

**From:** Timothy Biggs

**Date:** April 11, 2017 at 5:34:59 PM EDT

**To:** [Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Mayor@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** **NO LRT in Hamilton**

Good afternoon Mayor Eisenberger,

My name is Tim Biggs and I am a proud Hamiltonian for 46 years. Currently my wife and I live in Ward 4 and we have proudly voted for you for Mayor during your original tenure and your current tenure as well.

I have been watching your body language and listening to your position on the LRT and I can honestly say that we will not be voting for you in June 2018 if you continue to support the LRT Project which in our humble opinion will go down as one of the biggest "White Elephant" Mega Projects in Hamilton/Ontario history.

I am a Engineer who studied and proudly graduated from McMaster University back in 1994 and my Engineering and Project Management experience tells me that the most important element of planning any Mega Project is to be based on a Core Ideology which is made up of both the Core Purpose and Core Values which are clearly defined and driven by the Strategic Principles of the Project. When it comes to the Hamilton LRT Project, I can honestly say the Core Purpose and Core Values of this Mega Project have not been well defined or articulated to the Citizens of Hamilton.

Originally, I thought the goal of this project was to connect Hamiltonians and Citizens of the GHA to the West Harbour GO Station to facilitate the quick movement of people to destinations from Aldershot to Burlington thru to Union Station or from Hamilton to stops along the Metrolinx GO Line ending in Niagara Falls. However, this no longer seems to be the case for this project as the Hamilton LRT does not connect to the West Harbour or Hunter Street GO Stations.

As you are well aware, the last large project in Hamilton suffered from very very poor performance by Infrastructure Ontario, and the Construction

Consortium who managed, designed, procured, and constructed Tim Horton's Field. This project is significantly smaller than the \$1B Hamilton LRT Project that is on the table.

Currently, not enough planning/engineering has been completed for this LRT. Based on the details provided to date on the website and during public consultation sessions it seems very clear this project is going to drive taxes in Hamilton thru the roof as the taxpayers of Hamilton are going to have to foot the bill for the maintenance and electricity to run the LRT amongst many other unknown project and maintenance costs. Personally, I know based on my large project management experience there are many costs that have not been identified and /or allotted for this project during the preliminary engineering phase and I am very concerned about the costs that have not been estimated and will end up being jammed down taxpayers throats to pick up the tab in the future.

Furthermore, the LRT Project should be cancelled due to the reasons above and the following facts:

- Accessibility is much less than the current B-Line Bus operated by the HSR
- No Destination for the LRT. The original plan was to be able to move people from McMaster University and Eastgate Mall to the GO Stations so they could easily get to their final destinations and prevent additional gas vehicles from driving on our congested road and highways
- Route along King St. is NOT Optimal as the LRT will cause extreme traffic congestion in the Hamilton Core, bicycle lanes are proposed to be removed which is a major step backwards. Keep in mind the major traffic congestion which arose from the dedicated HSR bus lane trial project several years ago on King Street that was ultimately removed
- Major Missed Opportunity Connecting residents on the Mountain/Escarpment and Local Communities to the Hamilton GO Stations
- No Plans or Goals to attract new riders to the LRT

- Property Expropriation over 200 properties, many of which are family businesses will disappear along the proposed LRT route

My expectation is that you as the Mayor for The City of Hamilton will stand up and say no to this LRT Project as it is a massive waste of \$1B CAD for Ontarians and Hamiltonians.

If the goal of the project is to connect people to the GO line operated by Metrolinx then you have missed the mark.

If the goal of the project is to remove diesel and gas operated HSR buses off the roads then you have missed the mark.

If the goal of the project is to move people much quicker for Queenston Traffic Circle to McMaster University then you have missed the mark as the LRT will shave off a couple of minutes in travel time compare to the current HSR B-Line Bus.

Personally, it makes more sense to focus on procuring Electric Buses for the HSR fleet and build a new Charging, Maintenance and Operations (CM&O) Facility that can be used to sustainably connect residents to multiple key destinations within Hamilton and the GHA. Keep in mind if the HSR has 250 buses these could be replaced by Electric Buses for approximately \$1M per bus for a total of \$250M. The CO&M Facility would cost approximately \$250M and for \$500M the City of Hamilton could make our city a more sustainable, carbon friendly place that allows people to get to their destinations quickly and there will not be additional costs incurred by building an operating the LRT which will raise taxes in this City very quickly. Most importantly the cost is 50% lower than the current LRT Project.

Please do the right thing here Mayor Eisenberger and stand up and represent the people of Hamilton and say NO LRT.

Regards,  
Tim Biggs, P.Eng., C.I.M.