

From: Erin S

Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 9:44 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Publicly Fund Hamilton Bike Share

As a member of Hamilton Bike Share, I appreciate the ability to utilize these bikes for trips under 5km in the following situations:

When my destination is not on a bus route

When cycling is faster than waiting for a bus even if on a bus route,

When I'm going to locations where it is unsafe to lock up my own bike for fear of theft,

To attend soccer games at THF,

As a quicker alternative to walking

It allows me to save money on gas and save mileage on my car.

In the past I have used the bike share to get from the waterfront (near Williams) to downtown to catch a bus home and,

It is cheaper than the bus for short trips.

I have a pay as you ride membership which I have held for several years. I have only ever had 1 instance where a bike has not been available at my closest hub. On the other hand I have experienced numerous occasions of being passed by buses that were already too full. But just as HSR is a publicly funded transit program, Hamilton Bike Share should be as well. It encourages exercise and provides cheaper transit options for someone who doesn't have their own bike or enough money for bus or cab fare. In cases where a full bus passes someone by they could hop on a bike, and depending on the distance, may be able to arrive at their destination before the next bus shows up (ie Mohawk bus in the lower city).

It's about giving people options and encouraging car users to leave their cars behind for those really short trips. I won't kid you. I wouldn't use one of the SoBi bikes to do a 20km ride up the escarpment and back, they are way too bulky and awkward for that. But I'm fortunate enough to own a decent bike. Some teens aren't. Some adults aren't. Some may very well depend on them to get to school or their job.

I saw a woman with her young son in tow on one today. In the snow. They were on their way to Gage Park to test out the ice rinks. She had stopped to ask me a question about the ice conditions as I was just heading home from there myself. They get used in all weather by people of all economic backgrounds.

This is a positive public service I hope council can get behind and approve a budget for. It'll be worth every penny.

Thank you

Erin Shacklette