



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair & Members Government Relations Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 27, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	City of Hamilton Priorities for 2019 Federal Election (CM19004) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION - NA

INFORMATION

The 2019 Canadian federal election is scheduled to take place on or before October 21, 2019. The October 21 date of the vote is determined by the fixed-date procedures in the Canada Elections Act, but the Act does not preclude the Governor General of Canada from issuing the writs of election at an earlier date.

The Government Relations Sub-Committee provides a forum for determining the advocacy priorities of the City of Hamilton, to be shared and promoted with all parties leading up to the election.

After the Government Relations Sub-Committee confirms the themes and priorities, staff will prepare a more detailed document for the purpose of advocating on behalf of the City. The document will be sent to all Federal Election candidates by Mayor Eisenberger. In addition, staff will look for other engagement forums, and working with key community groups and organizations to help promote our priorities. The Sub-Committee may also wish to suggest ideas to ensure maximum impact of the City's advocacy such as hosting a debate.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Advocacy Themes for Consideration by the Government Relations Sub-Committee

1. Housing Funding

- Capital repair backlog for social housing is approximately \$221 Million in 2018 and will grow to over \$600 Million in the next 25 years unless more resources are made available.
- Opportunities to access National Housing Co-Investment funds for repair and renewal of existing social housing stock will be critical in tackling this backlog.
- Almost 50% of our Family Shelter capacity is being used by families seeking asylum in Canada. The increasing costs of asylum seekers accessing shelter and housing subsidies is not sustainable without additional funding.
- Annualized funding for programs that move individuals and families from homelessness to housing have had minimal increases in financial support, placing unsustainable pressure on municipal funds to keep local programs going.
- In December 2013, Council approved the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. The Five-Year Review of the Plan is nearing completion. Key concepts include:
 - Housing Continuum: outlines the supports needed for people who are homeless, ensuring emergency shelters are available, social housing needs and affordable rental and affordable home ownership.
 - Equity: recognizing that people do not have the same level of access to services and that some people might need different services to find and stay in their homes.
 - Homelessness: providing supports to people who are absolute homeless, hidden-homelessness (staying with friends and family) and those at risk of being homeless because of inadequate affordable housing.
 - Affordable Housing: Affordable housing is housing that costs 30% or less of gross household income for households with low to moderate income.
 - Housing First Strategy: The Housing First strategy is being recognized as a means to end homelessness which entails quickly providing homeless people with housing and then providing the support services as needed.
- In September 2017, the City of Hamilton committed \$50 Million over 10 years to address pressures related to new affordable rental housing construction (\$20 Million) social housing repairs and renovations (\$20 Million) as well as poverty reduction programs for the Indigenous community (\$10 Million).

2. Infrastructure Funding

- The City of Hamilton is one of the oldest cities in Ontario. The costs of maintaining and replacing existing infrastructure accounts for a significant portion of the City's annual capital budget.
- The City currently operates and maintains a portfolio of infrastructure worth more than \$23 Billion, including:
 - Roads

- Bridges & Structures
 - Alleyways
 - Street Lighting
 - Traffic Systems
 - Water
 - Wastewater & Stormwater
 - Waste
 - Facilities: Corporate, Police, Fire/EMS, Housing/Long-term Care
 - Parks, Cemeteries, Open-spaces
 - Forestry
 - Transit
 - Fleet: Central, Police, Fire/EMS
- The current annual gross capital expenditure is approximately \$510 Million which includes growth related works. That translates to an annual infrastructure reinvestment of \$258 Million; a rate of 1.09% versus a best practise rate of 1.5% or approximately \$354 Million annually, equating to an infrastructure reinvestment shortfall of \$96M annually.
 - Bilateral agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, such as the Clean Water & Wastewater Fund, Public Transportation Infrastructure Fund, and the Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund have been important contributions to our infrastructure management.
 - “Clean & Green” is one of the City of Hamilton’s strategic priorities as identified by the community in the Our Future Hamilton vision. Recently, City Council declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ setting a target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
 - The City continues to deal with extreme weather events that have caused severe flooding, shore erosion, wind damage, and air quality issues among others.
 - In April of 2019 the Federal Government partnered with the City and announced \$12.7 Million for shoreline rehabilitation and for the installation of new backflow devices in the city's sewer system, which are designed to prevent lake and harbour water from entering sewers during extreme storms, and therefore lessen basement flooding.
 - Funding will continue to be a challenge for the City to not only react to severe weather events but also to create preventive infrastructure measures to minimize damage and impacts on citizens.

3. Transit Funding

- On February 27, 2013 Rapid Ready Expanding Mobility Choices in Hamilton was approved by Council and was submitted to Metrolinx as Hamilton’s funding requirement for 100% capital and any upset net levy impact for light rail transit, growth funding for the overall public transportation program necessary to support a successful light rail transit system.

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- In March of 2015 Council approved the 10 year local transit strategy that included specific route recommendations and a financial strategy with reference to the role played by rapid transit and with a goal reaching 80 to 100 rides per capita by 2025 as prescribed in the 2007 Transportation Master Plan. In order to achieve the target the plan also included a strategy to increase modal split from 7% to 12% by 2031 by building an express over local service on each of the BLAST rapid transit corridors. The financial strategy included a request to the provincial government (Metrolinx) to fund the capital requirements of the plan.
- As of 2019 four (4) years of the 10 Year Local Transit Strategy have been implemented. Considerable capital investments (\$358 million) are required to continue with the remaining six (6) years of the strategy with the largest items being an additional Maintenance and Storage Facility (\$250 Million) and 85 additional buses (\$68 Million).;
- As part of Hamilton's overall rapid transit strategy; the 14-kilometre B-line, is the first rapid transit corridor to be fully developed as a Light Rail Transit line. It will also serve as a catalyst for economic growth and infrastructure renewal e.g. roads, sidewalks, bridges, water mains, sewers, electrical distribution, telecommunications, natural gas, traffic control signals and streetlights.
 - The B-line corridor accommodates approximately 40% of all transit trips in the city with over 9 Million rides annually
- On March 14, 2018, the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, announced the signing of a bilateral agreement that will provide funding through the Investing in Canada Plan over the next decade in federal funding dedicated to infrastructure projects and includes Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, ICIP, (formerly called Public Transit Infrastructure Fund Phase II) with investments in public transit in Hamilton of \$511.0M with funding support from Canada of \$204.4M (40%), Ontario of \$168.6M (33%) and City of Hamilton of \$138.0M (27%).
- Under the current Government of Ontario, no commitment has been announced to provide the previously announced 33% of the cost share with the Government of Canada. The bilateral agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario is integral to the overall City of Hamilton's Transit Strategy. Delays in the announcement and the uncertainty around whether the original commitment will materialize significantly jeopardizes the City's ability to develop and expand the transit system as planned if funding is not supported by both levels of senior government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A