

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence to Council re: bus tickets and Metrolinx

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: April 24, 2018 9:08 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Correspondence to Council re: bus tickets and Metrolinx

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I write in regards to Matthew van Dongen's recent article regarding the possibility of abandoning bus tickets in order to keep provincial gas tax money, as published on 12 January 2018 in the Hamilton Spectator (<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8049765-city-of-hamilton-says-it-must-abandon-bus-tickets-or-lose-provincial-gas-tax-money/>). I know that I am not alone, as others have been quoted in the article, when I state that this will negatively affect the poorest in the city. Currently, paper tickets and bus passes (I use a monthly one, which, until this year, could be claimed on my taxes) are available in many places, unlike the few Shoppers Drug Mart stores that are in the city. Also, the concern that Metrolinx has been sharing riders' data with police and federal agencies, without the need for a warrant, continues to bother many, as reported in this thespec.com article (<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/7351209-metrolinx-has-been-quietly-sharing-presto-users-information-with-police/>). At this point, the most affordable solution seems to be, if bus tickets are wrongly phased out, to pay cash, effectively boycotting Metrolinx's PRESTO card until tickets and passes are in the hands of those who need them most. It would certainly be to Council's shame if ridership were to drop even more precipitously, due to its consideration for gas tax revenue instead of concern for those in need. Thank you for your time and attention in these regards. I look forward to your actions on behalf of those in need in the city.

Respectfully,
Joshua Weresch