

Pilon, Janet

Subject: For tomorrow's agenda: conditions on transit funding

From: Craig Burley

Sent: December 15, 2020 10:42 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I would like to echo the call of the Hamilton Transit Alliance to ask you to appropriately engage the transit-using community in responding to the Province of Ontario's proposed funding conditions attached to the "Safe Restart Agreement" for transit funding.

We who use public transit have deep concern over the possibility of this funding being used to extract service reductions. This is not helped by the province's treachery over public transit capital funding (notably the Hamilton B-Line LRT project). The implementation or imposition of "microtransit", likely to impose enormous costs on users as well as significantly degraded service levels, seems a particular priority of the province. This is of deep concern to users.

As you know, we should be encouraging truly public, mass transit. More cars, as "microtransit" projects always seem to imply, are always the worst answer.

Please seek public input on such an agreement before committing to it.

With thanks and regards,

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Craig Burley
Barrister & Solicitor