

From: Thomas French  
Sent: March 18, 2025 2:44 PM  
To: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

Subject: Please vote to continue funding Hamilton Bike Share

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello Councillor

My name is Thomas French and I am writing you to voice my concern about the future of Hamilton Bike Share.

I have been a student at McMaster University since 2019 and have been a frequent user of the bike share system ever since. I grew up in Toronto where the bike share network is quite extensive and well used, so I was happy to have access to a similar service when I moved to Hamilton. I was very excited when the undergraduate bike share pass was approved last year, even though I would not be able to benefit since I would soon be graduating. Now back at the university as a graduate student, I am very happy to see that the graduate bike pass has been approved for next year.

Now that most McMaster students have access to a subsidized pass, I can only imagine that bike share ridership will increase in the next few years. I was surprised to learn that the future of the bike share program's funding is in question, since it seems to me like such a vital service offered by the city. As environmental issues become increasingly salient with every passing year, I would expect the city to be looking for ways to lower dependence on personal vehicles while promoting and expanding transit options like the upcoming LRT project and the bike share network.

I realize that finances must be considered when deciding whether to fund a program such as this. I won't pretend to understand the complexities of a municipal budget, but I believe there are steps that can be taken to supplement the cost of the bike share program. For example, the city is fairly lenient when it comes to municipal parking, offering free parking evenings, weekends, holidays, and for the entire month of December. Maybe there is an opportunity to rework the parking fee structure in a way that will help fund the bike share program (and other transportation alternatives), while also motivating Hamiltonians to become less reliant on cars. The city of Hamilton is on the rise and programs like bike share can only help attract young people like myself to the city.

Please vote to continue funding the bike share program and promote sustainable transit in Hamilton.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas French