

May 18, 2021

Janette Smith
City Manager
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for the City of Hamilton's continued commitment to expanding transit in Hamilton.

As you are aware, on May 13, 2021, the Province announced a funding commitment of \$1.7 billion to advance the Hamilton LRT project. Along with a \$1.7 billion commitment from the federal government, this brings investment into the project to a total of \$3.4 billion to support construction. Through this partnership, the province and federal government have made a significant step towards advancing this LRT project.

This announcement builds upon the work of the Hamilton Transportation Task Force and the technical review that Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario completed in 2020, which enabled the province to seek a funding commitment from the federal government for a viable LRT project in the City of Hamilton.

The technical review indicated that a \$1 billion LRT system funded solely with provincial capital would not be of sufficient length to benefit the people of Hamilton and required federal funding to create a feasible project. While discussions with the federal government have been underway, Metrolinx has been assessing the scope of options that a larger capital funding envelope with federal support could allow.

Now, thanks to our partnership with the federal government, we are taking an important step forward by investing \$3.4 billion together in the Hamilton LRT project, which will offer frequent and reliable connections on the 14-kilometre line from Eastgate Square through downtown Hamilton to McMaster University.

In addition to seeking a federal funding commitment for a Hamilton LRT project, the Province has proposed to prescribe the Hamilton LRT as a priority transit project under the *Building Transit Faster Act* to streamline processes and accelerate its completion. Should the proposed regulation be approved, along with funding support from the

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federal government, it would help the government deliver this project on accelerated timelines and get shovels in the ground faster. While the 45-day comment period has closed, engagement with the City and other key stakeholders will continue and we would be happy to arrange a briefing for ministry staff to provide additional background and to continue the dialogue with the City staff.

Our government recognizes that the City of Hamilton is a valued partner in making this project a reality. As a next step, we would be happy to arrange a visit by provincial officials to City Council in June to discuss the provincial and federal commitments. Provincial staff would also like to re-establish project level discussions with the City of Hamilton to discuss next steps including potential commitments by the City of Hamilton regarding operation and maintenance costs. To coordinate availability, I advise that the City contact James Nowlan, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agency Oversight and Programs Division at James.Nowlan@ontario.ca to arrange a suitable date and time.

We look forward to working with you and City Council to get shovels in the ground on this project and thank the federal government for helping to make Light Rail Transit for Hamilton a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie LeBlanc', written in a cursive style.

Laurie LeBlanc

Deputy Minister of Transportation

James Nowlan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agency Oversight and Programs
Cc: John Lieou, Associate Deputy Minister, Policy Planning and Agency Relations