

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee: May 23, 2024

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....**

### **Small Business Supports During Light Rail Transit Major Construction**

WHEREAS, enabling works have begun for the multi-year major construction for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project and the City of Hamilton is planning ahead for the major construction works funded by both the Provincial and the Federal Governments;

WHEREAS, small businesses in Hamilton make up the majority of employment and contribute to the economic development and vitality of the city;

WHEREAS, of the 16,348 businesses with employees in Hamilton, approximately 56% employ fewer than four people and 75% employ nine or fewer people, meaning that small and micro businesses make up the majority of the city’s businesses which contribute to the economic development and vitality of the city (source: InvestInHamilton, 2024, and Canadian Business Counts, June 2021);

WHEREAS, small businesses that are situated along and adjacent to the LRT corridor will be impacted by construction of the project;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton seeks to reduce disruption to small businesses along the 14-kilometre LRT corridor;

WHEREAS, other municipalities in Canada that undertook major transit corridor construction like Toronto, Montreal, and Kitchener-Waterloo implemented small business supports including grants and incentives for the impacted businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Toronto in partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FEDDEV Ontario) implemented the Transit Expansion Construction Mitigation Grant Program to support businesses and business associations impacted by major transit construction works.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to research and explore potential small business grant and support programs available to the City of Hamilton, small businesses, or Business Improvement Areas during the Light Rail Transit (LRT) major construction to support impacted businesses along and adjacent to the LRT;
- (b) That staff be directed to complete this scan once every year until the substantial completion of the Hamilton LRT project and that the results of this scan be presented to Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee; and
- (c) That staff be directed collaborate with Metrolinx, FEDDEV Ontario, and other funding agencies to enable the implementation and marketing of these small business supports ahead of the LRT major construction.