

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LRT in Hamilton - take yes for an answer

From: Graham

Sent: June 15, 2021 10:28 PM

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Hello Mr Mayor and Councilors -

When I moved back to Hamilton in 2009, one of the first projects I worked on as an architect in town was a community consultation hosted by the City. The design workshops examined the building potential for the Nodes which would be developed as part of Hamilton's future LRT. The consultation informed changes to zoning and was the basis of the Nodes and Corridors Urban Design strategy.

As I continued to follow the progress of LRT, I learned of the BLAST network, a plan setting out the future transit network for the City. I watched when, after many studies and reports, Council put LRT forward to the province as the preferred transit option for our City. Further, Council made the bold request that Hamilton not be required to contribute capital funds to the project.

And the Province said, "Yes."

Hamilton is the only city in the enviable position of putting no money towards the capital costs of the system. At the same time, the project will help pay for buried infrastructure, a cost that, as part of the LRT project will be borne by all the taxpayers of Ontario and Canada (with the newly announced Federal contribution). Without LRT, these infrastructure costs will be borne solely by Hamilton taxpayers.

Costs of major transportation construction projects will rise in the next decade. Climate change will continue to challenge society and the effects will continue to get worse demanding we achieve a substantial modal shift in how we get around the City and Region. Hamilton's population will continue to grow and eventually, we will *have* to build higher-order transit to meet the needs of residents as the existing road network becomes insufficient.

The question before us now is will we take Yes for an answer and move ahead to build the project that Council has designed, studied, and asked for?

Or, will we wait until we don't have \$3.4B on offer; until the costs of building the system have gone up; until we have been forced to upgrade underground infrastructure solely at our expense?

Please, make the responsible, considered decision. Hamilton's LRT has been designed, studied, and will be an important driver of Hamilton's future as we take on the challenges of climate change, replace failing infrastructure, and build the City of the next generation.

Take Yes for an answer, and vote to move forward with LRT.

Thanks for your time,

Graham McNally.