

Pilon, Janet

Subject: A Response To Call To Action

From: Leigh Tomasik
Sent: March-15-17 5:16 AM
To: Whitehead, Terry
Cc: Office of the Mayor; Farr, Jason
Subject: A Response To Call To Action

Mr. Whitehead.

I am

1. a citizen of your ward.
2. a car driver
3. tired of your crusade against public transit wasting city money.

I understand that you are tired of hearing opposing viewpoints from people who are large stakeholders (ie. users) of public transit and alternative transit options. People, public transit users and drivers alike, are equally tired of your crusade against improving public transit in this city. So much money seems to be wasted on administrative indecision that could be spent on the actual infrastructure this city needs so dearly. You asked for members of the broader community to make their viewpoints known, so I am answering your call.

Improving public transit will improve my life. I am normally a car driver, but if I want to visit the farmer's market, or one of the trendy restaurants on James North, or see a concert, or take the Go into Toronto, I hop on a bus, because parking downtown is inconvenient and expensive. I often make plans to meet friends for these outings and these people take public transit too. I used to be a daily HSR user and know how inconvenient it can be. Car drivers, especially long time car drivers, do not understand inconvenience in the same way, and I have never been very inconvenienced as a car driver in Hamilton, other than the occasional pothole.

Personally, as a car driver, I don't feel vilified by people who want public transit. They are my friends and my neighbours. It is a privilege to own a vehicle. I don't feel socially-engineered. I just have empathy. I did feel a little "socially-engineered" by your call to arms. Maybe you realize that the vocal minority you seek to belittle aren't so little afterall, and you are trying to shore up your self-appointed mantle as representative of the interests of the broader interests of city residents. As expensive as improvements to our public transit will be, I am certain that all the money being put into audits and unnecessary studies meant to delay the improvement of public transit would not be viewed favorably by a many, drivers and non-drivers alike.

I am not anti-car. However, the talk about inconvenience to drivers because of increased bike lanes and LRT is horsepucky -- invented rhetoric that continues to cost the city money.

You asked. I responded.

Leigh Tomasik
 Resident, Ward 8