



June 1, 2021

Dear Mayor Eisenberger & Members of Hamilton City Council,

The B-Line light-rail transit system (LRT) will unlock profoundly important opportunities to build a sustainable, climate resilient, inclusive Hamilton into the future. This is essential as the city transitions into a post-pandemic world. The project will bring much-needed local employment during construction and, as a fixed, higher order transit line, it will facilitate development opportunities along its entire length.

In order to get us to that sustainable, climate resilient, inclusive city of the future, we must ensure that the LRT project proceeds with a solid community benefits agreement in place. It is important to note that, prior to the cancellation of the LRT project, the Hamilton Community Benefits Network (HCBN) was engaged in dialogue with Metrolinx on the creation of a 'made-in-Hamilton' Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). The recent federal and provincial funding announcements that will enable LRT to proceed have included a call for community benefits, and especially for more affordable housing for Hamilton. We recognize and support the urgent call from residents and stakeholder organizations for more affordable housing units in our city to address the massive housing crisis we are currently grappling with.

We also see incredible opportunity with this initiative to develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that realizes the synergies that are possible when integrating efforts to build a Hamilton that is climate resilient and inclusive. Imagine the creation of new affordable housing units in our city right along the new LRT corridor using methods like passive house construction. This will provide more desperately needed housing built in a manner that is financially affordable into the future and designed to ensure tenants are more comfortable in extreme heat and cold, and everything in between. Building these units along the higher order transit line will also ensure easy access to quality public transit – helping to address mobility justice issues in our city. This is but one example of the potential synergies that are possible and that we need to enshrine in a CBA that is committed to a climate resilient, inclusive Hamilton. There is also incredible potential, through the CBA, to consider greening options at LRT stations, along the public corridor, and as an integral part of new development along the line. Green roofs, bio-swales, planting a corridor of native trees along the route – all of these efforts to implement green standards will bring benefits to local biodiversity, and will enhance the health and well-being of residents living along or near the LRT line.

Finally, we recognize that a CBA helps to ensure that a skilled workforce is ready and available for the completion of an infrastructure project like LRT by tapping into the capacity of Hamilton's diverse communities. A CBA contributes to the establishment of a shared framework for workforce development that ties together community-based organizations, governments, colleges, training agencies, local unions, professional societies and subcontractors involved in the trades, professions, and ancillary industries. By contributing to the capacity of the training and workforce development system to better coordinate and collaborate today, a CBA will foster a long-term commitment to workforce development through existing training delivery agencies and union training programs.

As the LRT project resumes, we commit, as a member of the Hamilton Community Benefits Network, to

actively engaging in meaningful dialogue with other HCBN stakeholders and residents, and to sharing our collective vision for a made-in-Hamilton Community Benefits Agreement with the City of Hamilton, Metrolinx, and the provincial and federal governments. We look forward to working to maximize the potential of the LRT project to realize Hamilton's potential to become a truly climate resilient, inclusive community!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. M. Lukasik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynda M. Lukasik, PhD  
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