

Pilon, Janet

Subject: GIC LRT Update May 31 Correspondence.

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From: Gabriel Nicholson

Date: Tue, May 29, 2018 at 9:03 PM

Subject: GIC LRT Update May 31 Correspondence.

To: stephanie.paparella@hamilton.ca

Cc: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>, "Johnson, Aidan" <Aidan.Johnson@hamilton.ca>, "Farr, Jason" <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>, "Green, Matthew" <Matthew.Green@hamilton.ca>, "Merulla, Sam" <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>, "chad.collins@hamilton.ca" <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>, "Jackson, Tom" <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>, Donna.Skelly@hamilton.ca, Terry Whitehead <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>, Doug.Conley@hamilton.ca, Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca, Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca, Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca, Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca, Robert.Pasuta@hamilton.ca, Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca

Hello,

This city needs Better Transit. But some are insisting on a project they want.

Much has changed since the original dream of "Light Rail Transit Is the Preferred Option for Rapid Transit in Hamilton" was feted so many years ago.

It's not the preferred option on the L-S-T lines. Those will get buses.

Hamiltonian's were sold 2 lines by the then Provincial Government, the A and the B. Because the B ran 'thru downtown' it was chosen as the priority with A line planning running concurrently.

When the disaster plan of Queenston to McMaster was unveiled with an A Line spur from the waterfront to downtown was ultimately shown to be foolhardy, the whole of the A Line was sold out for a B Line to Eastgate.

LRT is not the preferred option on the A line. They will get buses.

This city needs Better Transit, and we need to move people today.

And we can. It's simple. And we don't have to murder all the trees or raze King St to accomplish it.

We need a bus route that runs Stoney Creek - Eastgate - Sherman - Downtown - Dundurn - McMaster - Dundas and every 15 minutes thru the day and 30 mins at night, including Saturday and Sunday. People need to know if they access these stops, they can be where they need to be quickly.

This bus route needs to be given Signal Priority Timing Technology. Which Hamilton will get on the LRT, but in 2024 (or 25 or 26, because opening estimates are a hope and a prayer. Hello, Waterloo!)

Traffic thru downtown is an issue, and buses will be able to move freely from East to West and vice versa, by closing International Village to vehicle traffic from 7am to 10am and 3pm to 6pm (perhaps a dispensation for cabs and bikes could be considered? IV is why the bus lane was a failure)

You're closing International Village to car traffic with LRT, so taking a couple of hours during the day is a good compromise.

Truthfully, we need investment in our HSR, and this route will accomplish this.

There is money to accomplish this, with the City of Hamilton posting a \$43 million budget surplus.

Whatever it costs, it is worth it to move people across our city. We don't need LRT to 'be something'.

There is even the possibility that a provincial government will spring for 50% of the costs to operate our transit.

We don't need LRT. Some people want LRT. LRT will not work in Hamilton. There will never be 200,000 people within walking distance to LRT. It will serve a minority of the population while running empty the majority of the HSR day.

The Finch West LRT numbers released don't bode well for 'revenue neutral' here in Hamilton. Estimated at \$51.5 million a year to operate, 11 km with 16 similar stops, as well as 1 underground stop and 1 underground subway connection. The private company signed a 30 year DBFM contract worth \$2.5 Billion for a project originally announced at \$1.2 Billion.

Estimates at \$51.5 million a years. That is our whole HSR budget?

A route that runs Stoney Creek - Eastgate - Sherman - Downtown - Dundurn - McMaster - Dundas and back every 15 minutes thru the day and 30 mins at night, including Saturday and Sunday.

With Signal Priority Timing Technology.

With a closed International Village from 7am-10am and 3pm-6pm.

This will move people. This is what Hamilton needs.

This will be a BLAST.

Regards,
Gabriel Nicholson