



Applying a Climate Justice Lens to Light Rail Transit

What is Climate Justice?

Climate Justice is a framework for climate action that:

- Centers social justice and equity in our understanding of climate change;
- Recognizes that those least responsible are often most impacted by climate change;
- Guides outcomes that address equity challenges;
- Underscores need for comprehensive, multi-sector response.

Creating a Climate Justice Framework for Hamilton

Recognitional Equity: Asks who should be included as a stakeholder in climate action decisions and whose needs should be prioritized, based on identification of groups or communities who are most vulnerable or historically ignored or underrepresented.

Procedural Equity: Considers processes used to make municipal decisions and who is involved in these processes. This type of equity ensures that the plans and actions within a municipality accurately reflect the needs and wants of the community.

Distributive Equity: Considers distribution of climate action benefits and burdens in society across different groups and communities. This dimension helps municipalities consider the groups who are receiving benefits of a climate action plan's actions and program activities, what is being distributed and how these decisions are made.

Source: Lazarus-Munnick et al. 2023

3

Applying a Climate Justice Framework to the LRT Project

Applying these equity dimensions to the LRT project is an opportunity to realize climate justice by:

- Recognizing and prioritizing the needs of and opportunities for those communities and groups who are at risk of increased vulnerability or who have been historically ignored or underrepresented;
- Distributing climate action benefits and diminishing burdens across different equity-owed communities; and,
- Factoring in municipal decision-making processes and who is involved in these processes to ensure the project reflects the needs, aspirations and knowledge of impacted communities.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City continue to apply a climate justice lens to the Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project and associated works to ensure that any relevant mitigation and adaptation actions as set out in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy are implemented in a manner that considers climate justice.
- (b) That the LRT Sub-Committee recruit additional non-voting community advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee table to ensure that the Sub-Committee's composition reflects the community from a climate justice point of view.