

# The Hamilton Chamber Commerce's Commitment to the LRT Project

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Hamilton City Council General Issues Committee  
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# Agenda

1. History and Mandate of Chamber LRT Taskforce
2. Composition of LRT Taskforce
3. Pledge to you and the Hamilton Community
  - Provide Leadership
  - Mitigation of LRT Construction
  - Maximizing Economic Uplift
    - Actions to Get Hamilton Rapid Ready
    - The North American Light Rail Experience
4. Upcoming MITL Complete Streets Report

# Mandate & History of LRT Taskforce

## Mandate:

- Assess Hamilton's LRT project from a business perspective i.e. provide input to and assess the return on investment of LRT in Hamilton
- Engage Chamber members and the business community to provide input to the LRT project
- Provide input on how LRT is a strategic infrastructure investment for Hamilton
- Assess development options along the LRT corridors (ex. zoning; incentives)

## Activities and outcomes:

- Assessed available evidence and informed by the work of MITL's The North America Light Rail Experience and City Staff's Rapid Ready report (2012-2015)
- Provided a forum for Public and Private Sector stakeholders.

## Composition of LRT Taskforce:

- Hamilton City Councillors (3)
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College
- McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics
- CAA
- City of Hamilton staff
- Realtors Association of Hamilton and Burlington
- Hamilton-Halton Homebuilders Association
- Vrancor
- Big Bee
- Strategic Interchange
- International Village BIA
- Downtown Hamilton BIA
- Hamilton Port Authority
- Sonic Unyon/Supercrawl
- Chamber Division Chairs: Ancaster, Dundas, Glanbrook and Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals (YEP)
- Hamilton HIVE
- Korlon Strategic Services

## Pledge to you and the Hamilton Community:

- To provide leadership & mobilize the rest of the leadership community
- To communicate with and work to mitigate the impacts to the Downtown business community
- To communicate with and work to mitigate the impacts to businesses along the corridor
- To help ensure that we do everything to maximize the economic uplift associated with the project

## Maximizing Economic Uplift:

### #1 - Actions to Get Hamilton Rapid Ready



#### e. PROVIDING SAFE AND CONVENIENT WALKING AND CYCLING ENVIRONMENTS

Encourage walking and cycling for short- and medium-distance trips while creating strong linkages to transit



#### f. INTEGRATING CORRIDOR AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Planning for and building the city around transit



#### g. DEVELOPING SEAMLESS MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIONS

Integrating different modes of transportation to maximize connections to transit.

## Maximizing Economic Uplift: #2 - McMaster Institute for Transportation & Logistics Report: The North American Light Rail Experience

One concern for B-Line LRT and the attraction of new riders is that movements along the corridor are fairly efficient for automobile commuters. Meanwhile, parking in the downtown core is cheap and abundant. The system of one-way streets along the prospective corridor, while good for auto commuting, is not ideal for LRT or for encouraging TOD.

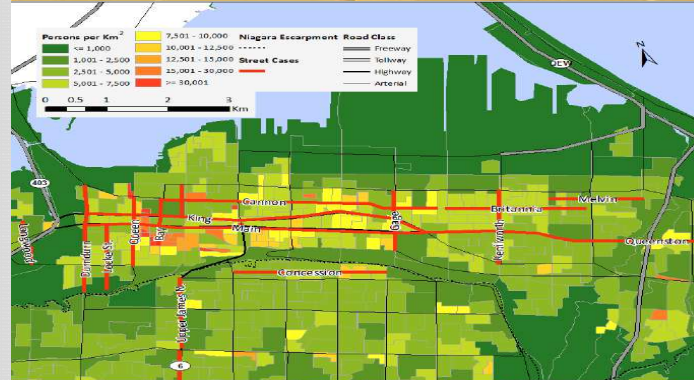
Investments in light rail often take place in an auto-oriented environment where the path of least resistance is the status quo. As such, the need for a high degree of vision, conviction and strong support from the public is clear as all parties contemplate a time when the automobile is less dominant than at present.

LRT itself should be understood as a tool to *guide* development more so than one that *generates* development in and of itself, and likewise TOD is not a product of transit alone, but the interaction between a complex set of local factors. Apart from making travel by private automobile less attractive, a comprehensive array of planning incentives will likely be necessary to induce new investment along the route.



# Preview of What's to Come

## Shaping Hamilton with Complete Streets



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