




INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 11, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Light Rail Transit Community Benefits Update (PED23262) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee meeting on June 2, 2023 staff were directed to report back to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee with respect to how the Metrolinx Community Benefits approach could best reflect and respond to the recommendations made in the presentations by the Hamilton Community Benefits Network.

INFORMATION

This information report addresses Council's direction through an overview of the Metrolinx Community Benefits and Supports program, the themes and recommendations from the Hamilton Community Benefits Network's community engagement and consultation, and how the City will work with Metrolinx to respond to these recommendations through the delivery of Hamilton LRT Project.

Overview of Metrolinx Community Benefits and Support Program

Through delivery of the Hamilton LRT Project, Metrolinx will embed community benefits requirements in contracts with project partners to deliver on community benefits.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Metrolinx, as project owner and responsible for project delivery, has developed contractual obligations for local employment opportunities and business supports. These requirements will be part of major Metrolinx capital contracts, including Hamilton LRT.

Metrolinx Community Benefits and Supports will be implemented and delivered through a four-pillar program to mitigate impacts on local communities and businesses.

- Pillar 1: Employment Opportunities - Promotes apprenticeship training and workforce development opportunities for local communities and equity seeking groups including 10% hiring targets for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), women, apprentices, and requirements for an anti-racism policy
- Pillar 2: Local Business Supports - Builds and fosters relationships with local businesses to minimize and alleviate business disruptions and reduce the economic impacts as a result of construction, for example through shop local initiatives and procurement from local businesses
- Pillar 3: Public Realm Improvements - During the design and development phase of our projects, we are finding ways to leave the surroundings in an improved state when construction of the project creates temporary disruptions
- Pillar 4: Community Improvement Supports - Working with communities as a connector to the right decision-makers to make improvements to public spaces surrounding transit project construction, where no funding is available

Staff Review of Hamilton Community Benefits Network Report

Hamilton Community Benefits Network has compiled information from their robust consultation with the community and continue to advocate for residents to see neighbourhood and community enhancements on the LRT corridor. LRT Office staff have consolidated this feedback into a document shared with Metrolinx to track community feedback and determine where project deliverables will achieve the ideas generated through consultation.

Staff will continue to work with Metrolinx to incorporate design elements consistent with City standards, policies and guidelines. Items outside the scope of City standards and Metrolinx design standards for delivering transit projects may be evaluated by staff and presented to LRT Sub-Committee and Council as project enhancements. More information will be available as the design progresses.

Consultation with Hamilton Community Benefits Network

City and Metrolinx LRT Office staff have held meetings with Hamilton Community Benefits Network since the project was reinitiated in 2021. In September 2023, Metrolinx hosted Hamilton Community Benefits Network as one of their key

stakeholders on a Community Benefits and Supports Progress Tour. The tour showcased community benefits in action on the Finch West and Hurontario LRT projects.

Metrolinx has shared a draft Terms of Reference for a future Community Benefits and Supports Working Group with Toronto Community Benefits Network and Hamilton Community Benefits Network to solicit their feedback. This working group, to be established as the project evolves into the procurement / design phase, will provide a forum to communicate and provide feedback approaches to accomplishing the objectives of the Community Benefits and Supports Program. City LRT Office staff will play a key role in the working group once established.

Next Steps

Design Refinements

LRT Office staff to work with Metrolinx on design refinements and requirements based on City standards and guidelines. In advocating for improvements to the public realm, green spaces and other amenities on the corridor, the City will work with Metrolinx to ensure as the design evolves the project meets the needs of the community and all road users, and creates a sense of place at stop locations.

Community Engagement

Future Opportunities:

- Construction Liaison Committees;
- Hamilton LRT Community Office;
- Virtual Townhalls and Information Sessions; and,
- Construction Readiness Sessions with Local Business Community

Metrolinx will continue to conduct regular engagement with residents and business owners through their Community Connector corridor canvass program and other opportunities as they arise. Data collected here and through Hamilton Community Benefits Network consultation will continue to be tracked and documented.

Working with Hamilton Community Benefits Network

Hamilton Community Benefits Network continues to consult with local organizations and community members on what matters most to their neighbourhoods. Staff will conduct quarterly check-in meetings with Hamilton Community Benefits Network to review the outcomes and themes of their community engagement activities. Information collected through their engagement will help frame the conversations between City, Metrolinx and

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Hamilton Community Benefits Network staff. Staff will report back to LRT Sub-Committee on consultation findings, as available, and progress once project milestones are achieved.

Staff will support, where feasible, Hamilton Community Benefits Network consultation activities, including provision of project materials, staff attendance, presentations and question & answer opportunities.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED23262 – Hamilton LRT Project Update & Community Benefits and Supports Program Overview
(Metrolinx – June 2, 2023, LRT Sub-Committee)