

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. FRANCIS.....**

### **Deferral of 2025 Budgeted Funding Related to Light Rail Transit (LRT)**

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, Council recently declared an Affordability Crisis in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, Hamilton residential taxpayers are subject to amongst the highest per-capita municipal taxes in the country;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Light-Rail Transit (LRT) should not cost Hamiltonians anything as the provincial and federal levels of government should be providing the requisite funding;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Budget Report FCS25004 has a total of \$13,022,800 budgeted for projects enabling LRT to be paid from Development Charges including Debt and from Operating listed in the Proposed City of Hamilton Budget and Financing Plan as follows:

Sherman - King to south end (LRT Enabling): \$23,800 (Page 39, 4032311013);

Frid St Extension - Chatham to Longwood \$2,700,000 (\$2,025,000 from Development Charges Including Debt) and Net Cost of \$675,000 from Operating (Page 49, 4032580381);

16 projects under LRT Total Planning costing \$4,747,000 (0 from Grants and Subsidies, \$122,000 from Community Benefits Charges, \$953,000 from Development Charges and Net Cost of \$3,673,000 from Operating) (Pages 49 and 50);

Main - Queenston Traffic Circle to Delena & Rosewood (LRT Enabling): \$3,245,000 (\$902,000 from Grants and Net Cost of \$2,343,000 from Operating) (Page 59);

Public Realm Improvements LRT costing \$3,330,000 (\$1,665,000 from Development Charges including debt and Net Cost of \$1,665,000 from Operating) (Page 65);

WHEREAS, two Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) employees within Public Works have been budgeted for, despite not being approved by Metrolinx;

WHEREAS, the provincial government is providing \$1.7 billion for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the LRT;

WHEREAS, in April 2024, the Cabinet Representative of the federal government was quoted in the media stating there is no signed funding agreement as Metrolinx has yet to submit a business plan to them for \$1.7 billion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, ***be amended***, to defer the \$13,022,800 budgeted in the 2025 budget related to the LRT until such a time as Metrolinx presents to Council a completed business plan verifying that the project will not exceed \$3.4 billion and a signed federal funding agreement.