



LiUNA!

LABOURERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
Local 837

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May 19, 2016

Mr. Sam Merulla
City of Hamilton
Councillor Ward 4
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Councillor Merulla:

Re: Hamilton's LRT

We write with great concern regarding the most recent discussions surrounding Hamilton's LRT. First and foremost we wish to reaffirm to City Council LiUNA's strong support for the 11 km east-west LRT line which the province announced for the city one year ago.

Our sentiments have not changed: the Wynne Government made a strong and positive decision in choosing to fund the LRT line and the LRT's construction will positively change the profile, not only of the lower city but of the Greater Hamilton area.

LiUNA has been following with dread the ongoing battles of City Council about the project's merits. We are reminded once again that City Council repeatedly chooses to over-debate matters, often to the misfortune of the hard working tax payers of this city. Why are the naysayers always the ones with the loudest voice, even if they represent the smallest percentage of citizens? We cite examples including the building of the Linc/Red Hill Expressway, the restoration of the Lister Block and Tim Horton's field as prime examples. The Linc/Expressway is heavily trafficked and is being used more than studies predicted, yet fear and opposition put us 50 years behind schedule. The Lister Block, a symbol of Hamilton's buoyancy sat lifeless and in decay longer than necessary but has become the beacon of economic resurgence in the core and the stadium saga ultimately concluded with the building of Tim Horton's Field, arguably not the best location.

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Fate is an uncertainty, but fear should never preclude us from moving forward. In fact, LiUNA has moved forward on the second phase of the Lister redevelopment; with the introduction of much needed student housing at the William Thomas site. We have navigated our way to the construction phase, working together and with open communication with City officials.

The positives of proceeding with the LRT far outweigh the negative and reopening the debate, or cancelling the proposal, will do nothing to help the City or its citizens. Reports and studies have been completed and reviewed, the facts speak for themselves, the positives of building far outweigh the negatives. Construction is disruptive but is required for growth; the fear of businesses closing along the route during construction, is a myopic concern ... the jobs the project will create for Hamiltonians will buoy the city's overall economy in the short-term and once complete the area will attract new, more vibrant businesses. In addition we will be developing a more sustainable community. There will be an influx of residents moving into the neighbourhoods that border the LRT and this will be an economic catalyst for the area too. The 11 km quadrant in question and its surrounding area will see resurgence similar to what has been witnessed in the downtown core with the introduction of the Go Train lines.

It's time we embrace this development opportunity and move forward. We hope that Council thinks calmly and rationally and votes to move forward swiftly on this much needed system.

We are happy to speak with you in person to discuss our hopes and concerns directly with you.

With kind regards, we are

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Mancinelli
Int'l Vice President
& President, LiUNA Local 837



Riccardo Persi
Secretary-Treasurer
LiUNA Local 837



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Business Manager
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