

**From:** Jamie Stuckless  
**Sent:** Friday, February 4, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>  
**Cc:** Hilson, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Hilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Hilson@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget Comments for GIC Meeting

Happy Friday Councillor Wilson!

I hope this email finds you well. I am unfortunately unable to delegate virtually on Monday for the GIC Budget Meeting, and wanted to share my input on the budget with you in writing instead. I have also cc'd the Clerk's office with the hope that this can be included in the agenda.

Dear Councillor Wilson,

First, I was thrilled to see the recent motion directing staff to explore ways to make Hamilton's bike share system financially sustainable. I would like to **voice my strong support for the City to provide ongoing operational funding to bike share**. Hamilton Bike Share provides a reliable, affordable and year-round transportation and recreation option for tens of thousands of Hamiltonians, and visitors to Hamilton. Through projects like the Everyone Rides Initiative, Hamilton bike share has worked hard to provide a mode of transportation for residents who need it, and a [2018 study of North American Bike Share Systems](#) also found that Hamilton was the only Canadian city where bike share access was greater in lower socioeconomic areas of the City. Other Canadian bike share systems, like those in Montreal and Toronto, receive public operational support, much like transit and roads are publicly supported. Hamilton's bike share network is essential to many, and should receive public operational support on an ongoing basis to reflect that.

Personally, I had never considered winter cycling an option for myself until I moved to Hamilton and had access to the bike share system. I cycled in the snow on my very first day living here, and continue to do so with the support of bike share. I also use it regularly to connect to GO transit.

Secondly, I would like to follow-up on the items I delegated about for the 2021 budget.

In February of last year, I **voiced my support for the Just Recovery Hamilton proposals, and highlighted the need for city-wide winter sidewalk maintenance**. I was encouraged to see the council vote to move forward with priority sidewalk clearing around transit stops in the short term, however, I still believe there is an urgent need for reliable, city-wide sidewalk clearing. As demonstrated with the recent winter storms, snow build up on sidewalks and at crosswalks can severely restrict the mobility of many people, including people with disabilities, seniors, and families. Studies also show that since women are more likely to rely on walking, not maintaining sidewalks has a disproportionate impact on women. The City of Hamilton has committed to increasing walking as part of the Transportation Master Plan, and has the vision of making Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully. That can only happen if we treat walking as an essential mode of transportation, and invest in maintaining all of our sidewalks year-round.

In that same meeting, I also supported calls for more opportunities for residents to engage on the budget in advance of the budget being drafted. **Thank-you for hosting an initial public budget session for the public a few months ago**. I hope we continue to see new and accessible ways for more residents to engage with the city.

Lastly, I voiced my frustration with seeing the overfunded police budget continue to grow while essential community services and organizations are underfunded, particularly affordable housing. This continues to be an urgent issue for Hamilton, and I urge council to treat this like the emergency that it is and prioritize much needed community services and supports in the upcoming budget.

Thank-you for the opportunity to share these comments with you.

Jamie Stuckless  
Ward 1 Resident