

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

From: Office of the Mayor

Sent: December-22-16 2:42 PM

To: 'Ron Barrons'

Cc: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi

Subject: RE: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Hi Ron,

That is incorrect – a municipality must ask for and do the studies for the rapid transit projects, under the Provincial “The Big Move” plan. Metrolinx decides this based their benefits case analysis after a city submits their project for funding. We would be happy to ask a representative from Metrolinx clarify these details to you.

The Rapid Ready report information can be found here: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/priority-projects/rapid-ready>, which details the need for a higher order of transit in the years to come.

Regards,
Laura

Laura Farr | Administrative Assistant to Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton | Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
Phone: 905-546-4064 | Fax: 905-546-2340

From: Ron Barrons

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 12:10 PM

To: Office of the Mayor

Cc: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi

Subject: RE: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Hi Laura,

My understanding is the money going to “Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Mississauga, London, Toronto or Brampton” has already been decided regardless of whether Hamilton causes the Ontario ‘debt’ to rise by another billion ‘plus’ dollars.

The bottom line is Ontario is broke, Hamilton is broke and I’m broke. If money needs to be spent, it needs to be spent fixing things in need and the transit system that runs along King street is not broken. Nowhere have I seen one King Street transit rider jumping up and down demanding the LRT.

It is only those looking, as you do, at that big pile of money who are promoting LRT. You don’t even offer any comment as to the need for this system, because there is none. It’s all money, money, money and borrowed money at that will be put on my credit card.

Ron

From: Office of the Mayor [<mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca>]

Sent: December 22, 2016 11:34 AM

To: 'Ron Barrons'

Cc: Johnson, Aidan <Aidan.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Green, Matthew <Matthew.Green@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Skelly, Donna <Donna.Skelly@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Conley, Doug <Doug.Conley@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Pasuta, Robert <robert.pasuta@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Subject: RE: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Hi Ron,

What is meant by that is that it is not funding by municipal tax dollars. The Province has been very clear that if Council suddenly decides we do not want the funding, that there will be no new deal and we will be starting all over again. So that \$1Billion of your Provincial tax dollars would then go to other cities waiting for Rapid Transit funding – Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Mississauga, London, Toronto or Brampton – and Hamilton's new ask would be at the back of the line. As the Mayor has said, when we need it in 20 years, we would likely be paying for it ourselves.

The LRT project is being implemented in tandem with updating our transit system across the whole city.

Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Regards,
Laura

Laura Farr | Administrative Assistant to Mayor Fred Eisenberger
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71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
Phone: 905-546-4064 | Fax: 905-546-2340

From: Ron Barrons

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 11:19 AM

To: Office of the Mayor

Cc: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi

Subject: RE: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Hi Laura,

Thanks for responding, I appreciate that.

Your first comment "The Province is funding this project" is one I find absolutely and continually silly, in that it somehow tries to suggest that we Hamiltonians are not of Ontario. We in Hamilton will fund 'our' LRT as those in other jurisdictions such as Mississauga or Toronto will fund theirs through provincial taxation. Sure, I accept a couple of dollars may come from Thunder Bay or elsewhere.

As for comments two and three, these are issues that you admit have not even been finalized or “agreed upon” so let’s get all the cards on the table before burdening Hamiltonians with a very expensive toy train that I point out in my original email cannot be financially supported by what now appears to be a declining ridership.

Also, one needs only to look at yesterday’s Spectator article “Progress on Burlington GO station going nowhere - Construction of the \$13.8-million project was expected to wrap up almost three years ago” to see how badly Metrolinx has failed on this one small project. This boondoggle is not something to be turned loose upon the main thoroughfare of our city where a billion dollars is involved with expected cost over runs.

As I have said many times, this LRT project in Hamilton is all about the movement of money and little to do with the movement of people. The mayor and those that support the LRT need to step away from the glow of that ‘borrowed’ pile of money. They need to start fixing a city badly in need of repairs along many avenues. There is much that needs to be done now.

Ron

From: Office of the Mayor [<mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca>]

Sent: December 22, 2016 9:57 AM

To: 'Ron Barrons'

Subject: RE: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Hi Ron,

The Mayor asked that I respond to your email. The Province is funding this project, not the City of Hamilton. Maintenance will be covered in the tender for 25 years by the company that builds the LRT. And lastly, the City will not likely be the operator – Metrolinx will, though that has not yet been agreed upon.

Regards,
Laura

Laura Farr | Administrative Assistant to Mayor Fred Eisenberger
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From: Ron Barrons

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2016 5:09 PM

To: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi; Office of the Mayor

Subject: Posted on No LRT in Hamilton

Given today’s revenue on the 21,000,000 supposed full HSR yearly ridership, it would take over 20 years just to come up with the one billion dollars of projected cost just to build the LRT. This doesn’t consider the borrowing costs, this doesn’t consider the cost overruns, this doesn’t consider the labour cost to run the entire system, or this doesn’t consider the ongoing maintenance needed. Oh wait, forget the last one, as Hamilton never maintains anything, so I suppose in 20 years this billion dollar toy train will be worthless and we’ll have a couple of billion dollars of addition debt to deal with.