

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

MAR 13 2017

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of November 10, 2016, to my colleague the Honourable William Francis Morneau, Minister of Finance, regarding the Hamilton Light Rail Transit Project.

Infrastructure is the foundation of sustainable and inclusive communities – it removes barriers, brings people together and allows all Canadians to be active participants in their community. Moreover, good infrastructure fosters an environment where the best of Canadian innovation can grow.

Although the vast majority of public infrastructure in Canada falls under provincial, territorial or municipal jurisdiction, the Government of Canada has a long history of making strategic investments in a wide range of infrastructure categories including public transit.

The Government of Canada has announced a historic plan to invest more than \$180 billion in infrastructure over 12 years. Our priority is to promote infrastructure that will contribute to long-term economic growth, build inclusive communities, and support a low carbon, green economy. Key areas for investment will include public transit, green and social infrastructure, transportation infrastructure that supports trade, and infrastructure in rural and northern communities.

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Included in this plan is the \$3.4-billion Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, which encourages economic growth and supports sustainable, livable communities. This Fund will primarily support investments that meet immediate public priorities including: projects that improve the state of good repair of public transit, support system optimization and efficiency, increase asset management capacity, and focus on design and planning for future expansion of public transit systems. It will also lay the groundwork for longer-term strategic investments in public transit that will keep pace with the rapid growth of Canadian cities. Ontario's allocation under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund is approximately \$1.4 billion.

Moreover, Hamilton, along with many other Canadian communities across Canada, will continue to benefit from the federal Gas Tax Fund under which communities are able to use their Gas Tax Fund allocations for a wide range of projects, including public transit projects.

We are working closely with all of our partners and stakeholders to deliver an ambitious plan that will significantly increase federal infrastructure investments and build strong communities. More information on long-term federal funding programs will be announced in the coming months.

Thank you for writing on this important issue and for your leadership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "A. Sohi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.

c.c. The Honourable William Francis Morneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance