

December 4th, 2018

Since its inception in 1845, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce has served as the definitive voice of local business. Throughout its history, the Chamber has played an important role in advocating for policies that enhance the social and economic prosperity of our city.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Hamilton have maintained a mutually-respectful working relationship to facilitate a constructive dialogue that addresses the concerns of our members and the wider business community. Under this capacity, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is writing to you, on behalf of our members, to recommend courses of action for the Public Works Committee.

We recommend that the Public Works Committee prioritizes:

1. Public Transit- Keep B-Line LRT on schedule by having shovels in the ground for mid-2019. We encourage councilors to make the approval of the operating agreement with Metrolinx a top priority;
2. Goods Movement- Hamilton Airport is already one of the top three airports in Canada, in terms of domestic cargo tonnage. As a major hub for regional shipments, the Hamilton Chamber sees enormous economic value in pursuing increased good's movement and public transit to and from the airport, to address existing demand and ensure capacity for forecasted growth;
3. Goods Movement - Ensure the upcoming Truck Route Review includes:
 - a. An explicit plan for consulting industry in a comprehensive and meaningful way;
 - b. An openness to design innovations that can achieve a better balance between the needs of all users, as opposed to simply adding or eliminating routes;
 - c. Collaboration with industry on data collection regarding origins, destinations, routings to understand the real volumes, alternatives and where perception converges with reality.

4. Risk Management – Consider the increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change and its impact on businesses, resulting in supply chain interruptions, damaged infrastructure for goods movement, and power outages, by including a climate change adaption and mitigation policy for the City of Hamilton in the City's Official Plan, based on the recommendations in the Hamilton Community Climate Change Action Plan (2015).

We ask that you make these recommendations a priority during your term on council and the Public Works Committee.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to play a leadership role in facilitating a constructive dialogue on critically important municipal issues. I welcome the chance to work with you directly on next steps and I thank you in advance for your contribution to our local governance.

With highest regards,



Keanin Loomis,
President and CEO
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce