



Hamilton

CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
From:	Andrea Kita, Chair Hamilton Cycling Committee
Date:	September 4, 2012
Re:	Letter to Metrolinx in Support of LRT, to Compliment Active Transportation (Including Cycling)

Recommendation:

That the correspondence to Metrolinx prepared by the Hamilton Cycling Committee (HCyC), attached as Appendix A to this report, be forwarded to Metrolinx for consideration.

Background:

The HCyC recently met with City staff responsible for planning Rapid Transit to inquire into the possibility of integration of rapid transit (ideally LRT) and cycling infrastructure. The HCyC members were encouraged by the progress of the current plans and hope to see the implementation of LRT in the near future to augment transportation options for cyclists.

Analysis/Rationale:

The intent of the attached letter is to convey the message that LRT will serve as a key element of multi-modal connectivity in Hamilton, and that residents hope to see LRT in Hamilton in the near future.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Letter to Metrolinx

September ##, 2012

Bruce McCuaig,
President & CEO
Metrolinx
600 - 20 Bay Street
Toronto ON M5J 2W3
CEO@metrolinx.com
416-874-5903

Dear Mr. McCuaig,

On behalf of the Hamilton Cycling Committee, I am writing to promote cycling infrastructure for rapid transit development in Hamilton. We are encouraged by Metrolinx's investment in Hamilton and look forward to the next phase of plans.

As community representatives in a position to inform City Council decisions regarding cycling matters, we recommend that all decisions regarding rapid transit be reviewed with a "cycling lens" informed by the best examples from around the world.

We have been communicating with City of Hamilton staff regarding the planning and design of the Metrolinx project for Light Rail Transit in Hamilton providing recommendations that ensure cycling infrastructure is integrated into the future transit system for Hamilton residents.

We thought it would be prudent to address your office as well, as we understand that there have been a number of cycling provisions outlined in recent documentation with the current completed Environmental Project Report (EPR) and that the timelines and expectations for the next phase of development are still to be determined.

The Hamilton Cycling Committee is pleased that rapid transit planning is underway. We are supportive of rapid public transit that will integrate cycling providing sustainable transportation options for Hamilton residents.

Cyclists benefit from an integrated approach to public transit that supports their ability to transport their bicycle through busy urban areas for commuters as well as recreational cycling with young families; and that provides the opportunity to extend transit routes that do not provide access to an end destination or end destinations that are removed from frequent transit service.

We feel it is timely to bring to your attention the need to consider recommendations regarding bicycle approach, signage, bicycle ridership access and bicycle storage to accommodate both commuter and recreational cyclists. The inclusion of bicycle racks currently available on all HSR buses is a positive step for cyclists within Hamilton that must be replicated during public transit expansion and investment with rapid transit infrastructure.

We look forward to the exciting development of LRT in Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kita
Chair, Hamilton Cycling Committee
andrea.kita@gmail.com

Copy to:

Councillor B. McHattie, Chair of the Public Works Committee
Daryl Bender, Project Manager, Alternative Transportation