

Sent: January 26, 2024 11:03 AM

Subject: Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee Monday, Jan. 29th : Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(b)) (City Wide)

Dear Mayor and Council

Stop Sprawl HamOnt represents thousands of members across Hamilton. We fought the forced boundary expansion twice and the Province's Greenbelt Grab and now we are focused on increasing density within the urban boundary. We support increases to pedestrian infrastructure, public transit, and bike modal share to decrease emissions, improve the health of our citizens, and improve the quality of life for all Hamiltonians.

We believe that the city should **run AND maintain** the planned \$3.4 Billion light rail transit line. The city has nearly 900 transit workers and these workers add to our local economy's wealth.

Privatizing is a gift to private corporations and a theft from the public.

Let's manage and maintain our own LRT.

P3s cost the public more

The Ontario Auditor General Review of P3 projects, including 6 transit projects, found that P3s cost \$8 billion more than if they had been delivered publicly due to increased private sector financing costs and a lack of risk transfer. Bonnie Lysysk's report was clear. We should heed her warning:

*The AG found that while the province **assumes** there is less risk of cost overruns and other problems with P3s than with the public sector, the province actually has "no empirical data" to back up that assumption. **P3s, meanwhile, are more expensive** because companies "pay about 14 times what the government does for financing, and receive a premium from taxpayers in exchange for taking on the project." CCPA, 08,11,15*

Keep our tax dollars in the community

We know that a strong public sector keeps money circulating in our local economy. Taxpayers shoulder the risk for LRT if the privately owned maintenance companies are not run efficiently. If they go bankrupt, what happens?

There is no justifiable reason to have the private sector involved in managing or maintaining our LRT system for their own profit. The private sector is beholden to shareholder returns which will always be to the detriment of service.

A publicly funded, managed, and maintained LRT is vital for Hamilton by keeping dollars in the community and providing liveable wages for Hamiltonians.

Sincerely,
Stop Sprawl HamOnt Organizers

