



Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Council,

As you are all quite aware, the COVID-19 crisis has had a major impact on nearly every aspect of life in the City of Hamilton and beyond. I am writing to you today to raise concerns about the impacts the pandemic is having on the HSR, and to urge Council to take action to ensure that our public transit system survives the crisis.

The issue of providing adequate transit to move our essential workers while at the same time maintaining best practices for public health is proving to be a major and costly undertaking for public transit systems across the country, including here in Hamilton. That is why Environment Hamilton has joined with over seventy other organisations across the country (including local organisations: The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, The Hamilton District Labour Council, Hamilton Transit Riders Union, ATU 107, Disability Justice Network of Ontario) to demand that the federal government commit to providing emergency funding for all public transit agencies, as well as ongoing operational support. A copy of the letter outlining our request for federal support was shared with you on May 12th, 2020. Our call for transit funding was further bolstered by countless Canadians from across the country who participated in a national day of action on May 28th, calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to support federal emergency funding for public transit systems.

Environment Hamilton recognizes and appreciates the on-going efforts of the City of Hamilton, through Mayor Eisenberger's role with other GTHA mayors, to call on the federal and provincial government to support municipalities. We believe more needs to be done! We urge Hamilton City Council to call on the federal government to provide emergency operational support for the HSR. Our public transit system is essential and the municipality needs support from higher levels of government to ensure that the system survives and ultimately thrives post-pandemic.

The recent Trudeau Government offer to advance the federal gas tax transfer is simply not adequate! We are urging Hamilton City Council to demand that the federal government provide operational support for our public transit system.

- Ian Borsuk, Climate Campaign Coordinator, Environment Hamilton
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