

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Attn: Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main St W  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council,

Re: HSR - delaying Hamilton's Transit Strategy

I was very disappointed when I learned of Council's decision at the General Issues Committee budget meeting last week to delay the HSR improvements to next year's budget.

I understand that money is tight and budgets are never easy. But, it seems that public transit gets short shrift in Hamilton. The fact that the City has recently been spending more than it was on public transit is not a good argument for cutting it to the quick for this year. It has needed catching up for a long time.

The "Fix the HSR" campaign has garnered over 900 signatures of people not happy with the current service. I agree with Mr. Tuck, the Amalgamated Transit Union (Local 107) leader. Why not delay the retirement of older buses to make some of the planned service improvements that were to be for this year? (Actually, a lot of those older buses are a heck of a lot better than some of the new 2015/16 buses the City put into service – I'm sure the drivers would agree.)

No one wants to go back to pass-bys leaving residents and riders on the road.

It makes me wonder how committed this city is to public transit. Other cities in the GTA are way ahead of us. Public Transit is for everyone. It takes people to school, to jobs, to employment interviews, to the doctor and to the grocery store.

Without a good public transit system, people can't get to places – studies suffer; jobs are lost; and some people are cut off from the outside world. This impacts individuals' lives and their families. And, if you want to be crass about it – it affects the economy of the City, too.

People understand that Council has to make hard decisions. We just want you to make the right ones.

Thank you.

Yours very sincerely,



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