Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery Workplace & Office Working Group

Key Issues

• Working conditions

- The existence of adequate workspace is essential for continued business operations, as well as business expansion in Hamilton.
- Employees and customers clients need to feel safe for their confidence to be restored.
- Employers seeking clarification on the provision of safe environments lack a centralized source of information and guidance.

Financial

- The cost of workplace leases and rent are extremely challenging to meet when a loss of business revenue occurs and, in some cases, continues to be legally mandated to ensure public health safety.
- The cost of PPE is an added expense for businesses.

• Transportation

• Workplaces need to be adequately serviced by public transit, in order for employees and customers to arrive.



Challenges

- Disparate Information
 - Myriad of requirements and options for establishing safe protocols, practices, and equipment
- Financial Health
 - Businesses have experienced significant reductions in earnings.
 - Covering the cost of rent, PPE, and enhanced cleaning measures are difficult under these circumstances.
 - Complexities and requirements of CECRA as barriers.
- People Movement
 - HSR reduced service For economic recovery of workplaces, reliable and, frequent transit is essential.
 - An increase in transit capacity to serve workplaces. An LRT could increase overall capacity of the transit system.
- Network Infrastructure
 - For those who continue to work from home, fast, reliable infrastructure access to the Internet is required. However, not all of Hamilton has equitable access.
 - Support for the current programming of the Chief Digital Officer to address broadband.



Recommendations - Implementation

	Actions	Lead (partners); City department	Responsibility	Timing (flag if urgent)
1	Single Point of Authority	Economic Development	Hamilton	ASAP
2	Expansion of Commercial Rent Assistance Program	Task Force Chair	Federal	ASAP
3	Support for an Innovation Pilot Program	Economic Development	Hamilton	ASAP
4	Bylaw enforcement	Bylaw	Hamilton	ASAP
5	Well-being supports for Employees	Public Health	Hamilton	Nov '20
6	Transportation Reliability and Infrastructure (eg LRT)	Economic Development	Hamilton, Province, Federal	Sep'20
7	Network Infrastructure	Chief Digital Officer	Hamilton	Nov '20
8	Placemaking in support of well-being and healthy workplaces	Economic Development	Hamilton	Nov '20
9	Occupational Health and Safety requirements	Public Health	Hamilton	Nov '20
10	Municipal champion for funding supports	Economic Development	Hamilton	Nov '20
11	Sources for PPE and related required materials			Sep '20
12	Façade Grant program to include outdoor patio spaces	Economic Development	Hamilton	Rejected

Implementation

- COVID Concierge
 - Led by EcDev, fulfills our Single Point of Authority, Bylaw enforcement, Wellbeing supports for Employees, Placemaking in support of well-being, Occupational Health and Safety requirements, Municipal champion for funding supports, and Sources for PPE and related required materials.
- CECRA Advocacy
 - Task Force advocate to the Federal government for expansion and improvement of CECRA. Done!
- Innovation Pilot Program
 - Solve challenges for City-related organizations specifically for Hamiltonbased companies and led by Economic Development. Funding for a total of \$25,000.00 to be award in five streams of \$5,000 each.
 - Submissions made for helping The Market, The Libraries, The BIAs, The Multi-tenant Facilities, and the Tourism, Arts, or Music Industry.
- Transportation
 - Return to normal service levels on all HSR routes
 - Support an increase in transit capacity to serve workplaces by advocating for LRT investment by all levels of government.

