

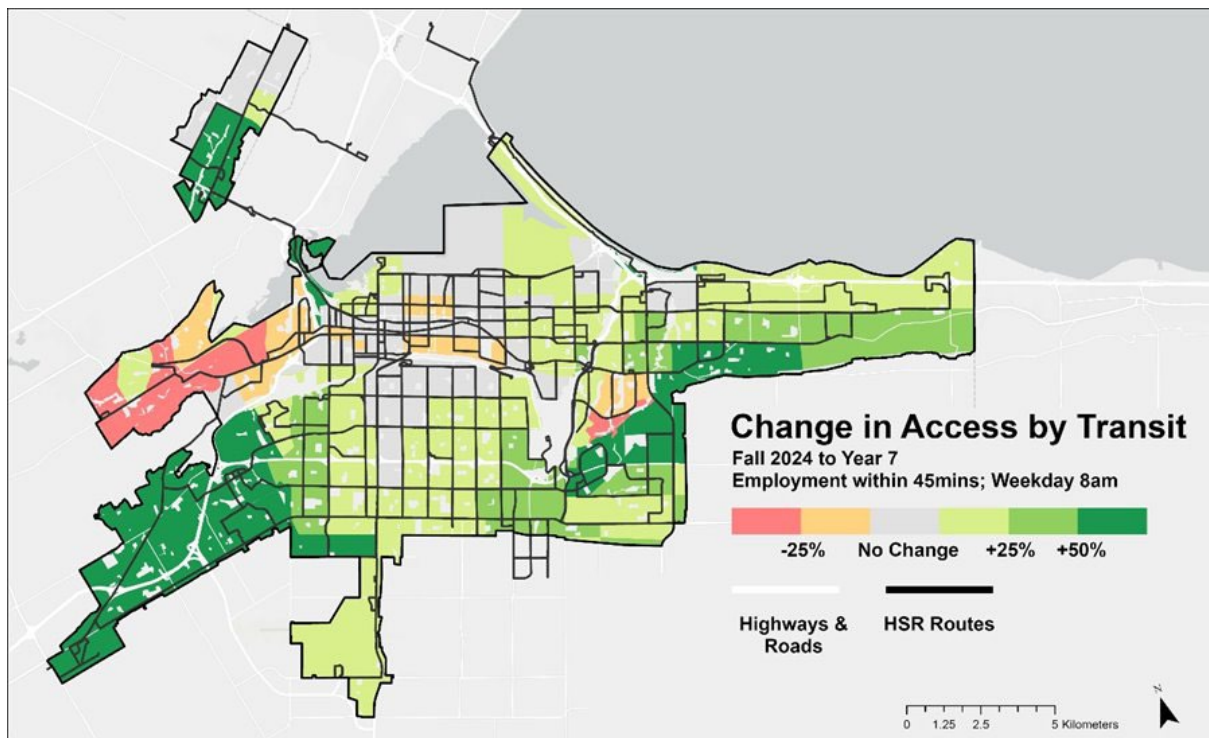
Demographic Scan of HSR Next Service Level Changes

HSR Next looks at every Hamiltonian as a potential transit customer and has designed a system that can attract people from every demographic by making transit convenient, fast, frequent, and reliable. A demographic scan completed by staff shows how different groups benefit from HSR Next service increases, important to understanding the equity implications of the plan.

To complete the scan, access by transit results are weighed across different demographic groups to ensure that **HSR Next** honours the City's inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility goals. Overall access by transit changes vary across the City depending on current and future service levels, and the clustering of each demographic group across Hamilton affects what improvements they receive on average.

The pattern of access by transit changes captures the shift away from the current "hub and spoke" model, where all routes go downtown, to a hub-to-hub model which directly connects major districts. As shown below in Figure One, growth in access by transit is strongest in key growth areas like Waterdown, Stoney Creek, Ancaster, the Airport Employment Growth District, and Heritage Green – aligning with strong growth areas.

Figure One: Access by Transit Change, HSR Next compared to Fall 2024 Service



At the same time, there is some reduction in access for the core, where multiple routes overlap as they approach Frank A Cooke terminal. Stronger losses observable in Dundas are attributed to the need for customers to transfer to the LRT at McMaster

once the system comes online, replacing direct service across central Hamilton today. This can be mitigated by increasing service on the LRT in future.

Breaking down the overall access changes by demographic group, different groups, (including equity-deserving groups) have varying levels of access by transit depending on their location in Hamilton. **HSR Next** supports equity-seeking Hamiltonians by significantly improving access by transit for groups below average while maintaining high levels of access for groups with strong propensity to transit use.

The tables below should be interpreted as follows: the average Hamiltonian can reach 150,000 people by transit in a 45-minute trip in Fall 2024; this will increase to 168,000 by end of HSR Next for a 12% improvement.

Table One: Improvements in Access by Household Characteristics

Demographics	Weekday			Weekend		
	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change
Average Hamiltonian	150,000	168,000	12.0%	120,000	143,000	19.2%
Self-Identify Female, Non-Binary	150,000	168,000	12.0%	119,000	143,000	20.2%
Non-traditional households	145,000	166,000	14.5%	111,000	140,000	26.1%
Recent Arrivals	172,000	185,000	7.6%	143,000	160,000	11.9%

HSR Next supports Hamiltonians as they age while accessing all Hamilton has to offer. Access by transit varies less across age groups and life stages because of HSR Next.

Table Two: Improvements in Access by Life Stage

Demographics	Weekday			Weekend		
	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change
Average Hamiltonian	150,000	168,000	12.0%	120,000	143,000	19.2%
Students (Part-time & full-time)	144,000	164,000	13.9%	113,000	139,000	23.0%
Youth (Under 20)	143,000	165,000	15.4%	112,000	139,000	24.1%
Working Age (25-54)	156,000	172,000	10.3%	126,000	147,000	16.7%
Early Older Adults (55-64)	150,000	168,000	12.0%	120,000	143,000	19.2%
Seniors (65+)	146,000	166,000	13.7%	116,000	141,000	21.6%

HSR Next improves access by transit for middle- and higher-income Hamiltonians, offering them mode choice to address the climate emergency. While increases are strongest for these groups, the highest level of access by transit remains with lower-income households.

Table Three: Improvements in Access by Income

Demographics	Weekday			Weekend		
	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change	Fall 2024	Year 7	Change
Average Hamiltonian	150,000	168,000	12.0%	120,000	143,000	19.2%
Lower-Income (Under \$40k)	191,000	199,000	4.2%	160,000	172,000	7.5%
Middle-Income (\$40-\$99k)	172,000	187,000	8.7%	141,000	159,000	12.8%
Higher-Income (\$100k+)	132,000	154,000	16.7%	103,000	130,000	26.2%

While service levels do decrease in some areas of Hamilton, significant increases are noted for new and potential users, including equity-deserving groups. Staff will monitor impacts on these groups as **HSR Next** proceeds and are currently developing annual reporting on these metrics.