

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence for General Issues Ctte

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: June 2, 2021 12:48 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Dear Clerk:

Please find, below, a message to be included as public correspondence for the General Issues Committee, with hope to be included at today's meeting, if it hasn't already been adjourned, but certainly on the agenda of the next GIC. Thank you.

Regards,

Joshua Weresch

To the General Issues Committee of Hamilton, Ontario's City Council:

Hope this finds you well. I write in regards to the discussion about light-rail transit (LRT) at today's meeting of 2 June 2021.

I am asking, as a regular user of public transit since 2011, that you move to reject the \$3,400,000,000 offered by the provincial and federal governments for LRT, unless it can be spent to improve the already-existing Hamilton Street Railway. As Gabriel Nicholson noted in the presentation he sent to your committee, the city's staff noted in 2010 that Bus Rapid Transit was the better-performing system.

The H.S.R. is already unionized, which means that its 'bus drivers receive support as union members, unlike the LRT which would be operated through Metrolinx and is not at this point a unionized venture. This city has a strong history of labour support, though currently private-sector unionization rates are at a dismal 15% provincially, so the support of a non-union venture is problematic, despite the support of LiUNA International, which is the only union to support Premier Ford publicly (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/liuna-lrt-1.5402413>). 'Buses are also more manoeuvrable around private transit accidents. That built-in contingency and diversification of options will encourage more residents to use public transit. Time is important. Finally, taxes should not be increased for LRT but should be diverted from policing services so that public transit and all other public goods as decided democratically by the communities in Hamilton are supported; if taxes are increased, let's support the public goods we already have in place, transit that can work better for all residents.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards.

Best,

Joshua Weresch