



Student Affairs
McMaster University

Gilmour Hall 207
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L8

May 26th, 2020

Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I am writing to express support for the continued operation of the bike share system in Hamilton. I was disappointed to hear that Uber has notified the City of Hamilton that it is terminating its contract early and ceasing operations of SoBi Hamilton as of June 1, 2020.

Sustainable transportation is important to the City and to McMaster University. We have worked closely with SoBi Hamilton over the past several years to help encourage use of the system. The University is also a major sponsor of the Hamilton Bike Share initiative, which has made bikes more readily available in our neighbourhoods.

Cycling is an important part of our sustainability and transportation planning and the University's commitment to health and well-being. There are currently eight bike share stations on McMaster's main campus and over 20 in the surrounding neighbourhoods accounting for over 86,000 trips to and from the university.

The bike sharing service is equally important to the broader Hamilton community, particularly as we are all managing through the pandemic.

Cycling is a highly valued option for people to get around our community, it provides a transportation choice that promotes health, reduces traffic and during COVID-19 provides an option for people who need transport but who don't feel regular public transit is an option.

With more than 26,000 subscribed to the system, Hamiltonians have clearly shown their need and support for this critical infrastructure and I hope the City is able to find a way to continue its operation well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Van Koughnett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sean Van Koughnett
Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) & Dean of Students
McMaster University