

April 15, 2024

Dear Hamilton City Council,

I'm asking that you vote against operating model 2 and instead **SUPPORT** operating model 4 where all aspects of operation and non-lifecycle maintenance are funded by HSR and ATU 107. I moved to Hamilton two years ago from a city where I struggled using transit due to its poor service quality. I've been so pleasantly surprised with HSR that I actually like taking the bus and prioritize it over driving my car in the city. I really care about this city's transit system.

I also really care about transit worker rights and I know that keeping LRT public will mean the working conditions of staff will continue to be prioritized and unionized. The privatization of public transit could not only lead to a lack of worker benefits and downward pressure on wages, but could also lead to poor service quality, rising costs, and a lack of municipal oversight. There won't be anybody holding private companies accountable for continuing Fare Assist programs and there will be nothing stopping the private company from raising the transit fares to make their pockets richer.

Our taxpayer dollars are going towards an LRT so it only makes sense to keep it public. I don't want to contribute to a system where some private company gets all our money while our community suffers. Many city councilors committed to public transit during the 2022 elections so I'm begging you to please keep the interests of the community in mind and support operating model 4 where all aspects of operation and non-lifecycle maintenance are funded by HSR and ATU 107.

Thank you,

Robyn Deshaies
Ward 3