

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Please keep the LRT Public!

From: Ozioma Okoh

Sent: January 26, 2024 1:33 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Please keep the LRT Public!

Hello,

This email is regarding the LRT subcommittee meeting on January 29.

My name is Blossom Okoh and I'm a Hamilton resident currently attending McMaster University. I'm writing to you to voice my opinion about the new LRT which will have a stop right beside McMaster. The options being proposed for the LRT's operations are not sufficient. It's clear from past studies that operations and maintenance should be run by the same group, and I want the city of Hamilton to fully run both.

Having the city run operations and maintenance will benefit me as a student as well as the average Hamilton resident. A third party company whose main goal is to profit off of the LRT will not have my best interest at heart. Prioritizing profit will entail less frequent trams (to maximize the number of people in each cart) and higher fares. That is the opposite of what I want.

Hamilton is trying to become a more sustainable city by building the LRT. But if it's not managed in a way that prioritizes the public's needs it will lose many customers. Selling out the most important jobs, that require the most public interaction, to a company that might not care about the public is a huge mistake. I also want the workers to be treated fairly and receive a living wage. Making these city jobs would ensure that, while a third party company would not. Happy workers will lead to a happier city.

Lastly, if I have any issues with the LRT or suggestions to make it better, it would be easier to communicate them to my city councilors and have them pass motions to implement them. It would be more difficult to propose changes to the company/companies in charge who only care about low costs and high profits.

If you're going to build, operate, and maintain a major project in my backyard to make my future better, please do it right and do it yourself.

Best,
Blossom Okoh