

5.15 (III)

LRT Questions/Concerns

March 26, 2017

LRT Hamilton is a transformative project which addresses no compelling need or requirement, at least none that could not be addressed in a manner I would consider far more fiscally responsible. It is a concept which radically alters current transportation models, while effectively ignoring the input of the current systems largest user segment (motorists).

With the Government of Ontario apparently committed to 100% responsibility for any associated capital cost's for the project, ambiguity concerning fares...how much?...who collects?.....who benefits?.....creates unsettling uncertainty. What are we really getting here, an investment? Or a loan? I believe current leadership has failed to frame this aspect accurately, blinded by personal agenda, and unwilling to draw any attention to real or perceived weakness or concern expressed in consideration of this undertaking.

I have visited the City's web page devoted to addressing FAQ's concerning LRT Hamilton. Many (most) of my questions are addressed professionally, and I congratulate those involved for the time and energy expended. However, important questions remain unanswered, and given the scope, interest, and energy expended, I feel these unresolved concerns serve to feed concern, alarm and mistrust.

- 1) If LRT's capitol costs are covered 100% by the Province, why would we need to charge a fare? (Imagine what would happen to ridership levels if this were actually "free")
- 2) How much is the fare?
- 3) Who will collect and own the fare revenue?
- 4) Will fare revenue be re-invested in the system?
- 5) Will fare revenue fund HSR?
- 6) Is Hamilton Health Sciences intending to shutter its Mac children's campus?
- 7) What measures have been commissioned or studied to accommodate automobile traffic currently using King St. which will be displaced?
- 8) Which HSR routes will be "paralleled" to accommodate LRT? Are any associated costs for by this requirement funded fully by the Province?
- 9) Do projected ridership forecasts for 2031 and 2041 respectively recognize that current totals are falling, trending downward, 2 years consecutive? If so, when do totals reverse? If not, why?
- 10) Respecting the bid to construct the project, when does the bid officially open/close?
- 11) What other recent projects have received their LRT vehicles on schedule? Why are we optimistic in the face of demonstrated concerns?
- 12) Concerning the monies spent to date, estimated at \$60-70 million, how have they improved local transit service delivery?
- 13) When is someone-anyone-going to confront and address area rating and its impact on system performance? Creating political alliances which serve to fail

current users while ensuring the support required furthering this particular initiative hardly engender convincing universal appeal. It fails the sniff test.

Of my concerns respecting conduct, I refer to the Mayor's city supplied twitter account, dated 2/11/17 (9:06 a.m.) messaging the Publisher of "Raise the Hammer" in response to the caption "Time to stop rewarding the Whitehead Circus" to which Mayor Eisenberger replies "exactly Ryan! It's a constant cry for attention" Supporting obsessive, angry misconduct directed toward a colleague is itself objectionable, diminishing the Office by removing any hint of objectivity.

Further, Mr. Green's conduct at City Hall on Thursday February 9th, 2017 was disturbing. "The circus proper" began when Green steps up to the podium to present his counterviews. Quickly the scene devolves into chaos, with Green attempting to make a statement without success, attempting to debate before eventually reconsidering, finally calling for security. Do such actions foster open, respectful engagement? An observer from the Hamilton Spectator characterized Green's conduct as "politically arrogant" and "immature" I concur.

Consistent with a pervasive air that those in favor possess superior intellect and morality, these examples of leadership on display alienate, divide and diminish the community they purport to serve. The notion that any sort of constructive criticism is something akin to treason, unwelcome and of no benefit is insulting to many.

I believe both examples are violations of the "Code of Conduct" both individuals have sworn to uphold. I believe this sort of conduct is petty, lacking respect and professionalism. I believe such conduct undermines support for the project and emboldens opposition.

These concerns prohibit my support for LRT Hamilton. I appreciate your consideration in this regard

Sincerely

Jim Graham,