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From: Mary Love

Sent: April 16, 2024 11:44 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written delegation on LRT for April 17 GIC meeting

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Mayor Horwath and City Councillors,

Hamilton is still at heart Steeltown, a city that believes in community, in the skill and dedication of its workers, and their right to a living wage.

The majority of Hamiltonians, so say surveys and polls, want public transit, in this case the LRT, to be publicly funded, publicly built and staffed by members of trusted local unions, and managed in the public interest.

As a regional GO transit rider, I am not at all impressed by Metrolinx and the way they run things. Our West Harbour GO station, for example, is stunning, but doesn't have a single human being on site to assist passengers: not ever! There are also as a result, no announcements. If the automatic display board doesn't reflect a track change that was made down the line, too bad for you! Several other people and I recently missed a train because of this lack of concern for passengers by Metrolinx. Since that lousy experience, I don't trust West Harbour Station, and take the train from the downtown station, which does have humans on site and therefore announcements.

Metrolinx sucks at community engagement too! They showed little flexibility and willingness to work with the Eglinton West community who protested Metrolinx's plan to destroy their neighbourhood playground and park to build one of their stations. The number of trees destroyed alone was appalling! I don't want our city to "partner with" an entity which runs roughshod over communities.

I believe that elected public officials such as yourselves must protect society from the current creeping (sometimes rampant!) commercialization of all our public spaces and services. Here's the tip of the Metrolinx iceberg: the other day on the way to Toronto, I was astounded to hear the quiet zone (second floor of GO train cars) described as "brought to you by Audible". Much as I love the idea of a couple of "free" books a month for passengers, this was a chilling cautionary note that Metrolinx is first and foremost a private corporation.

I therefore urge you all to do what's right for the historic, lasting character of our city, and vote to keep Metrolinx out! Please embrace the Hamilton principles of local work for local people, and truly public services run not for profit and corporate agendas, as Metrolinx clearly is, but for the public good.

I want to get onboard an LRT that will respect everyone, and leave no one behind. I only trust the ATU and other local unions to bring us that kind of rail.

Sincerely,

Mary Love
Transit rider from Ward 7

Sent from my iPhone