



Main St. East, King St. East & King William St. from Mary St. to West Ave. in Downtown Hamilton

July 21st, 2016

To: Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of the LRT Sub-Committee
RE: LRT project plans – International Village BIA
From: International Village Board of Management

Dear: Mayor Eisenberger & Members of the LRT Sub-Committee,

We, the board of management for International Village BIA would like to bring to your attention some concerns we have regarding the current LRT project.

In May we were presented with the current alignment plan that gave us an overview of the LRT route through International Village. We were told several times by City of Hamilton and Metrolinx staff that these plans were what we had to work with and that the plan was that LRT would be running on King St. E. through International Village. This is the plan that the BIA board has been working with and relaying to our membership with guidance by Metrolinx and the City of Hamilton when requested.

It seems that since this time, there has been some discussion and confusion as to whether this project will in fact go forward due to a vote by council regarding funding of the project pending in the fall. We want council and the LRT sub-committee to understand that this has had great implications on the business community within International Village in downtown Hamilton. What our members need now are facts. Is LRT going ahead? If LRT is happening, is it firm that it is going on King St. E.? If LRT is going on King St. E. as we've been told, then our businesses need to have answers as to why King St. has been chosen for the corridor. The answer of economic uplift for the long range is understandable, but not good enough. They deserve real facts, reports and justification as to why this route has been chosen. If their businesses are going to have to endure construction, they need to know that now.

We understand that only the first 30% of the alignment is being worked on now and there is much more information to come as the plans are unveiled in the fall and spring. However, what is lacking from the City of Hamilton right now is leadership when it comes to LRT. We need to hear 'yes LRT is going ahead 100%' and we need to know exactly where LRT will run through our BIA. The business and property owners of International Village must prepare for this giant project and make the hard decisions and plans they will be faced with. We need answers and we need them now.

Our BIA board has always been in support of LRT provided there is proper planning and communication. We see the long term vision of this project. We have worked closely with the City of Hamilton and Metrolinx LRT staff and we appreciate the constant interaction we have enjoyed with them to this point in the process. It is imperative now that our leaders take us out of the 'grey' and give us the cold, hard black and white facts so that we can get on with it. The role of the BIA is not to take a political stance on this project, but to be a communicator and connector of people. The absence of strong leadership on these aspects of the LRT project from the City of Hamilton makes our role very difficult and impedes our ability to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herb Wodehouse".

Herb Wodehouse

Chair – International Village BIA on behalf of the International Village Board of Management.