



## Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

#227 – 7 Innovation Dr. Flamborough, ON L9H 7H9  
T: 905-689-7650 F: 905-689-1313

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Wednesday, February 22, 2017

### **Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Hamilton Council:**

As you probably know, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) has some serious questions/concerns about Hamilton's proposed \$1 billion Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. As a matter of fact, the FCC Board of Directors (BOD) has postponed taking a formal position on the project until its questions/concerns have been addressed - especially as it relates to specifics about the impact of the project on **ALL** Hamilton taxpayers, including those in Flamborough.

At the most recent meeting of the LRT Sub-Committee - where I represent the FCC - consideration of an additional stop at Bay Street LRT station/stop as proposed by our friends at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (HCC) took place. Frankly, we found the HCC's arguments for an additional stop persuasive. It appears that an additional stop (halfway between James Street and Queen Street) will add less than a minute to the McMaster University to Queenston traffic circle schedule. Furthermore, the additional cost is rather small when compared to the project's total price tag of \$1 billion.

As the 'Voice of Business' in and for Flamborough, the FCC is committed to 'city building' and making the 'new' Hamilton 'the best place to raise a child.' We'd like to think we've demonstrated that in the past (as evidenced by our enthusiastic support for Mayor Eisenberger's visionary and courageous anti-poverty initiative). And we're committed to continuing to doing so in the future.

Despite many unanswered questions and concerns about the LRT project, the FCC supported the HCC's recommendation to add a LRT stop at Bay Street. **If Hamilton is going to proceed with the LRT project, then let us together make it the best LRT it can be!!** That's why we were surprised when Council declined to adopt the unanimous recommendation of the LRT Sub-Committee re the proposed Bay Street stop.

We understand that the 'make or break' decision regarding Hamilton's LRT project will take place at some point in the future once Council considers the proposed Operating and Maintenance Agreement. Hopefully that will (finally) detail what the impacts are for **ALL** Hamilton taxpayers - especially as it relates to those in Flamborough.

**To avoid any confusion, the FCC BOD wants to emphasize that our support for an additional LRT station at Bay Street must not be construed - either explicit or inferred - as support of the LRT project.**

Perhaps those members of Council who voted against the proposed Bay Street stop at the most recent meeting of the General Issue Committee (GIC) were concerned approving it could/would be interpreted by some as endorsement/support of the entire LRT project. While understanding that sentiment, the FCC respectfully disagrees.

Supporting an additional LRT stop at Bay Street (making Hamilton's LRT 'the very best it can be') is **SEPARATE** from the ultimate 'make or break' decision regarding Hamilton's LRT (once Council considers all the details as spelled out in the proposed Operating and Maintenance Agreement).

Accordingly - and with the utmost of respect - we would ask that Council **NOT** ratify the decision made at last week's GIC meeting - or at the very least, refer the matter back to the LRT Sub-Committee for further consideration.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time.

On behalf of the FCC BOD,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arend Kersten".

Arend Kersten, Executive Director  
Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

cc: FCC BOD  
Keanin Loomis, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce  
Arnie Strub, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce