

## 7.3 (b)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** To the Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council,

From: Nolan, Tim  
Sent: June 17, 2025 11:53 AM  
To: clerk@hamilton.ca  
Cc: Nolan, Tim  
Subject: To the Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council,

To the Clerk,

Please find below a message to all members of Council with hope this may be included with correspondence for tomorrow's City Council Meeting Agenda.

With appreciation,  
Tim

To the Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council,

The Hamilton Accessible Transit Coalition appreciates the time devoted to the recommendation of the Coalition and the Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO) and the Accessibility Hamilton Alliance (AHA!) received at GIC on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The Coalition is disappointed with the outcome primarily because there seemed to be unanimity of committee members sensitive to the plight of people with disabilities when it comes to accessing public transit, or rather being unable to access public transit. Yet, the decision rendered by GIC was not in keeping with that sensitivity.

GIC received a number of delegations on this matter with hope that the transit experiences of people with disabilities would be self-evident.

Some months ago, the Coalition, through the City's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, proposed a very reasonable alternative to the existing Fare Assist program. The proposal was then deemed out of order because it was incorrectly perceived then that the request was being made to ask Council to reconsider a Fare Assist decision that had already been reconsidered.

Now, arguably, by rejection of the ACPD June 11, 2025 recommendation Council has now invited a return to the previous proposal. Staff of the HSR arguing they have not the resources to establish a second fare program specifically designed for persons with disabilities supports the need for the original proposal. Councillors stating there is not the time needed to devote to a new program clearly supports the original proposal which was to simply establish a different bus fare for persons with disabilities who live at or below the poverty line. Councillors and City staff members alike stated at the June 11 GIC that there is not the runway within the budget process to support the creation of a new bus fare program for people with disabilities. This position then supports the implementation of the original proposal of the community transit coalition.

The HSR within its existing program has both the capacity and infrastructure to make a simple modification to bus fares charged to persons with disabilities, and this simple implementation can only enhance the data collected or reported in addition to meeting the needs of the City's disabled.

Council has already given the Manager of Public Works authorization to establish new short term fare programs through delegated authority.

All that Council needs to do this Wednesday, June 18, 2025 is to pull the issue from the GIC minutes, then implement a motion directing the Manager of Public Works to grant a 100% bus fare discount to persons with disabilities in receipt of either ODSP, CPPD or WSIB and whose income is less than the Low Income Measure as established by the federal government. No additional work is required by HSR staff as this qualification already exists within the City's data.

Time to act is now in order that the HSR has time to collect one full year's worth of data before final reporting in July 2026. The time to act is now. Do what is right by your most vulnerable citizens!

On behalf of the Hamilton Accessible Transit Coalition,

Brad Evoy and Tim Nolan  
DJNO and AHA!

Tim Nolan  
Accessibility Hamilton Alliance  
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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aha.hamilton/>  
LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/accessibility-hamilton-alliance-aha>  
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