

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton LRT

-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Encinas

Sent: March-30-17 2:50 PM

To: Office of the Mayor; aiden.johnson@hamilton.ca; 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; clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Granat, Simon; Farr, Laura

Subject: Hamilton LRT

Dear members of City Council,

I'm calling it out. I'm naming it for what it is.

Sam Merulla is right. The Gang of Ten will be the ones responsible for the death of city building in Hamilton. Terry Whitehead, Chad Collins, Donna Skelly, Judi Partridge, Brenda Johnson..... that's the leadership of the Gang of Ten. I'll do my best to ensure my fellow citizens remember who you are and what you're doing to keep Hamilton oppressed. When we have to add millions of infrastructure costs to our already huge deficits, when we see our tax bills go up by double digits as a result, when we see our property values stagnate or drop because developers & investors lose interest in our city, when we continue to see the destruction of an already dismal public transit system, when we wave good bye to our adult children as they leave Hamilton in hopes of finding decent employment somewhere else in the world I will remember two things:

- 1) my children love me but will not come home to visit every holiday and
- 2) the Gang of Ten destroyed any ambition this city had. I hold you accountable.

I'll make sure we all remember your names. You hold the power to make the decision to make us suffer and you are choosing it. It's on you.

I've wasted so much time, effort and even money actively supporting city building in Hamilton. I've spent countless hours in council chambers watching councillors pretend to be interested and concerned. I feel like I've been lied to by the very people I've entrusted with some of the biggest decisions of my life. I feel betrayed. LRT could be, would be, the greatest catalyst for growth this city has ever seen but obviously the Gang of Ten does not want our city to grow and prosper. Thanks for wasting time from my life that I'll never get back.

Gang of Ten, be honest. Quit the gong show. Just kill it all now and stop this slow death nonsense. Clearly that's your goal. You don't care about me, about my children, about our city as a whole. I don't know what you care about but it certainly isn't Hamilton.

Regards,

Patti Encinas

Resident, Community Engager, Parent, Homeowner, Worker, Taxpayer, Voter.



Hamilton/Burlington
Society of Architects

March 25, 2017

City of Hamilton Mayor's Office
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Attention: Hon Mayor Fred Eisenberger

Dear Mr. Eisenberger,

This letter is a reconfirmation of endorsement by the Hamilton Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA) for the Council approved Light Rail Transit (LRT) line in Hamilton. We as an organization believe that LRT will greatly benefit our city and all its residents by encouraging development, completing infrastructure upgrades while installing the LRT tracks, promoting transit use for intra-city commuters, and ensuring that Hamilton remains competitive in attracting new businesses and talented skilled workers.

The HBSA strongly urges Council to receive the Hamilton Light Rail Transit Environmental Project Report Addendum for the B-Line and submit it to the province.

New and projected development leading the way for LRT

Currently Hamilton has over 20 new multiple residential developments in construction or planning stages within the city's core, representing approximately 1600 units. This is an unprecedented number not seen in decades. These developments demonstrate a clear trend towards denser urban living – a trend that will be supported and made more successful by the access to expedient and convenient high quality transit afforded by an LRT line.

These developments are just the beginning of a projected 100,000 new Hamilton residents over the next 25 years. To accommodate this influx, LRT will encourage development and densification along its route within the city's built-up area, supporting many of the principles laid out in the province's *Places to Grow* strategy by:

- Revitalizing our downtown to become vibrant and convenient centres,
- Curbing sprawl and protecting farmland and green spaces,
- Reducing traffic gridlock by improving access to a greater range of transportation options.

Investment in LRT is the best long-term fiscal decision

While the upfront costs of LRT are significant, we have a largely unprecedented opportunity to accept *full funding* from the province. Both the City and the province have concluded it is a worthwhile investment with feasibility and benefits case studies determining that it will generate a large net benefit in increased tax assessment.

As LRT encourages concentrated growth within its proximity, the expense of new public infrastructure will be greatly reduced as the need for new greenfield developments will also be reduced. Furthermore, LRT has a lower per-passenger operating cost than alternatives and has been demonstrated to be the investment with the best future fiscal return.

Hamilton has the commuting habits to support LRT today

70% of Hamiltonians live and work within the city. Among other regional cities provincially, that live-work balance is second only to Toronto at 80%. As an LRT line will run directly through our largest job cluster (the downtown core), many of these intra-city commuters will be given a new commuting option that is fast, reliable, and more environmentally sustainable.

LRT will ensure Hamilton remains competitive

As Hamilton's economy transitions from its predominantly industrial past, the city is emerging as a leader in healthcare and innovation with a diverse economy. We need to ensure we remain competitive, attracting new businesses and talent to our city and province.

An investment in LRT will send a clear message that Hamilton is serious about its future as a livable, sustainable, and economically vibrant centre.

It is the hope of the HBSA that Council will continue to maintain their strong support for the Council approved LRT project, will receive the EPR, and will submit it to the province, thereby maintaining the project schedule.

Sincerely,

The Hamilton Burlington Society of Architects

Graham McNally, Chair	Paula Hamilton, Secretary
Cynthia Zahoruk, Co-Vice Chair	John Grguric, Treasurer
Christina Karney, Co-Vice Chair	

CC

City of Hamilton Council Members

Premier Kathleen Wynne

City of Hamilton MPPs

Hon Steven Del Duca, Ontario Minister for Transportation

COUN BRENDA JOHNSON
HAMILTON, ON

JUST WHAT YOU NEEDED..... MORE LRT STUFF

I LEFT HAMILTON FOR CALIFORNIA IN 1952 AS AN 8 YEAR OLD. I STARTED SCHOOL AT PARKDALE AND WHEN PARKDALE BECAME OVERCROWDED I STARTED VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY IN 1951. WE LEFT FOR CALIFORNIA THE NEXT YEAR. I ENJOYED MY TIME IN CALIFORNIA, GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, 35 YEAR REUNION COMING UP THIS YEAR, JOINED THE U.S. ARMY IN 1965, HONORABLY DISCHARGED IN 1968. WHAT MEMORIES.

I REMEMBER LRT (JUGLY RAPID TRANSIT); IT RAN LONG BARTON, KENILWORTH, JAMES AND MANY MORE.

ALWAYS REMEMBER; ONCE THE TRACKS ARE LAID, THAT IT BUSES CAN TURN HARD RIGHT OR LEFT AND BUSES CAN EASILY CHANGE ROUTES. THE BUS RIDERSHIP IS DOWN. I THINK RAPID TRANSIT IN HAMILTON IS UNNECESSARY. I HAD OCCASION TO OBSERVE SACRAMENTO; I WAS IN SACRAMENTO AT ALL HOURS AND ALL OF THE DAYS IN THE WEEK AND I NEVER SAW MORE THAN 8 BUSES USING THE SERVICE. I AM SURE THERE WERE TIMES WHEN RIDERSHIP WAS GREATER THAN 8. I JUST THINK THAT THE LRT WAS A DRAIN ON THE STATE CAPITAL OF CALIF. BUDGET! I HAVE NO DOCUMENTATION ON THIS.

I HOPE THE PROVINCE HAS ONE BILLION DOLLARS TO TURN OVER TO HAMILTON! I SEE NO BENEFIT TO THE CITY, ESPECIALLY ON THE MOUNTAIN. BUSES, YES.

VOTE ANYWAY YOU WISH, BUT WHEN ASKED HOW YOU VOTED, BE WOMAN ENOUGH TO SAY HOW YOU VOTED.

JOHN PERRY ✓

Our Future Hamilton - needs a new approach to city-management by Paul Slater, Hamilton, ON. Dated: 2017-04-02

Mayor Eisenberger and Council,

Dear Mayor Fred, thank you for the response to my correspondence regarding an LRT review by the Auditor General of Ontario dated 2017-03-20, although, I was very disappointed to receive the standard 'against LRT' template letter.

I write to correct your understanding of my position. I am not against LRT. However, I cannot currently support the \$3-billion 3/4 LRT B-Line due to early decision-making, which has resulted in this 'as-is' program now being unaffordable.

Smart Communities 1.0

If you read the first of my previous seven Our Future Hamilton submissions; Our Future Hamilton - is a Smart Sustainable City dated 2015-08-25 [A], you will learn of my past attempts to bring Smart Sustainable City strategy to Hamilton 17 years ago. It's my renewed goal to make Hamilton the top Smart Sustainable City in Canada, but that challenge will be difficult if the current Council and Administration leads us down the path of possible bankruptcy with the present lack of life-cycle thinking and 'out-dated' practices on LRT:

People and Culture

The people you are relying on to give Council the information to make good decisions do not work to Asset Management-Sustainment Practice. Noteworthy, the public sector and universities do not teach these advanced whole life-cycle AM-SP skills. Important point here - it's not the engineers, analysts or managers fault. Staff's current infrastructure Asset Management (AM) efforts are admirable but, are only a good start at innovation. The City of Hamilton is just scratching the surface of the kind of AM practices that are needed to propel Hamilton, Ontario, to top *Intelligent Community* status.

Smart Cities or Communities 2.0

Although I have struggled to get the ear of this City and the Province to date, I do have the ear of the Federal Finance Minister and the Advisory Council on Economic Growth (see Appx A). I have a couple of very exciting big ideas for the *Smart Cities Challenge* in process which will help propel this city towards prosperity. I look forward to sharing them with staff and Council in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Slater

Appendix A

Letter from Minister of Finance, the Honourable Bill Morneau, to Paul Slater dated 2016-09-07.

Reference and Website:

[A] Our Future Hamilton: Communities in Conversation
www.hamilton.ca/ourfuturehamilton

Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

SEP 07 2016

Appx. A

2016FIN440500

Mr. Paul Slater
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Slater:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 1, 2016 regarding the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and Canada's Economic Growth Strategy.

The Council has been created to help inform the Government's growth strategy by providing advice on concrete policy actions that will help create the conditions for strong and sustainable long-term economic growth that is shared equally with the middle class and those working hard to join it. The Council recognizes the potential role of robots and artificial intelligence in Canada's economy, and values your recommendations on this topic and on Canada's Economic Growth Strategy.

I appreciate your interest in the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and Canada's Economic Growth Strategy.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Morneau".

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.

Canada



March 27, 2017

Dear City Council

The Macdonald Cartier Club is very concerned regarding the current process surrounding the LRT, and the blatant disregard of Hamilton City Council to represent the vast majority of taxpayers in Hamilton who stand against the LRT. It is disappointing to see local politicians who have served so long that they no longer feel they are accountable to the will of the people who elected them but by virtue of the groupthink that happens at City Hall operate as an unaccountable Elite on issues like LRT.

It is interesting to see many organizations like Mohawk College, Hamilton Health Sciences, and McMaster University support the LRT when they themselves pay no property taxes and members of their Executive Elite don't live in Hamilton and pay Hamilton property taxes. These organizations are subsidized by residents in Hamilton through the extremely high property taxes residents in Hamilton pay to offset these organizations' free ride. These organizations' support LRT because they know run away property taxes will not affect them.

We would encourage council to be mindful of those who elected you because in 2018 these same people can defeat you.

LRT will be a local focal point in the next provincial and municipal elections, local politicians should view it as a referendum on their leadership or as is currently the case, the lack of leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Cooper

President
Macdonald Cartier Club

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yes LRT

From: Ned Nolan <nn@nolanlaw.ca>

Subject: Yes LRT

Date: April 7, 2017 at 12:18:10 PM EDT

Dear Councillor,

I sure never thought I'd be writing to you in April 2017 to add my voice to the chorus of Hamiltonians who support LRT - that's because I thought we had already wisely committed to this investment.

We have already poured time, money and resources into this once-in-a-generation initiative - and for good reason. But now, after all this, some people are asking the City to change course.

I am writing to ask that you please stay the course. Do not bow to the tireless effort of the cynics and nay-sayers who have turned the LRT discussion into a negative and divisive narrative of us-against-them; sub-urban vs. urban; motorist vs. transit user; old vs. young.

We are *one City* with a shared interest in building world-class, modern transit along the most dense part of Hamilton's elongated and central East-West axis. There is no doubt - and the research is clear - that this is a long-term investment that will pay off in so many different ways including economically and environmentally.

My business (directly on the LRT line) will be negatively impacted by construction just like my home was negatively impacted by renovation work we did last year. And you know what, it was worth it!

Please heed the advice of the experts, the researchers, the visionaries, and of course, the anchor institutions and myriad businesses and informed citizens who have all said, unequivocally, *Yes LRT*.

Do not allow this to be de-railed, especially now.

Thank you for reading my email,

Ned Nolan

WE SUPPORT LRT



Edward P.A. Nolan

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Hamilton, Ontario

L8P 1A4

t: (905) 522-9261

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nn@nolanlaw.ca

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Yes to LRT

From: Sabine O'Donnell

Sent: April-09-17 7:54 PM

To: Green, Matthew; Granat, Simon; Office of the Mayor; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Yes to LRT

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Councillor Green,

I am writing to express my support for LRT in Hamilton. As a ward 3 resident and a student at McMaster University I can see the many benefits it would give to our city. It would be especially useful to young people like me and my friends who need to get around without a car and to commute to campus. I just completed a project in my geography class on this very subject and there are simply too many pluses to ignore. LRT is the perfect next step for making Hamilton into the city that I know it has the potential to be.

Sincerely,

Sabine O'Donnell

Pilon, Janet

Subject: #YesLRT - Letter of support for LRT

From: Johanna [mailto:johanna.bleecker@newhopecommunitybikes.com]

Sent: April-09-17 1:25 PM

To: Office of the Mayor; 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; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: #YesLRT - Letter of support for LRT

Dear Mayor/Councillors,

The facts support LRT. There is no way around that.

LRT is being paid for, we do not get to use the money for anything else if we don't implement LRT (and I was shocked to hear councillors who should know better implying otherwise at the March 28 meeting). If we don't implement LRT, there will be a financial loss for taxpayers as their provincial taxes will not be going towards a project that impacts them directly, and the city will also be on the hook for the \$70 million that has already been spent on the LRT preparations.

A consistent refrain of LRT non-supporters is that we don't know how much LRT will cost. We will not know the exact number until the RFP has been announced and a winning bidder has been selected. At that point, the City will participate in negotiations for the Operating Agreement and council will have the final say on what we pay the operator. If the fact that we don't know the cost is being cited as a downside of LRT, why wouldn't we go ahead with the RFP and negotiations so that we can work with the bidders and Metrolinx to get the answer to that question and make sure that it's a reasonable amount?

LRT will also create new revitalization and development. There may be some temporary hardship for businesses along the construction route--in fact, my workplace in the East End, New Hope Community Bikes, has received a notice of potential expropriation. However, we are still strong supporters of LRT. We know we can weather the storm and find a new location in the neighbourhood, and that in the long run, the uplift that will be brought to the neighbourhood and the increase in active transportation that will accompany the LRT will be well worth it. The greater development and investment in Hamilton will bring a surge of tax revenue for the city.

LRT will create more opportunities for active and sustainable transportation. As an active member of the cycling community, I have been impressed with Metrolinx's commitment to replace any cycling infrastructure being removed to accommodate redirected traffic with infrastructure that's as good or better. I see many opportunities for future collaboration and I'm excited for Hamilton to have a modern rapid transit system which will contribute to complete streets and act as an important step in the BLAST plan.

To be honest, I'm disappointed that I even have to write this letter given that Council has already voted to support LRT 52 times. I spent 5 hours of my day on March 28 sitting in council in order to deliver my 5 minute delegation. I am unable to do that again on April 19 as there is only so much staff time a small charity can spare, so I'm hoping this letter can stand in my stead. I think it's a real shame that this process has been so held up after so many citizens have dedicated so much time towards holding Council accountable to the

Memorandum of Agreement in which they agreed to "proceed expeditiously, diligently and in good faith and in a co-operative and collaborative manner" to "facilitate and expedite the construction and completion of the Project." You've heard from us. You've heard from Hamilton Anchor institutions. You've heard from the many businesses who are featured in the attached graphic. You are all smart,

hardworking people who do a lot for our city--look at the facts and please come forth as a strong, outspoken supporter of LRT if you haven't already.

Thank you,

Johanna Bleecker
Education & Community Outreach Coordinator
New Hope Community Bikes
newhopecommunitybikes.com

Vice-Chair
Cycle Hamilton
cyclehamont.ca



Pilon, Janet

Subject: My last Presentation to Council

From: Karl Andrus

Sent: April-08-17 12:57 AM

To: Office of the Mayor; 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

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: My last Presentation to Council

Dear Council and Mayor,

I have included a summary of my presentation to Council on the LRT ERP/EA debate.

The text might be found here for your review and records.

<https://raisethehammer.org/article/3262>

Thank you for your continued diligence on this matter

Karl Andrus