



June 8, 2016

City of Hamilton
Mayor's Office
Hamilton City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main St. West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Attention: His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Council Members

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council:

Hamilton is a city on the rise. Daily we hear that homebuyers are discovering the charms and relative affordability of Hamilton neighbourhoods. Hamilton is also attracting attention from all sectors and the city's economic development department has been busier than ever. But there is still much work to do. Property taxes are high, the downtown is in recovery and the city is still trying to shed its image from a heavy industrial past.

We need to be forward thinking in our plans for the future, and we believe that light rail is one of the best ways to achieve many of the City's goals – goals such as continued revitalization of the downtown core, intensification along main corridors, further economic development and a broadening of the tax base.

That's why, in 2008, the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB) took an official position in support of light rail. In the eight years since, our position hasn't wavered. This is because, even in the early days, it was apparent to us that the scope is more than just a state of the art transportation system: it is an investment in the future.

The issue then was money; how much and from where were the key concerns. That issue has been resolved with the Province's commitment of \$1B for this project. The Province is willing, ready and able to assist Hamilton's move into the future.

The City has been studying LRT since 2008, and study after study has concluded there will be a return on investment for the B-line and that ridership along this route is already on par with comparable rapid transit systems in North America. The City's own Rapid Ready report provides some very positive numbers, with the following financial benefits from LRT:

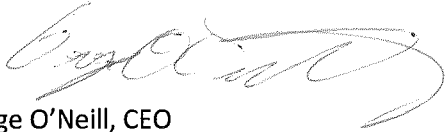
- Reduction of scheduled and un-scheduled backlog capital works in the order of approximately \$79 million.
- Tax benefit from new development by LRT estimated at \$22.4 million.
- Potential for 6,000 construction jobs provincially, with 3,500 directly in Hamilton.

- Potential for 1,000 permanent jobs (provincial); 300 jobs in Hamilton to deliver regular operations and maintenance.
- B-Line LRT investment may result in an estimated increase of more than \$443 million in Ontario's GDP

The City and Metrolinx have already started the critical work of planning the design and technical aspects of the system. Outreach to residents and businesses along the corridor has begun - from the City and Metrolinx, the Chamber of Commerce and the BIAs. There is no doubt that construction will be difficult, but the investment in our collective future will be worth more than a billion dollars.

We urge you to confirm your support for LRT and continue with the consultation and planning work that is already well underway.

Sincerely,
REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George O'Neill", written in a cursive style.

George O'Neill, CEO