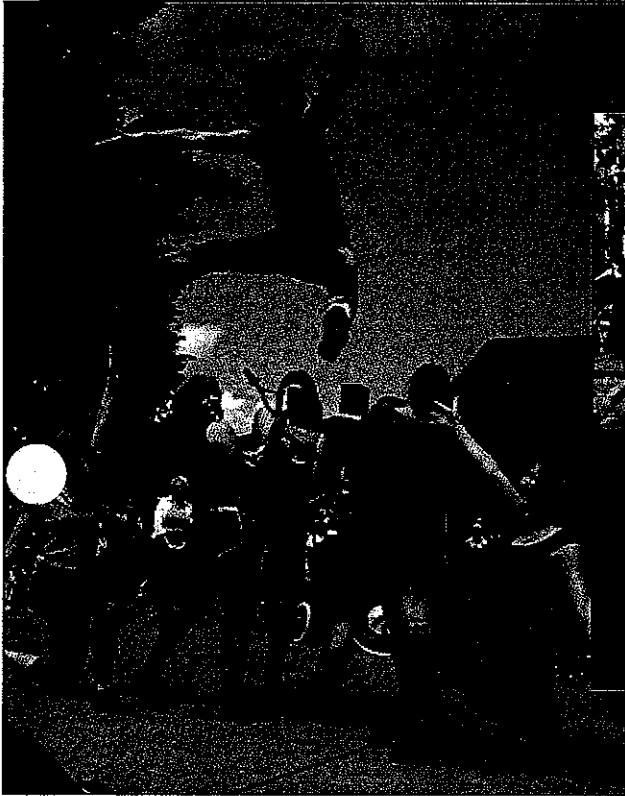
8-80 Cities hosted a "Opening Our Streets for Health – Open Streets Training Session" on November 15, 2013 in their Toronto offices. Participation was largely comprised of their grant partners and the agenda items included a "New York Experience" presentation by Dani Simons from the NYC Department of Transportation. The Recreation and Culture Department and Transportation Planning Division sent representatives from the City of Windsor.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

Given their extensive experience in open streets projects completed in cities throughout North, South, and Central America—the 8-80 Cities organization is well qualified to be the lead experts on this project. Should City Council authorize involvement in this initiative, it would commit the City to coordinate local demonstration projects and make a modest financial contribution outlined below.

#### **Demonstration Projects**

As a partner in this project, the City of Windsor would commit to working with staff from 8-80 Cities to plan, develop, and implement four to five events in 2014 and/or 2015. These events typically take place over a 5-8 hour period and involve the temporary 'opening' of (ideally) a minimum 5 km stretch of public roadway for recreational activities (please note 8-80 Cities uses the term 'opening', however the street would have to be closed to vehicular traffic). Residents would use these 'paved parks' to improve their mental, physical and emotional health by walking, running, cycling, or doing other recreational activity. In other communities, open street events have included a presence of community agencies and organizations which host a broad spectrum of stations along the street—all in support of healthy lifestyle initiatives. Some examples could include skipping, gymnastics, public engagement, yoga, crafting, and try-a-tricycle (see photos below). The sale of merchandise is generally discouraged.



The costs associated with any proposed street 'openings' (e.g. barricades, detour signage, staff time refuse containers, etc.) are not covered by 8-80 Cities. These costs would be identified for each individual event and reported to City Council. The proposed funding for these events would be targeted from existing capital programs related to pedestrian improvement, bikeway development, traffic calming, or active transportation.

#### Opportunity for Further Partnerships

Separate from the 'Open Streets' program—the City of Windsor has been invited to participate as one of eight 'bike friendly' communities designated by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition as part of the launch of 'UCycle'—a new program designed to increase cycling among post-secondary students in Ontario. Through UCycle, Share the Road Cycling Coalition partners with universities, colleges, municipal stakeholders, and local businesses to engage with students about safe cycling and promote cycling to destinations on and off campus. This unique program is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and is offered to a limited number of municipalities as a pilot between January 2014 and March 2015. Administration is looking at opportunities to link these two initiatives.

#### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

The risk involved with participating in the Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario program is similar to other events (e.g. parades, races, street festivals, etc.) that close a section public roadway. The risk of not participating involves missing out on an opportunity for promotion of an active and healthy lifestyle.

#### **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The financial cost to the City to participate in the 'Open Streets' program is \$2,500. Funding is available in the Planning Department's capital account 7131008 (Community Energy and Sustainability Model). The City's contribution will allow 8-80 Cities staff to come to Windsor on three occasions to meet with administration to advise, support and assist with planning, developing and evaluating the project. In addition, 8-80 staff will be available throughout the project to provide support and advice to ensure the project is successful. 8-80 Cities has estimated that the total value of their work for the four participating cities (Windsor, Kingston, Thunder Bay, Toronto) is \$30,000.

The City's Environmental Coordinator has identified \$5,000 in 2014 and 2015 (total of \$10,000) from the Environmental Master Plan account to assist with costs associated with demonstration projects. Costs associated with proposed temporary street closure will be subject to Council's review and approval at a future date. Costs associated with setting up the event would be targeted from capital programs related to pedestrian improvement, bikeway development, traffic calming, or active transportation and will be detailed as appropriate in a future report.

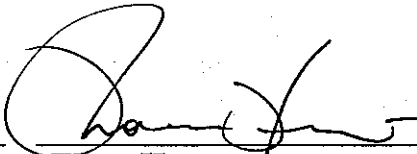
#### **6. CONSULTATIONS:**

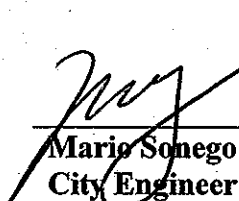
Staff from the Public Works (Operations and Transportation Planning), Parks & Facilities and Planning have held a number of meetings to discuss the positive benefits of the 'Open Streets' program.

**7. CONCLUSION:**

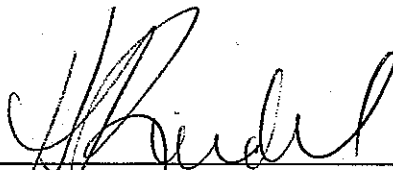
Administration recommends City Council endorse participation in the Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario program. Participation will include the support of staff from 8-80 Cities to plan, design, and implement four or five temporary street closures in 2014 and 2015. Participation will support additional opportunities for access to recreational opportunities in the community. Future council reports will identify project locations (street openings) and planned events for the respective demonstration projects.

  
For **Michael Cooke**  
Manager of Planning Policy

  
**Thom Hunt**  
City Planner / Executive Director

  
**Mario Sonogo**  
City Engineer

  
**Valerie Critchley**  
City Clerk

  
**Helga Reidel**  
Chief Administrative Officer

MC/GA

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix 'A': March 14, 2013 Letter of Interest to Participate in 'Opening Our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario'

**DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:**

**Name:** John Micelli, Executive Director of Parks & Facilities

**Phone #:** 519-253-2300 x2702

**Name:** Mike Clement, Manager of Parks Development

**Phone #:** 519-253-2300 x2736

**Name:** Mike Taylor, Coordinator, Community Special Events

**Phone #:** 519-253-2300 x2716

**Name:** Wes Hicks, Senior Mgr., Infrastructure & Transportation Planning/Deputy City Engineer

**Phone #:** 519-255-6257 x6490

**Name:** Josette Eugeni, Manager of Transportation Planning

**Phone #:** 519-255-6247 x6418

**Name:** Sahar Jamshidi, Planner II-Research & Design Support

**Phone #:** 519-255-6543 x6440

**Name:** Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator

**Phone #:** 519-253-7111 x3290

**Name:** Karina Richters, Environmental Coordinator

**Phone #:** 519-253-7111 ext. 3226

**NOTIFICATION:**

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	Fax
Alyssa Bird		<a href="mailto:abird@8-80cities.org">abird@8-80cities.org</a>		



APPENDIX 'A'



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER

Mario Sonogo, P. Eng.,  
City Engineer  
1266 McDougall Street  
Windsor, Ontario, N9X 3M7  
(519) 255-6248 Fax (519) 973-5476  
[msonogo@city.windsor.on.ca](mailto:msonogo@city.windsor.on.ca)

8-80 Cities  
192 Spadina Ave Suite 510  
Toronto, ON  
M5T 2C2

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Re: Support for the proposal to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund  
"Opening our Streets for Sport and Recreation in Ontario"*

Dear Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund Selection Committee,

I, Mario Sonogo, would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the City Engineer for City of Windsor, Ontario. Windsor is located on the most South-Western tip of Ontario, bordered by Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. Our city is known for its warm summers, mild winters and sizeable waterfront. Windsor is a great place for those looking to participate in outdoor activities throughout the year. Windsor has a population of 210,891 residents and is revitalizing its economy through innovative technologies such as the renewable energy sector. During her most recent visit to Windsor on March 11, 2013, Premier Kathleen Wynne called Windsor "the best-kept secret in the province."

This letter is to confirm that the Corporation of the City of Windsor is interested in participating in the proposed 8-80 Cities "Opening our Streets" project (2013-2015) in order to plan, develop and implement an Open Streets program in our city, pending the approval of city council for this project. If the application is successful, it is our intent to work with 8-80 Cities so that our City will have the capacity to implement an open streets program in 2014 and/or 2015.

This project supports our commitment to the environment as well as building a healthy, sustainable city. Through the promotion and encouragement of active transportation, community interaction and downtown revitalization, the goals in our *Official Plan*, *Environmental Master Plan* and *Bicycle Master Plan* are supported.

We would be delighted to participate in 8-80 Cities' proposed project to improve access to recreational opportunities in our city.

Thank you,

  
Mario Sonogo  
City Engineer

City of Windsor • 350 City Hall Square West • Windsor, ON • N9A 6S1  
[www.citywindsor.ca](http://www.citywindsor.ca)

