

From: Chuchman, Jeff
Sent: October-11-16 12:48 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Johnson, Aidan
Subject: LRT

Aidan and the Clerk@hamilton,

I am writing to express my support for LRT prior to the vote on October 25th.

LRT will be a transformative project for this city. With the right zoning in place, it will lead to increased development downtown, better density (which results in a higher ROI for city services), and begin the process of rebalancing city taxes off the backs of homeowners. The upgrades to infrastructure alone justify taking \$1,000,000,000.00 investment in the city, freeing up valuable public works dollars for other priorities.

Similarly, it is well known the world over that LRT systems get people out of their cars, in a way buses and BRT systems don't. The highly predictable (and thoroughly studied) result will be less vehicle congestion, and greater public health outcomes as people choose a safe, reliable, comfortable alternative to their cars. Between the obesity epidemic in North America, and the staggering number of work days in this city lost to air quality issues each year, these benefits will not only transform the lives of individuals for the better, but have a ripple effect on economic productivity that will benefit all Hamiltonians, regardless of whether they live on the LRT route or not.

Finally, the environmental benefits of LRT cannot be overstated. Whether it's the protection of greenbelt lands from developers who choose instead to build high-density residences along the route (protecting vital natural areas, farmlands and watersheds), the drop in GHG emissions from fewer cars on the road, or the fact that the LRT will be powered by electricity in one of the cleanest energy provinces in Canada, the ecological benefits are enormous.

The anti-LRT vote has at its ugly core, and element of class-ism pure and simple. The notion that the perceived 'hippies, hobos and students' who ride public transit do not deserve the same access to quick, comfortable transportation as people who drive. Leaving behind the fact that many transit riders use the system to go to work, and the simple fact that if they're living in Hamilton that transit riders are paying the property taxes (either directly or through their rent) that fund the road system, it's an us-vs-them argument that psychologically divides our already physically divided city. That type of argument has no place in public discourse in the city I love.

In short, I would urge you, and all of your colleagues to support the LRT project - as it is currently envisioned, and has been voted on and approved countless times - to the fullest.

Please ensure my comments are entered into record at the appropriate council meeting on the 25th.

Sincerely,

Jeff Chuchman, Hamilton, ON