





CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of Climate Change Initiatives
and
Hamilton LRT Project Office

TO:	Chair and Members Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 15, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Recruiting Additional LRT Sub-Committee Advisors in Order to Facilitate Consideration of Climate Justice (PED24087(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6885 Abdul Shaikh (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6559
SUBMITTED BY:	Lynda Lukasik Director, Office of Climate Change Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Abdul Shaikh Director, Hamilton LRT Project Office Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee’s Terms of Reference be amended to include additional non-voting community advisors to ensure that the Sub-Committee’s composition reflects the community from a climate justice point view, as follows:

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Membership

Membership of the committee will consist of the Mayor and Councillors along the B-Line corridor. Additional Councillors that represent various interests should be on the sub-committee. These include (a representative of the mountain and the rural/suburban wards as well).

Other representatives of the community – key stakeholders will be asked to attend as advisors to the sub-committee. These can include but are not limited to (Chamber of Commerce, BIA's, HHHBA, institutional and business partners).

Non-Voting Community Advisors that reflect the community from a climate justice point of view. These Advisors can include but are not limited to the Urban Indigenous community, Black community, women, gender diverse individuals, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, seniors, newcomers/refugees, persons with disabilities, and low-income Hamiltonians.

- (b) That staff be directed to proceed with efforts to recruit Non-Voting Community Advisors that reflect the community from a climate justice point of view to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee, including reaching out to local organizations that offer support to frontline communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the May 23, 2024, Light Rail Transit (LRT) Sub-Committee meeting, staff presented Report PED24087 (Applying a Climate Justice Lens to Light Rail Transit), which provided city staff review of the CityLab Semester in Residence students' information presented in December 2023 LRT Sub-Committee regarding 'Applying a Climate Justice Lens to the Light Rail Transit.' At the same meeting, a recommendation was approved directing 'That staff report back the process to enable recruitment of additional non-voting community advisors to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee table to ensure that the Sub-Committee's composition reflects the community from a climate justice point of view.'

The purpose of this report is to offer recommendations to the LRT Sub-Committee on tangible steps to facilitate the process of recruiting representatives of frontline communities to serve as non-voting advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Not applicable.

Staffing: Not applicable.

Legal: Not applicable.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On May 23, 2024, Staff from the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) presented Report PED24087 to the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Sub-Committee. A recommendation was approved directing staff to return with a process to enable recruitment of 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. Current non-voting members have been appointed to the LRT Sub-Committee, and additional members may be selected at any time. (See Appendix "A" to Report PED24087(a), LRT Sub-Committee Membership List)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Metrolinx through LRT Project Office.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This is a revised version of Report PED24087(a).

The previous version of this Report, included a recommendation calling for supports for new advisors from frontline communities to facilitate their involvement at the LRT Subcommittee table by reducing barriers to participation, as well as reference to compensation frameworks as emerging best practices to demonstrate value for lived experience and enable more equitable and inclusive community engagement. These have been removed since the City plans to look at providing supports and/or compensation to volunteers across all City of Hamilton volunteer advisory committees. A future report will be brought forward with recommendations to Council once the volunteer advisory committee review is complete.

Additionally, reference to groups that can bring a cycling advocacy/mobility justice perspective has been added in this revised report, based on the CityLab Semester in Residence (SIR) December 2023 presentation and report to the LRT Subcommittee entitled 'Getting Hamilton's LRT on the Right Track,' and its recommendation to recruit a non-voting advisor from the cycling community to the LRT Sub-Committee.

Though the Climate Justice Framework being developed by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives is not yet completed and available to offer guidance to this project, the LRT Project is an opportunity to begin to actualize Council's commitment to implementing climate action using a climate justice lens. This is achievable by applying three equity dimensions:

- **Recognitional Equity**—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:
- **Distributive Equity**—distributing climate action benefits and diminishing burdens across different equity-owed communities; and,
- **Procedural Equity**—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.

In terms of Hamilton's LRT Project, **recognitional and procedural equity** are reflected in the Staff recommendation that additional non-voting advisors be recruited to the LRT Sub-Committee table to ensure that the Sub-Committee's composition reflects the community from a climate justice point of view. Successful expansion of the roster of advisors to the Sub-Committee is intended to facilitate procedural equity through additional input through these advisors.

Facing disproportionate impacts of climate change as well as social inequity, frontline populations experience unjust treatment because of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, income, age, disability, etc. In general, frontline communities have less access to resources and protections, limiting their ability to adapt to our changing climate, or to influence government decisions. Frontline communities include urban Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, low-income people, Black people, seniors, unhoused people, 2SLGBTQQIA+, youth, and people displaced by the project.

The City of Hamilton has many social service agencies and community groups supporting frontline communities; as trusted allies, they know the needs and aspirations of the populations they serve, including how best to engage and mobilize them. These entities are ideally positioned to assist in recruiting representatives with lived experience and other specialized knowledge to participate as non-voting community advisors. Concurrently, representatives from these organizations might serve as suitable non-voting advisors who could bring frontline community perspectives.

Below are some suggestions for local groups by equity categories that staff will consider contacting.

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Frontline Community	Local Organization
Urban Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle of Beads (and Members such as Hamilton Indian Regional Centre) • Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership
Low Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn Hamilton • Hamilton Community Legal Clinic • Neighbour2Neighbour
Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afro Canadian Caribbean Association • HOPE Project • Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion • Hamilton Anti Racism Resource Centre
Persons with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Women & gender-diverse individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YWCA Hamilton
2S LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectrum Hamilton
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment Squared
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Inn Community Centre
New immigrants/newcomers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrants Working Centre
Cycling Advocacy/Mobility Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Bike Share Everyone Rides Initiative • Cycle Hamilton

Staff will also reach out to relevant City of Hamilton advisory committees such as the Climate Change Advisory Committee, the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and the Seniors Advisory Committee to seek their support with efforts to recruit additional advisors to the Sub-Committee.

Support is also available internally from the Office of Climate Change Initiatives, and potentially, through the Indigenous Relations Office, the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Team, the Public Engagement Team, and the Youth Strategy Team.

Sub-Committee expectations regarding contributions from new advisors and their attendance at meetings should be clearly communicated.

Role of the LRT Sub-Committee

The role of the LRT Sub-Committee is to review, provide input, receive and where required approve information presented by the LRT Project Office. The LRT Sub-Committee provides guidance and direction to the LRT Project Office on significant project-related issues and decisions. The LRT Sub-Committee also provides opportunities to receive input from the public regarding construction mitigation, community and business supports, and operations and maintenance.

Voting remains with Council members sitting on the LRT Sub-Committee, and further ratification of votes in this forum is brought forward to General Issues Committee, then Council. Community advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee serve an important role in providing input on LRT-related matters with respect to their unique areas of interest and subject matter expertise. Advisor input can be derived from their experience, research, and learnings from similar City-building or transit projects. Bringing representation from frontline communities to this table will add valuable knowledge derived from lived experience as well as other related specialized knowledge these communities hold—helping to strengthen the success of the LRT Project.

It is important to note the advisors' input is limited to the project's implementation phase and not the planning phase, which was completed through the completion of the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) in 2011 and the Environmental Project Report (EPR) addendum in 2017. Considering the “shovel-ready” aspect of this project, against the City’s commitment to lead such large infrastructure projects with equity, the advisors' role on this Sub-Committee may include the following key activities:

- Provide frontline community input into the project design at key milestones such as when Metrolinx releases the refined Reference Concept Design (RCD) and when the potential Alliance Partner completes the Preliminary Design during the Design Development phase (for example, consideration for connectivity with bus routes);
- Provide input on proposed enhancements that would address climate justice concerns of frontline community members (for example, the need for street furniture and adequate shading along streetscapes travelled to get to LRT stops) which the City could fund as part of LRT project construction;
- Advise on staff providing additional data and/or complete any additional deliverable that advisors deem necessary from their lived experience. Staff might research similar projects in other communities that have successfully integrated ideas and resolved concerns raised by frontline community members. ;
- Advise on potential communication and engagement opportunities to ensure accessibility of and open channels for information delivery, and maximum participation in community engagement activities;

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- Provide input on mitigating potential construction impacts, such as on transportation (for example, barriers to mobility, safe navigation, bus delays) businesses and services (accessibility), and environmental and health impacts (noise, vibration, dust, etc.) and,
- Provide lived experience input on other key decisions, such as the City's role in the LRT operation and maintenance phase of the project, and any implications for frontline communities. (such as safety concerns, accessibility, affordability, etc).

A Terms of Reference for the LRT Sub-Committee is attached as Appendix “B” to Report PED24087(a) for reference. Additional non-voting advisory members who fit the categories described in the Terms of Reference may be added at any time. Changes to member support must be considered by Council and Clerks for inclusion in an updated Terms of Reference document.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not applicable.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED24087(a) – LRT Sub-Committee Members List
Appendix “B” to Report PED24087(b) – Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee Terms of Reference