

December 10, 2014

Sent by email to the City Clerk

Mayor and Members of

Hamilton City Council

I am writing to you in response to the story that appeared in yesterday's Hamilton Spectator regarding an impending motion to scrap the bus only lane before council has had an opportunity to review an analysis of the pilot project.

Not surprisingly, I want to emphasize that there are thousands of Hamilton residents who ride buses going through the core that have benefited from a system that has been better able to adhere to schedules and move people more efficiently through the core.

Ask your staff, the drivers about that and how it has reduced the stress level for their jobs and reduced the tensions with passengers

<u greater concern is with the message this decision should you go ahead, sends to the public.

Is that council really committed to the notion of complete streets and a shared road way system?

Any change requires some effort to get people to adapt. During this pilot I have seen no attempt to encourage drivers to change their patterns from using King as a through route. Could this not be a way of relieving the traffic pressure and coincidentally making a better atmosphere for many of the businesses along the street?

That's just one piece of the many things that could be done to enhance and modify the experiment to tell whether it really can be a success.

O a, also concerned about the message that is set by Council not listening or waiting for the facts and instead of balancing its decisions amongst a number of interests and instead listening to those who complain the loudest.

Finally it is disappointing that staff could not foresee these issues coming forward at a time when the road could be repainted. Not that I want to see it, but are we to see a repeat of the confusion that too place when the project was first implemented? Again, not the way that the business of a more collaborative Council should be kicked off.

I would urge council to wait to consider the staff report and have a public discussion of the future of the pilot involving all the stakeholders once the facts are publicly known

Sincerely

Peter Hutton