

Wednesday, June 11 2025

Re: Item 8.5 - ACPD 25-005 Minutes

Dear Mayor Horwath and Members of Council,

We are writing to express our support for the Fair Fare campaign and to highlight its alignment with the recommendations emerging from recent community-based research through the Gender-Based Safety Audit, led by YWCA Hamilton in partnership with the City of Hamilton.

Findings from the Gender-Based Safety Audit underscore how deep affordability intersects with issues of safety, accessibility, and equity. When transit is unaffordable, individuals may be forced to travel at unsafe hours, walk long distances in poorly lit or isolated areas, or forgo trips altogether. This not only limits access to essential services but also diminishes opportunities for community connection and participation in civic life.

Of the four recommendations put forth by the Gender-Based Safety Audit, two speak directly to the principles behind the Fair Fare campaign:

1. The need to address the root causes of safety through changes to policies, procedures, funding, and structures;
2. The need to improve the accessibility of public transit.

A 'Fair Fare' program— responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and structured within a sustainable funding model would reduce the need to ration trips, delay essential appointments, or take unsafe routes to save on cost.

Council has also recently heard recommendations about the importance of creating spaces where diverse communities—particularly individuals living with disabilities—can engage meaningfully with the City.

Fair transit is not just a transportation issue. It is a gendered safety issue, a disability rights issue, and a matter of accessibility, inclusion, and belonging.

We encourage Council to direct staff to investigate a fare program, that would complement the existing Fare Assist program and increase equity of mobility for transit users.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to a safer, more accessible Hamilton for all.

Sincerely,



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