

Delegation to Transit Area Rating Review Sub-Committee

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Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton





“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.”



12 member organisations all agree on the importance of eliminating area rating for transit!

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, Immigrants Working Centre, and Neighbour 2 Neighbour.

From the January 24th HTA 2020 budget recommendations letter:

“The HTA calls on Hamilton City Council’s Transit Area Rating Review Sub-Committee to meet and discuss this serious political issue that affects our transit system, allowing the group to present recommendations on how to best eliminate area rating. **The HTA wants area rating for public transit in Hamilton eliminated over a gradual period of time, for the purpose of both expanding and improving transit for all urban and suburban residents, and also to increase the revenue generated for the HSR.** The HTA believes area rating for public transit is a significant barrier standing in the way of expanding and improving our public transit system. Past councils have already eliminated area rating for other vital services in the municipality and it is time to do the same for transit. For example, area rating means transit lines like the Barton bus and the West Hamilton leg of the Delaware bus end at the old invisible boundaries of the former city of Hamilton, and leave people stranded. If area rating was eliminated, these busses could travel into Meadowlands and Winona to serve those growing areas of the city.”

Area rating for transit is a political barrier to expansion and improvements. As such, the Hamilton Transit Alliance recognises that there are no quick or easy fixes. No matter what though, the end result of the elimination of area rating should:

- **Be gradually implemented.**
- **Lead to expanded and improved HSR service for all urban and suburban residents.**
- **Ultimately, increase funding for the HSR.**

Thank you!

Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton
iborsuk@environmenthamilton.org

