



The Hamilton Transit Alliance (HTA) is a coalition of local organisations within the City of Hamilton who all agree on the importance of reliable and accessible public transit, and push for improvements and expansion of public transit within the city to achieve the social, economic and environmental benefits it brings to Hamilton.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - DECEMBER 20 2019

The Hamilton Transit Alliance (HTA) convened an emergency meeting regarding the Government of Ontario's unexpected cancellation of the Hamilton Light Rail Transit project. This cancellation of the city's first higher order transit project will prevent Hamilton from realizing the many social, economic and environmental benefits that reliable public transit brings to a community.

"It's hard to hear the province's 'Open for Business' mantra without laughing. This decision directly harms business and private investment in our city" - Keanin Loomis, President and CEO of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Members of the Hamilton Transit Alliance are also deeply concerned by the province's announcement that a 'special task force' will be convened to determine how to invest the \$1.3 billion promised to the City of Hamilton. Hamilton has already determined a pathway forward and this has resulted in years of planning and investment for the LRT line. Our community must be empowered to determine what kind of transit infrastructure is built here in our own city.

"For years, two different governments have promised \$1.3 billion in transit infrastructure for Hamilton. We demand this government live up to their promise to transit riders and workers for this investment in transit and transit only." - Eric Tuck, President of ATU 107

Intensification of the downtown core and east-west LRT corridor is vital to ensure suburban sprawl is stemmed, and prioritizing the B-Line to act as the "spine" of Hamilton's public transit system is vital for making the HSR reliable and efficient. The work on the LRT to date, as well as the purchase of properties, and redevelopment investments along the route should not be for nothing.

"Hamilton has been working on this transformational project for years now. We need higher order transit in order to effectively respond to the climate emergency. It will encourage people to get out of their cars and it will facilitate urban intensification, making it easier for us to stop urban sprawl."
- Dr. Lynda Lukasik, Executive Director of Environment Hamilton

The signing HTA members to this statement are: ACORN Hamilton, ATU 107, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, Hamilton District Labour Council, Environment Hamilton, YWCA Hamilton.

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The Hamilton Transit Alliance's full membership includes: ATU 107, Hamilton ACORN, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton District Labour Council, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, Environment Hamilton, YWCA Hamilton, McMaster Student Union, Social Planning Research Council, and Immigrants Working Centre.

The HTA is supported by a grant from The Atmospheric Fund, a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

The entire membership of the HTA will be issuing recommendations regarding transit and the 2020 municipal budget in January.