

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LRT GIC April 19, 2017

From: Myke Hutchings

Sent: April-20-17 9:06 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; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: re: LRT GIC April 19, 2017

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I wish I could say that yesterday's shenanigans at Hamilton City Council shocked me but they didn't. After the Red Hill Valley Expressway, The Stadium and the Ward Boundary debacle, very little about Hamilton City Council shocks me. Disappointed and disgusted yes, but shocked no.

It is astounding to me that a group of people who voted 52 times over the past 7 years and got exactly what they asked for from the province now find fault with the plan.

I am exhausted over this city's obstructionism. I'm tired of politicians trying to build careers at the expense of the city and its citizens. I'm tired of politicians demanding information of our professional staff and ignoring it time and time again. I'm tired of politicians ordering consultant reports and, when they don't go the way that will bring long term job security, go against their own consultants' recommendations.

I've given the City of Hamilton over 17 years of my life, my work, my advocacy, my volunteering, my tax dollars and support of local businesses. It's clear that the city and its councillors don't seem to give a shit about the young professionals and entrepreneurs trying to make a go of it in a city that SHOULD be well on its rebound.

Instead of tying our hands and pulling the rug out from under us, the city and its government should be providing a stable foundation and strong support.

A billion dollar investment in transit and infrastructure improvements from the province? That's a no brainer and anyone who fails to see that is myopic and does not care about building an "Ambitious City" that is the best place to raise a child.

I cannot see how improving transit and traffic flows in the city core while rebuilding key infrastructure on the MAIN artery that runs through the city cannot be a win for everyone in Hamilton, including the rural communities. The reduced tax draw from the province paying for the infrastructure, removing buses and drivers from the three routes that are covered by the LRT and redistributing to the other areas and the increased property and business taxes from intensification along the corridor.

Is council blind? Is there no common sense?

Regardless of this decision, \$1billion will be going to a community in Ontario, we ALL will be paying for this through our provincial taxes - why shouldn't it go in our city?

It's time that Hamilton BE "The Ambitious City" and lead through decisive leadership, not being dragged kicking and screaming by those of us who have built the city up **despite** and **in spite of** what happens in council chambers. Yes LRT will be a tough pill to swallow for some constituents, but when the BIAs who are impacted by it, the city's "anchor" businesses, institutions and industries and 300 small businesses who employ **thousands** who live, work, commute to, shop, dine and pay taxes in the city...the answer should be easy.

Tim Potocic said it best - City Hall...you've got to get the ████ out of the way.:

<https://youtu.be/ug0ZLgzh2lq>

Yours sincerely,

Michael F. "Myke" Hutchings,
Resident Ward 3
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada