

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** LRT Project: Please Don't Drink the LRT Kool Aid

**From:** Mike Chiarelli

**Sent:** March-16-17 9:53 AM

**To:** Collins, Chad; Skelly, Donna; Jackson, Tom

**Cc:** Office of the Mayor; Whitehead, Terry

**Subject:** Re: LRT Project: Please Don't Drink the LRT Kool Aid

On Wed, Mar 15, 2017 at 1:39 PM Mike Chiarelli > wrote:

I sent this email to my council member, Mr. Whitehead and wished to share my sentiments with the rest of you.

Hello Terry:

As one of your constituents I commend you for your work to get behind the numbers re. the proposed LRT project.

My understanding is that Council had approved support for LRT on the condition that no taxpayer monies would be involved. This seems to be very unlikely as murky and vague details about costs and who pays for what continue to be unclear.

I cannot find one person who supports the LRT project. I have friends and relatives across the city including the lower escarpment, many business acquaintances, and an extensive network of friends. Even my neighbours, with successful businesses in the lower core, see no need for LRT and are afraid that their many years of building a business will be blown to bits during LRT construction and beyond.

There is no business case, no cost/benefit analysis conducted by a neutral third party that shows conclusively that benefits outweigh projected costs. The Metrolinx study itself, biased as it was, showed that the largest economic benefit was "time savings" NOT economic investment which represented a small portion of total economic benefits. Time savings are not a tangible benefit. Property values may increase but will drive out most of the existing residents who live on modest incomes along this route.

The route is problematic with low ridership, and poor prospects to draw more commuters.

The route ignores the real traffic issues in the greater Hamilton area (getting to and from the GTA, north/south congestion, highway congestion, and cross-mountain traffic).

The impact on car traffic in the lower escarpment will be monumental and choke off any desire to want to venture in the lower core unless absolutely necessary. Is there a contingency plan to move traffic efficiently east-west? I don't see one.. And the underused bike lanes are not helping the cause but that is another debate for another time.

Business losses will be huge. Ancillary investment minimal -- there is no attractive land or available land along the route for investment.

Those who believe that commuters to Toronto will use LRT to connect to GO services are dreaming --- unless such commuters enjoy a 2 hour plus commute one way every day. Almost all GO users prefer

Aldershot or Burlington Go stations due to free parking and ease of getting to and from home to destination. You only have to look at the paltry numbers at our Hamilton Go terminals.

I have worked as a transportation planner and economist in the past, have studied the Metrolinx reports, and have concluded that the project does not meet the shovel ready criteria and will cost Hamiltonians millions for years to come. Costs will very likely outweigh benefits.

Dont let the tiny minority of special interest groups with a very loud voice and privileged access to some of our Council leaders have the day. Listen to the majority. They are speaking - many of you just don't hear them.

Stop this LRT....Go BRT -- much better bang for the buck and cover entire region at fraction of cost. A phased in BRT approach that builds ridership, is flexible, and that may, one day, justify moving to LRT system (if that technology is still relevant) is the appropriate and prudent way to go.

I urge you to vote against this LRT project. I do not support it. Nne of my neighbours or business acquaintances support it.

Mike Chiarelli

(KK)