

From: Brian McHattie

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Subject: Opposition to Developers' Urban Boundary Expansion Requests - June 25 2025 Meeting

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Councillors,

First of all, for those of you on Council last term, thank you very much for your decision to NOT expand the urban boundary, choosing instead to focus development on intensification within the urban area. You did so for many reasons that are even more important today: preserving foodlands, protecting the Natural Heritage System, and knowing that all the development lands needed to 2050 were already identified in the existing urban boundary.

Perhaps of greatest interest to this Council going into a challenging 2026 budget process are the significant costs to pursuing an urban boundary expansion. You are well aware of the current extraordinary infrastructure deficit with it becoming increasingly difficult to maintain our existing roads and pipes without un-palatably high tax increases. It goes

without saying that adding more lands to the urban boundary at the periphery of our municipality will only accelerate this infrastructure deficit, burdening future Councils and Hamiltonians with costs that just cannot be overcome. Developers claim that development pays for itself - we know that not to be the case and must reject those arguments.

Given the preponderance of urban boundary expansions in the 1990s through the early 2000s, Hamilton has a reputation of facilitating development rather than planning in the public interest, defined by ensuring we have lands to grow food, store carbon and address climate change concerns, and protect forests that will help us achieve goals in the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Thanks for your work and please continue the work of the previous Council and deny any further urban boundary expansions.

Brian McHattie
Ward 1