

May 25, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Members of Hamilton Council
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

RE: The uninterrupted operation of Sobi bike share in Hamilton

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Hamilton and based on my experience as Chair of my employer's staff committee for Smart Commute, in order to share my perspective on the importance of the Sobi bike program in Hamilton.

The Smart Commute committee that I Chair at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) supports and encourages HHS employees to use sustainable ways of commuting to our sites, such as cycling, in order to reduce emissions from single occupant vehicles, as well as traffic gridlock and wear and tear on our roads. We know this approach can also free up more hospital parking spaces for the patients and families we serve who might not be able to use alternate transportation.

Our committee has been a steadfast supporter of the Sobi bike program in Hamilton. Hospital staff, patients, volunteers, students and visitors have been enthusiastically using Sobi Hamilton since it began. As a result, our employer now promotes the use of Sobi Hamilton as a wellness initiative using modest cost subsidies for HHS staff, recognizing the physical and mental health benefits associated with active transportation. This is greatly appreciated by our workforce, and has helped increase Sobi ridership.

There are several benefits to the continued operation of the Sobi program that I would like to highlight for your consideration, given my work promoting its use among my colleagues. These include:

- Providing a critical mode of transportation for households that do not have access to a vehicle
- Reducing air pollution in our city, thereby reducing the health impact of smog on its citizens
- Providing a positive impact on the cyclist's mental and physical health
- Providing a source of transportation during the current pandemic that enables physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Bike share is a critical piece of the transportation network in cities worldwide. I strongly encourage the Mayor and Members of Council to seek and support all viable opportunities to Sobi operations uninterrupted after June 1, 2020.

Regards,

Rebekah Jackson-Gravely