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LIGHT RAIL
INITIATIVE



Hamilton: LRT Ready

Produced by The Hamilton Light Rail Initiative



- **Hamilton City Council has voted consistently, in multiple votes, in support of LRT on the B-Line, up to and including the final submission to Metrolinx in 2013.**
- **Hamilton Light Rail Transit was approved as a Metrolinx Next Wave project as part of The Big Move.**
- **The Provincial Liberal Government campaigned on LRT for Hamilton in 3 consecutive elections.**
- **All Pro-LRT Candidates in the 2014 Provincial Election were re-elected across Hamilton. Conversely, all anti-LRT candidates in the 2014 Provincial Election were defeated across Hamilton.**
- **When surveyed Hamiltonians are overwhelmingly in favour of LRT**
- **If introduced today, LRT on the B-Line would exhibit ridership performance in the mid-range of existing successful North American systems, such as San Francisco, Portland and Minneapolis.**

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Introduction

Produced by The Hamilton Light Rail Initiative

In 2007, the Provincial government promised to fund LRT in Hamilton, and the City began a six-year comprehensive planning and design process with unprecedented levels of public engagement. That process included engaging with thousands of Hamiltonians, and found overwhelming support for LRT.

The City's planning work was independently assessed by Metrolinx, the Provincial arms-length regional transit organization. Metrolinx completed a Benefits Case Analysis that found LRT would deliver the biggest overall net benefit. Hamilton City Council completed its comprehensive Rapid Ready LRT plan in February 2013 and submitted it to the Province. Our LRT plan is on the Metrolinx list of Next Wave projects waiting for a funding commitment. We are still waiting for the Province to keep its promise of full capital funding.

Our intentions are completely clear. Rapid Ready is a comprehensive plan that specifies an LRT line running along the east-west corridor between McMaster University and Eastgate Square. We have completed the Class Environmental Assessment, 30

percent engineering and detailed design and a complementary land use study for the route.

We've done everything the Province asked us to do. In the recent election, the Liberal candidates for Hamilton Mountain and Hamilton East-Stoney Creek ran on anti-LRT campaigns. They both lost to candidates who explicitly support LRT.

This should send a clear message to the Liberal

government that support for LRT is strong citywide.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) on the east-west B-Line is a tremendous, once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Hamilton into a thriving, economically diverse centre. LRT on the B-Line has the best potential for success and will deliver the biggest overall net benefits to the city.

The B-Line has the ridership, the land use and the impressive

uplift potential that are the hallmarks of highly successful LRT implementations. The LRT plan represents \$800 million in direct provincial investment in our economic sustainability, an investment that is proven to deliver a huge overall net return in greater economic activity, new transit-oriented development, greater mobility and improved quality of life.



This document is a compilation of the broad-based support for Hamilton Light Rail as expressed by leading municipal and community organizations as well as citizens themselves. In addition, designs which informed extensive public consultation are included to demonstrate the advanced level of this project.

We can't let fear, confusion and misinformation conspire to defeat this opportunity. If there was ever a time for Council and the Province to remember the evidence, trust your own history of support, uphold the courage of your convictions and fulfil your commitment to LRT, that time is now.

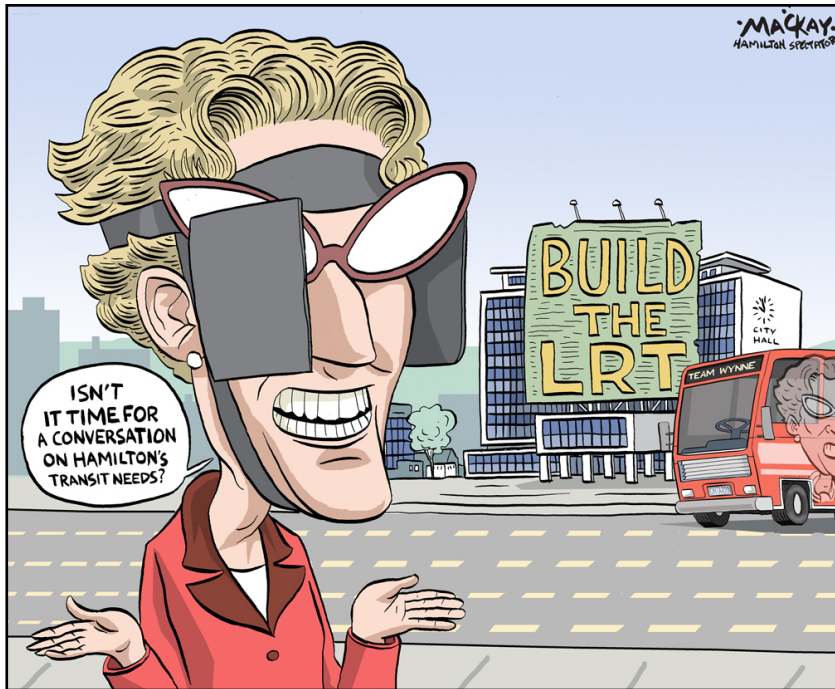
Hamilton Light Rail is an independent community group who believes that Hamilton needs an ambitious approach to economic development and urban revitalization based around high quality rapid transit. To that end, we are dedicated to promoting the goal of building a light rail transit (LRT) system in Hamilton. This includes a campaign to educate Hamiltonians about the many benefits of light rail, provide evidence-based reports and resource materials, and build broad support across all sectors of the community: citizens' groups, neighbourhood associations, business groups, and trade associations. Hamilton Light Rail is strictly volunteer-based and is not affiliated with the Corporation of the City of Hamilton or with any commercial interests.





2014 LRT Endorsements & Correspondence

Produced by The Hamilton Light Rail Initiative



Premier Kathleen Wynne

"We will work with the municipality of Hamilton to provide the base funding," Wynne told reporters. "Not only (for) the LRT, but the integrated transit system." When asked again if the Liberals are committed to 100 per cent funding, Wynne responded "the base funding, absolutely."

-May 12, 2014, Hamilton Community News

(<http://www.hamiltonnews.com/news/wynne-jumps-on-lrt-system/>)

Glen Murray, Minister of Transportation

"To be clear. A Liberal gov't will fund 100% of the capital costs of the #HamOnt proposed rapid transit line [Which was approved as LRT on the B-Line]."

- May 6, 2014, Twitter

Ted McMeekin , MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale and Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing

"We are committed to 100 per cent funding for base capital costs as identified in the city's Rapid Ready report [Which recommended LRT]. We will work with council and the community to forge a path forward, expeditiously, to ensure Hamilton keeps moving and has access to the funding available."

Raise the Hammer 2014 election Questionnaire (<http://elections.raisethehammer.org/question/4/33/>)

Andrea Horwath, MPP for Hamilton Centre and Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party

"The NDP leader and past downtown councillor says she would "absolutely" support the \$811-million LRT project in Hamilton... noting she's long supported both light rail and the east-west B-line corridor as the first and best rapid transit priorities for Hamilton."

Source: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/4510141-stick-with-lrt-plan-for-hamilton-horwath-urges/>

Monique Taylor, MPP for Hamilton Mountain

"The Ontario NDP has been behind the Hamilton LRT since day one and we remain committed to this essential investment for the people of Hamilton."

Raise the Hammer 2014 election Questionnaire (<http://elections.raisethehammer.org/question/4/33/>)

Paul Miller, MPP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

"The Ontario NDP has been behind the Hamilton LRT since day one. Our plan includes full provincial funding for an LRT line from McMaster University to Eastgate Square."

Raise the Hammer 2014 election Questionnaire (<http://elections.raisethehammer.org/question/4/33/>)

Donna Tiqui-Shebib, Liberal Candidate for Hamilton Centre

"The Ontario Liberal government has pledged to fund 100 per cent of base capital costs of bringing Rapid Transit to Hamilton. This is a really significant investment in our city, and one that I'm incredibly proud of. As someone who has built a business in the heart of downtown Hamilton, I personally support an east - west LRT line."

Raise the Hammer 2014 election Questionnaire (<http://elections.raisethehammer.org/question/4/33/>)



April 25, 2014

The Honorable Glen Murray, MPP
 Minister's Office
 Ministry of Transportation/Ministry of Infrastructure
 3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
 77 Wellesley Street West
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister,

I have been authorized by my board of directors to apprise you of the recent proceedings of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) Light Rail Transit (LRT) Task Force.

Comprised of volunteers from among its membership, the Chamber established its LRT Task Force in early 2012 to:

- provide a business assessment of the B-Line LRT project that the City has been advancing;
- provide input and perspective on funding options for the project; and,
- develop and execute a government relations and community engagement plan in support of the project.

Three Hamilton City Councillors and the Mayor formally joined the task force on October 17, 2012, by motion of Council. The terms of reference agreed to by the task force members and Council are attached for your reference.

The LRT Task Force has comprehensively evaluated available academic and government research. Two documents in particular – the City of Hamilton's *Rapid Ready Report* and *The North American Light Rail Experience: Insights for Hamilton* study from the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics (MITL) – have greatly informed the LRT Task Force's ultimate determination that there is a strong business case for the B-Line LRT project.

The B-Line LRT project is highly likely to accelerate the encouraging economic growth that Hamilton has experienced in recent years, and help fulfill the realization of other quality of life and city-building goals.

Until recently, the LRT Task Force had been awaiting clarity from the Government of Ontario on the funding options being contemplated to fund the next phase of The Big Move. Additionally, the impending release of the 2015 Provincial budget has raised considerable speculation about whether and how your government will support Hamilton's B-Line project financially.

As such, the LRT Task Force was reconvened on April 23th to act on its mandate and ensure that an assertive communication was initiated to you prior to the introduction of the Provincial budget on May 1st.

At the meeting, the LRT Task Force passed the attached resolutions containing the directives outlined below. The meeting minutes are included as an appendix to this letter to provide you with a clear indication of participation at the meeting, as well as votes for and against the motion.

The resolutions direct that:

- a) The President & CEO of the Hamilton Chamber write the Transport Minister to reconfirm the LRT Task Force's support for the B-Line LRT and to request that transit funding for Hamilton be included in the 2015 Provincial Budget;
- b) The President & CEO of the Hamilton Chamber encourage the Transport Minister to meet with the City of Hamilton to discuss Hamilton's request for LRT and the associated funding; and,
- c) Should the Province require a municipal financial contribution towards the capital cost of the B-Line, notwithstanding Hamilton City Council's position of 100 percent capital funding, that the Province be requested to permit the exercise of alternative funding strategies.

The Chamber Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the resolutions and this letter is being sent to deliver on the directives outlined above.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to play a leadership role facilitating a constructive dialogue on opportunities to advance this critically important issue.

I welcome your response and the chance to work with you directly on next steps.
 Sincerely,



Keanin Loomis
 President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Mayor Bob Bratina
 City of Hamilton General Issues Committee
 City of Hamilton City Manager's Office
 LRT Task Force Members
 Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
 The Honourable Ted McMeekin

Approved LRT Motion, April 23, 2014

Whereas the City of Hamilton completed a feasibility study in 2008 that recommended we build LRT and start with the B-Line;

And whereas the City of Hamilton has completed 30 percent detailed design on the B-Line;

And whereas in 2010, a Benefits Case Analysis by Metrolinx concluded that LRT on the B-Line would provide a greater overall economic benefit than would BRT;

And whereas Hamilton City Council has provided unanimous support for LRT as described in the Rapid Ready Report approved on February 27th, 2013;

And whereas Metrolinx, has been clear that they are supportive of LRT in Hamilton;

And whereas Hamilton has prepared a strong economic benefits case on the benefits of LRT including: tax assessment growth along the B-Line;

And whereas Council provided reports to Metrolinx on funding tools and an investment strategy on May 8, 2013 and September 25, 2013 respectively as it relates to Council's position of 100 percent capital funding;

And whereas achieving LRT for Hamilton is expected to take place in the 5-15 year period;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

(a) That the Chamber of Commerce/City of Hamilton LRT Task force reconfirm its position and write the Minister of Transportation in support of the City of Hamilton's request for LRT along the B-line, requesting that funding be included in the Spring 2014 Provincial Budget.

(b) That the City of Hamilton invite and meet with Minister Murray to discuss Hamilton's request for LRT and the associated funding.

(c) That should the Province require some financial contribution from Hamilton towards the capital cost of the B-Line, notwithstanding Council's position of 100 percent capital funding, that the Province permit the exercise of alternative funding strategies.

LRT Task Force: Terms of Reference: Updated December 19, 2012

- A. Membership
 - a. One to two representatives from each of the Chamber's Divisions and Committees
 - b. Mayor or his designate and three members of City Council (Councillors Farr, Ferguson and McHattie)
 - c. Task Force to be chaired by Transportation committee Chair
 - d. Task Force to elect Vice-Chair from task force members
 - e. Board Chair ex-officio
 - f. President and CEO ex-officio
- B. Time Commitment
 - a. Task Force will meet once per month (fourth Wednesday of the month)
 - b. Anticipated to meet for one to two years
- C. Committee Process and Resources
 - a. Task Force will report through the Chair to the President and CEO
 - b. President and CEO will attend meetings and facilitate resources to the Task Force
 - c. Speakers and consultants will attend meetings as required
- D. Task Force mandate
 - a. Assess Hamilton's LRT project from a business perspective i.e. provide input to and assess the return on investment of LRT in Hamilton
 - b. Provide input on how LRT is a strategic infrastructure investment for Hamilton
 - c. Provide input and perspective on funding options for LRT in Hamilton
 - d. Provide input on costing options for LRT in Hamilton
 - e. Engage Chamber members and the business community to provide input to the LRT project including facilitating meetings; forums; discussion groups
 - f. Assess the interest of Hamilton's business community about the LRT project
 - g. Develop and execute a government relations plan in support of LRT
 - h. Assess funding tools that could be used to contribute to funding LRT
- E. Deliverables
 - a. Meeting minutes
 - b. Reports to General Issues of Hamilton City Council
 - c. Government Relations Plan
 - d. Quarterly or as needed reports to the Chamber Board of Directors
 - e. Suggested policy positions or policy resolutions for the Board's consideration and approval
 - f. Articles to be used in Chamber communications and other media outlets



LRT Task Force
When: Wednesday, April 23, 2014
Where: City Council Boardroom (71 Main Street West)
Time: 4:00pm

LRT Task Force
April 23, 2014 Meeting
Minutes (Not Approved)

Attendees: Chair, Keanin Loomis (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce), Councillor Brian McHattie (Ward 1), Councillor Jason Farr (Ward 2), Councillor Lloyd Ferguson (Ward 12), Andreanna Hudson (Hamilton Hive), Spencer Graham (McMaster Students Union), Kwab Ako-Adjei (McMaster University), Meghan Platts (Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington), Julian Pecchia (CAA Ontario), Rami Reda (YEP Division Representative, Board Member Hamilton Chamber of Commerce), Geoff Green (Innovation & Technology Committee Representative), Kathy Drewitt (Downtown BIA), Linda Meerweld (ERG Ergonomics & Human Resources Committee Representative), Ian Dunlop (Strategic Interchange & Business Development Committee representative), Alan Griffiths (Mohawk College)

Absent with Regrets: Mayor Bob Bratina

Non-Voting Observers: Councillor Terry Whitehead (Ward 8), Chris Murray (City Manager), Michael Kirkopoulos (Communications), Christine Lee-Morrison (City of Hamilton), Michael Barton (Hamilton Halton Homebuilders Association), Pavlos Kanaroglou (McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics), Chris Higgins (McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics), Rodrigo Narro Perez (McMaster Students Union) Peggy Chapman (Mayor's Office), Matthew Van Dongen (Hamilton Spectator), Huzaifa Saeed (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce)

Minutes

Start: 4:04 PM

Keanin Loomis: Opened the meeting welcoming task force members and indicated that the task force had not met since he took office in summer 2013. The Chamber was waiting for movement and information on the provincial level regarding the funding tools to fund the Big Move, in particular LRT in Hamilton. Through a combination of rumours and the leaked provincial budget in the media, there was indication in early April that the Provincial budget will have funding for transit. Since then, much speculation had been made as to the method of funding and whether there would be local contributions required. Councillor Brian McHattie approached Keanin to suggest that the task force reconvene to discuss the upcoming budget and to reaffirm the task force's LRT. Given the mandate of the task force and the importance of the moment, it was determined to be a reasonable request and necessary to indicate our support for the project to the Transport Minister before the provincial budget.

Councillor McHattie: Hamilton has been working with Metrolinx for many years; last February, Council formally moved to advocate for 100% capital funding from the province as its official stance. Council completed the Rapid Ready report in 2013, funding tools were released by Metrolinx in summer 2013 but nothing was followed through. Hamilton is number one on the Rapid Transit Readiness list in the GTHA according to Metrolinx from a "shovel ready" perspective. At his visit to the waterfront at the recent Chamber event, Minister Glen Murray pledged support for Hamilton's LRT project and dropped hints that alternative funding arrangements would be possible. The recent leak of the provincial budget in the media hinted that with overall \$14 billion committed to the GTHA Big Move Priorities and \$15 billion for outside the GTHA, but that the money would be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is plenty of opportunity for Hamilton but we have to make sure that Hamilton gets a proportional amount.

Keanin Loomis: The Chamber's formal position on LRT is through this task force - after having reviewed the research reports that have come out on the project, especially the LRT report conducted by McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics, it is obvious that if we implement the plan right, there is a strong business case for LRT, leading to positive outcomes for the economy and business community in Hamilton. MITL has been invited to recap their findings and discuss the concept of alternative funding strategies.

Chris Higgins, MITL (Powerpoint Presentation): Presentation titled "Rapid Transit Value Planning and Solutions for Local Revenue", reviewed the economic impact studies they've conducted and covered a variety of topics regarding potential options to generate revenue for LRT in Hamilton. Topics covered: Public Private Partnerships, Tax Incremental Financing, Development Charges. Noted that Hamilton has relatively low Development Charges for Transit compared to other municipalities. Examples given of how LRT is funded in other North American Cities.

Keanin Loomis: A proposed motion was provided in advance to the task force by Councillor McHattie, with help in drafting given by the City Manager's Office. The proposed motion was circulated.

Motion moved by Brian McHattie, seconded by Kathy Drewitt:

Whereas the City of Hamilton completed a feasibility study in 2008 that recommended we build LRT and start with the B-Line;
And whereas the City of Hamilton has completed 30 percent detailed design on the B-line;
And whereas in 2010, a Benefits Case Analysis by Metrolinx concluded that LRT on the B-Line would provide a greater overall economic benefit than would BRT;
And whereas Hamilton City Council has provided unanimous support for LRT as described in the Rapid Ready Report approved on February 27th, 2013;
And Whereas Metrolinx, has been clear that they are supportive of LRT in Hamilton;
And whereas Hamilton has prepared a strong economic benefits case on the benefits of LRT including: tax assessment growth along the B-Line;
And whereas Council provided reports to Metrolinx on funding tools and an investment strategy on May 8, 2013 and September 25, 2013 respectively as it relates to Council's position of 100 percent capital funding;

And whereas achieving LRT for Hamilton is expected to take place in the 5-15 year period;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

- (a) That the Chamber of Commerce - City of Hamilton LRT Task force reconfirm its position and write the Minister of Transportation in support of the City of Hamilton's request for LRT along the B-line, requesting that funding be included in the Spring 2014 Provincial Budget.
- (b) That the City of Hamilton invite and meet with Minister Murray to discuss Hamilton's request for LRT and the associated funding.
- (c) That should the Province require some financial contribution (in the amount of 10-15 percent) from Hamilton towards the capital cost of the B-Line, that the Province then consider a model for Hamilton that would see front ending this capital investment to be paid back through the additional property taxes generated in the future (i.e., tax incremental financing).

Discussion on the Motion:

Councillor Ferguson: Not happy with point "C" within the motion submitted, it undermines the stated position of Council and the vote is premature as we don't know what the provincial budget will state. We should delay this until after the release of the provincial budget when we know where we stand. Hamilton has a lot of financial commitments for infrastructure projects on the capital front.

Chris Murray: Council's position certainly is that we need 100% capital funding from the province, but the motion doesn't undermine any position that Council has ever taken. It is seemingly pragmatic and proactive, acting on the anticipation that there might be some local contribution required; if that is the case, we need to be able to explore alternative funding options.

Ian Dunlop: There is tremendous value for LRT in Hamilton. We need to ask the province how to pay for it.

Jason Farr: Would not vote on the motion as it is, but could support if it reasserts Council's stated position and is less prescriptive in the contribution amount and the funding options being contemplated.

Kathy Drewitt: Initiated discussion on the use of "alternative funding strategies" and in deleting references to the percentages being contemplated.

Motion amended by General Consent:

Original: ~~(c) That should the Province require some financial contribution (in the amount of 10-15 percent) from Hamilton towards the capital cost of the B-Line, that the Province then consider a model for Hamilton that would see front ending this capital investment to be paid back through the additional property taxes generated in the future (i.e., tax incremental financing).~~

To: ~~"(c) That should the Province require some financial contribution from Hamilton towards the capital cost of the B-Line, notwithstanding Council's position of 100 percent capital funding, that the Province permit the exercise of alternative funding strategies."~~

Vote on the motion:

Passes with all in favour.

Abstentions: Julian Pecchia (CAA Ontario), declared conflict of interest as CAA sits on Transit Investment Advisory Panel, which introduced its own funding recommendations.

Not present for vote: Councillor Lloyd Ferguson

Adjourned: 5:10PM



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Brian McHattie, MCIP, RPP

Councillor Ward One
Chedoke – Cootes

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Hon Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

February 26, 2014

RE: Support for LRT in Hamilton

Dear Premier Wynne,

As you are aware, a lot is currently being said in the media, both mainstream and social, about Hamilton's LRT plans. Some of it is accurate. Some of it isn't.

Perhaps the most troubling statements are the ones suggesting that the provincial government will not honour its commitment to providing 100% of the capital costs of Phase 1 of Hamilton's LRT system.

While I have no reason to believe that the commitment made by your government will not be kept, I feel it necessary to assure you that Hamilton City Council stands by our stated support for LRT as approved by unanimous vote on February 27th, 2013.

Other GTHA cities, particularly Toronto, are already receiving provincial funding for their transit needs, with other cities also in line. Hamilton has a place in that funding line, and we intend to keep our place very near the front. Hamilton has spent the last several years completing its due diligence in planning for LRT so we will be ready to take the next steps as part of the Metrolinx strategy.

Hamilton must remain competitive, not only internationally and nationally, but also regionally. As you are well aware, modern transit is one important contributor to being competitive.

We want to ensure that Hamilton receives its fair share from the province for transit funding, whether from the province's general revenues, or from special revenue tools being considered currently. We know that such revenue tools will generate funding from Hamiltonians and we won't accept a lower quality transit investment locally, only to see our money go towards building higher quality subways in Toronto or LRT in Mississauga.

We want and need the province to be our partners in success. We are ready for LRT. If introduced today, LRT along our preferred route would already have ridership

-2-

comparable with many successful North American systems, including San Francisco, Portland and Minneapolis. However, Hamiltonians simply can't afford to modernize our transit system and to achieve the benefits of moving more of our people throughout our city, nor can we afford to realize the proven economic development benefits of LRT, by ourselves. We need the provincial government to honour the funding commitments that have already been made.

I'm writing to you because I believe someone has to stand up for all Hamiltonians when it comes to ensuring promises made to our citizens are kept. In my view, we have to reduce the level of noise and mixed messages you have been receiving and increase the clarity and consistency in the communication of Hamilton's democratically approved priorities. I know my Council colleagues want the same thing.

Finally, I would appreciate hearing from you with an update as to where Hamilton stands in your plans for LRT funding.

Yours truly,

Brian McHattie
Ward 1 Councillor
City of Hamilton

cc Hon Ted McMeekin, MPP, Minister of Community and Social Services
cc Hon Glen Murray, MPP, Minister of Infrastructure

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LRT is an investment in Hamilton's success

Realtors Association remains unwaveringly in favour of light rail

By Tim Mattioli and Ross Godsoe

The Ambitious City. Coined in the 1800s, this Hamilton moniker has resurfaced in the past few years and is an encouraging sign that our city is ready to boldly tackle the 21st century challenges it faces.

Hamilton is a city on the rise. We're attracting attention from all sectors and our economic development department has been busier than ever, but there is still much work to do.

We need to be forward thinking in our plans for the future, and we believe that light rail is one of the best ways to achieve many of the city's goals.

That's why in 2008, the Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB) took an official position in support of light rail. In the six years since, our position hasn't wavered.

The city has been studying LRT since 2008, and study after study has concluded there will be a return on investment for the B-line.

- Reduction of scheduled and unscheduled backlog capital works in the order of approximately \$79 million.
• Tax benefit from new development by LRT estimated at \$22.4 million.
• Potential for 6,000 construction jobs (provincial); 3,500 directly in Hamilton.
• Potential for 1,000 permanent jobs (provincial); 300 jobs in Hamilton to deliver regular operations and maintenance.
• B-Line LRT investment may result in an estimated increase of more than \$443 million in Ontario's GDP.

The Chamber of Commerce LRT task force recently passed a motion requesting the province commit to funding light rail in Hamilton. We would like to echo this request, as investment in light rail will be good for Hamilton, and for the province as a whole.

Tim Mattioli is 2014 president and Ross Godsoe is CEO of the Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington.

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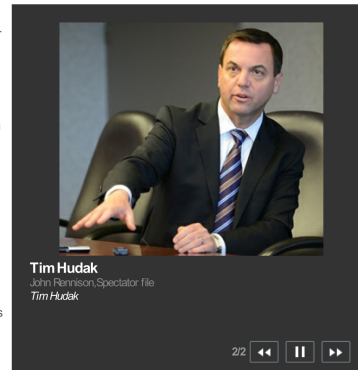
Grits say Hamilton LRT threatened by Hudak

By Daniel Nolan

The Liberals are claiming a proposed LRT line in Hamilton will be derailed by a government led by Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak because his focus is on subways and GO Transit.

A release from the office of Transportation Minister Glen Murray Monday makes note of comments the Tory leader made to The Globe and Mail in which he outlines his plan to extend the Bloor-Danforth subway in Scarborough and bring the Yonge Line north to Richmond Hill.

He says will axe parts of the \$50-billion plan entitled The Big Move, which includes the light rail proposal for Hamilton and Mississauga, dedicated bus corridors and the subways.



Tim Hudak John Remison, Spectator file Tim Hudak

"Are we wed to all the major projects in the Big Move? No," Hudak says. "I have been very clear from the beginning (our plan) will be subway-driven, rail-driven, I think GO and our subways are the strengths in our system, and I do not believe in ripping up existing streets to lay down track."

"Tim Hudak and the PCs want to recklessly cancel contracts and eliminate rapid transit projects that we're already moving ahead with," Murray said. "Hudak provided no details of the cost of cancelling planned projects, some of which already have contracts signed."

Hudak does not precisely say he will kill Hamilton's proposed \$1 billion LRT in the interview, but his views on the project are well known. It is nowhere close to being signed under contracts and funding remains up in the air.

Hudak told The Spectator in March of this year he questioned whether Hamilton's LRT is good value for provincial money. He supports better highway links to Hamilton, such as a new highway between Fort Erie and the Hamilton airport, and beefed-up GO Transit.

"I just don't sense that (LRT) would be the top transportation priority in the Hamilton area. I'm just not convinced the LRT is the best way to use those funds."

Hudak could not be reached for comment.

Murray's spokesperson Patrick Searle couldn't explain the discrepancy in the article and the release, but said the minister's office believed it was important to note Hudak's plan to back projects underground and not on grade.

"It really shows that Mr. Hudak and his party don't understand what light rail is. I would be concerned as a Hamiltonian." Murray's office sent out a release saying Hudak would axe the province's \$300-million commitment to Waterloo's rapid transit project. It is not part of The Big Move and Searle had to apologize for being "misleading."

dnnolan@thespec.com

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DRESCHEL: Province says it will pay for Hamilton LRT

By Andrew Dreschel
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It looks as if city council's transit wish has come true.

Transport Minister Glen Murray says Hamilton won't have to make a direct capital contribution to build the proposed \$800-million LRT system.

"They're not going to be expected to, in the sense that we're not asking them to make a financial contribution with a very specific tax," Murray said in an interview.

Murray's comment is the clearest indication yet that the province intends to live up to its 2008 commitment to provide 100 per cent capital funding for the 14-km light rail system running between McMaster University and Eastgate Square.

Murray says the cash-strapped province will evaluate various revenue-raising tools to be recommended by Metrolinx in order to fund the next wave of transit projects.

And he says a logical part of the strategy for Hamilton is using new transit infrastructure to grow the commercial tax assessment base, which will in turn subsidize the projects.

"That is not to be confused with asking Hamilton to raise the levy or charge fees or make a contribution."

"It is really to give Hamilton the tool to actually grow its tax base and build more revenue by a growing tax base."

RELATED: Gridlock to thicken if left unchecked: Metrolinx president

Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, a member of Hamilton's LRT task force, is "thrilled" the province is living up to its promise.

"It's quite frankly what we deserve," says Ferguson. "Toronto got \$11 billion. Why shouldn't we get our \$800 million?"

Ferguson notes Murray's comments dovetail with a conversation he had last week with Premier Kathleen Wynne at a Hamilton Health Sciences fundraising gala.

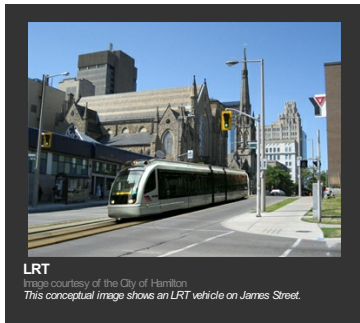
"She chose her words carefully, as she should. But I sensed they're still on for the 100 per cent funding."

However, the Ancaster councillor will stay guarded until Metrolinx's funding options are released, which is expected in June.

"The devil is in the details," said Ferguson.

"Do we have to take that new tax assessment increase and turn it over to the province in order to get approval?"

Councillor Brian McHattie, another member of the LRT task force, also [wonders if there will be any strings](#)



LRT
Image courtesy of the City of Hamilton.
This conceptual image shows an LRT vehicle on James Street.

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attached. But right now, he's delighted by Murray's position.

"It's great news for Hamilton and reflects a good understanding of our limited funds and ability to pay."

City manager Chris Murray says the transport minister's support is consistent with city staff's position that Hamilton has less fiscal capacity than other cities in the GTA which are on Metrolinx's \$34-billion priority list for transit projects.

"This kind of investment in Hamilton will do exactly what Minister Murray is saying, which will grow the tax base, which we believe should be taken into consideration with any decision the province makes."

Murray notes that as former mayor of Winnipeg and head of the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), his provincial namesake is intimately aware of Hamilton's challenges and fiscal health.

"He has been a fan of transit investment in Hamilton for some time and talked to us about economic uplift. What he is saying now is consistent to what he was saying prior to entering provincial politics."

The Spectator's View: Metrolinx, please put the L back in LRT

CUI estimates that three times the number of development projects will take place with LRT than without it.

It conservatively projects that over 15 years, the financial benefits will include \$22.4 million in new taxes and \$30.2 million in building permit fees and development charges.

Additionally, the assessed value of existing properties is expected to increase by \$29 million, which will benefit property owners but result in no direct gain to the city.

Hamilton is already on the Metrolinx priority list for the next wave of projects, but both the technology — light rail versus express bus — and its place in the pecking have to be decided.

Minister Murray's comments seem at odds with Metrolinx policy, which identifies [municipal funding as one of the factors in that decision](#).

On the other hand, as Ferguson says, the devil is in the details. And Metrolinx always notes it merely provides advice to the government. The decisions are in the hands of the politicians.

The fact that the transport minister is so supportive of Hamilton can only strengthen the city's case.

Andrew Dreschel's commentary appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. adreschel@thespec.com 905-526-3495

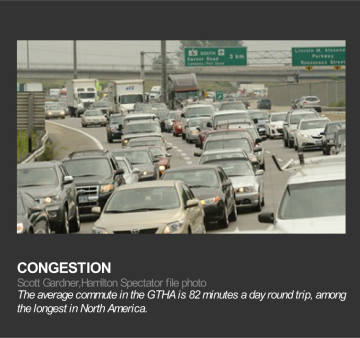
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City's LRT wish edges closer to reality

Metrolinx funding formula covers expenses, but there's no opting out of plan

By Meredith MacLeod

Hamilton's proposed light rail transit line would be 100 per cent funded by new taxes and fees proposed by regional transit authority Metrolinx.



CONGESTION
Scott Gatzner/Hamilton Spectator file photo
The average commute in the GTHA is 82 minutes a day round trip, among the longest in North America.

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With that promise comes a stipulation: there is no opportunity to "opt out" of the GTHA's Big Move transit vision or the funding tools designed to pay for it.

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That message came loud and clear at a board meeting Monday during which the Metrolinx board unanimously approved a new transit funding strategy for the next 20 years.

It's now in Premier Kathleen Wynne's hands to win support at Queen's Park for the plan to pay for \$34 billion in transit projects. It could be a tough battle, given the Liberals' minority status and the fact it's estimated the average Ontario household will have to pay \$477 more per year in fees and taxes.

"The damage if we don't act is overwhelming," - Metrolinx chair Rob Prichard.
But Wynne has been clear that she feels transit in the GTHA is facing a crisis and that she's willing to stake her political future on fixing it.
"To the 30 municipalities and the province of Ontario impacted by this plan, I call on them to accept the challenge and embrace our recommendations," said Metrolinx chair Rob Prichard. "It will take a great deal of courage on their parts."
The average commute in the GTHA is 82 minutes a day round trip, among the longest in North America.

Without action, it will grow to 109 minutes in 25 years, according to Metrolinx. Implementing the Big Move brings it back down to 77 minutes.

"The damage if we don't act is overwhelming," said Prichard.
"Our transportation system has been holding us back," echoed Metrolinx CEO Bruce McCuaig. "This is a historic opportunity to turn this around."

Transportation Minister Glen Murray said Monday the Ontario government "accepts the guiding principles of the Metrolinx funding strategy," while pointing out GTHA congestion costs the economy \$6 billion a year.

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- A one per cent hike to the **provincial portion of the HST** within the region — expected to raise \$1.3 billion a year;
- A new five-cent per litre **gas tax** within the region — expected to bring in \$330 million yearly;
- A **levy applied to non-residential, off-street parking** — averaging about 25 cents per spot per day, expected to amount to \$350 million annually;
- A 15 per cent hike in **development charges** in the region — projected to bring in \$100 million a year.

Metrolinx says the new revenue streams will combine to bring in the \$2 billion yearly needed to pay for a next wave of projects, which includes Hamilton's crosstown LRT, estimated at somewhere around \$800 million.

Under the agency's plan, all the money raised will go into a dedicated transit trust fund, separate from general government coffers. The money could not be spent elsewhere and would be governed by trustees responsible for reporting to the public on project delivery, budgets and timelines.

The funding tools will undergo a "fundamental review" after 20 years and must be reauthorized to continue.

As well, the money will not be tallied within individual municipalities. Instead, it will be pooled and projects will be built based on priorities. A report on project rankings and timelines is scheduled for about a year from now.

For those worrying everyone outside Toronto will be paying for that city's congestion and getting nothing back, Metrolinx projects that 59 per cent of funds will be collected within the 905, which will then get 58 per cent of the investment. Those living in the 416 will pay 41 per cent of the funds and get 42 per cent of the capital projects.

Metrolinx is calling for 75 per cent of the funds within the trust to be allocated to the capital, maintenance and provincial share of operating costs of the so-called Next Wave of projects (subway expansion in Toronto, rapid transit in a number of communities including Hamilton, GO improvements) and the remaining 25 per cent going to local transit, road and bridge improvements and highway upgrades.

The strategy also calls on the federal government to bump its investment in transit to one-third of costs.

One by one Monday, each of Metrolinx's 15 directors explained their support for the strategy.

Hamilton board member Richard Koroscil, former airport CEO and current interim CEO of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, said the strategy will allow for efficient movement of goods throughout the region, which is key to economic growth.

After the meeting, Koroscil said he hopes Hamilton council will see the report as "an opportunity for Hamilton to be a part of the region and play a role. This means 100 per cent funding for LRT."

The city will also benefit from the investments in the Lakeshore GO routes between Hamilton and Oshawa, which includes electrification of train service and the extension of all-day trains, he said.

Councillor Brian McHattie, an LRT advocate and the only city councillor present at the meeting, said the report answers many questions and affirms Hamilton's place in Metrolinx's regional plan.

He said he's heard from other municipal leaders that Hamilton is "not as supportive (of the Big Move) as it could be. Mayor Bratina's stance is known to other leaders and board members."

Just last week, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion lambasted Hamilton for not being on board and wondered if the city shouldn't be "chucked out" of the region.

McHattie was also pleased to see there was no vague language surrounding Hamilton's Big Move project. The report clearly talks about light rail transit. Previous correspondence from Metrolinx had referred to rapid transit only, leaving the door open to using buses.

"The L is back," he joked.

Metrolinx has also built a \$105-million mobility tax credit into its formula to ease the burden on low income households. It's projected a senior who drives little will pay an extra \$140 a year, while a family of five driving two cars will have to dig \$977 deeper. (Those figures don't include the impacts of the parking levy and development charges, which can be passed on to the consumer.)

On the flip side, Metrolinx says congestion costs the average family \$1,600 a year.

In addition to the four main funding tools, Metrolinx is suggesting the province also look at implementing high-occupancy toll lanes, pay for parking at GO stations and use land value capture, where taxes are collected on increases to property values around transit projects.

The agency also recommends adding up to six citizen appointees to its board nominated by municipalities. That is meant to answer criticism that there were not enough local voices heard on the board.

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The Spectator's View: LRT is about more than transit

By Paul Berton

Can Hamilton afford LRT? Perhaps a better question is can we afford not to build it?



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Who will use LRT?

The debate over a light rapid transit system for Hamilton has simmered for years. The plan has been discussed, assailed, criticized, championed, sidetracked, avoided, ignored and postponed.

It has always been a debate about transit, but really it is about money. Who will pay? At a cost of nearly \$1 billion, it is likely too much for Hamilton alone. An extra \$500 per household per year for 20 years is a frightening prospect for most taxpayers.

Still, given the importance of transit not just to the economic development of Hamilton, but also to the province and country, it is money worth spending.

The federal and provincial governments have contributed equally with the city to the building of the Pan-Am stadium; why would they not do the same for LRT? The province needs to pony up more than the mere \$200 million they have already committed, and the federal government needs to get on board also.

Experts argue about the need for such a service, but there are several factors beyond debate. Hamilton is poised to grow, likely more than most Canadian cities, in coming years. Our transit woes, such as they are, will get worse, not better.

We cannot allow transportation challenges to slow down this growth and prosperity, so some kind of long-term solution is required.

It's true, a better bus system will help, and we must work at that regardless of the fate of LRT. But LRT is not just about transit; it is about economic development. LRT has the ability to transform the Hamilton economy. We know from the experience in other cities that it will spur development along the route, create its own environment of investment, and that these businesses will pay taxes.

So it's important to remember an LRT line in the lower city will benefit not just the lower city. Those taxes paid by commercial development along the line (not to mention intensified residential development that also follows such routes) will benefit those on the Mountain by keeping their taxes lower.

There is a huge potential for a higher tax base in the lower city that is not at present being realized. It is just waiting for a catalyst. And LRT is a proven catalyst in other cities, some as close as Kitchener and Waterloo.

An LRT in the lower city, if properly integrated with the citywide system as a whole, will benefit those living in the upper city.

To be sure, it is a big decision for Hamilton, but we have not shied away in the past from big decisions to improve roads or water, for example, and we should not shy away from this important decision now. We are indeed an ambitious city, and ambition means dreaming big.

Paul Berton

Paul Berton is editor-in-chief of The Hamilton Spectator and thespec.com. You can reach him at 905-526-3482 or pberton@thespec.com.

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INFORMATION REPORT

**CITY WIDE
IMPLICATIONS**

To:	Chair Members Public Works Committee		
From:	Scott Stewart, C.E.T. General Manager Public Works Department	Telephone: Facsimile: E-mail:	905 546-2313 905 546-4481 sstewart@hamilton.ca
Date:	September 8, 2008		
Re:	Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update - PW08043b - (City Wide)		

Council Direction:

Staff were to report back to Public Works Committee in regards to the results of an aggressive public consultation program for the Rapid Transit initiative in Hamilton.

Information:

Background

In June 2007, the Province of Ontario released their MoveOntario 2020 plan. This plan, which included the identification of two City of Hamilton corridors, is a \$17.5 billion plan for rapid transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

This announcement allowed Hamilton to accelerate rapid transit planning and to seriously consider Light Rail Transit (LRT).

In November 2007, the Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (RTFS) was initiated. This study identified that either Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or LRT could be implemented on the A-Line and B-Line, but that there were some constraints that required further investigation. Staff is continuing with Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Feasibility study to address some of the constraints and opportunities, in conjunction with the undertaking of aggressive public consultation to gauge the public's support for the rapid transit initiative.

Previously, two staff reports (PW08043 presented to Public Work Committee on April 14, 2008 and PW08043a presented to Public Works Committee on June 16, 2008) provided additional background on the studies, plans and policies that both support and impact rapid transit in Hamilton, including the Transportation Master Plan, MoveOntario 2020, GRIDS, the Public Works Strategic Plan, the findings of the Rapid Transit Feasibility Study, and the initial results of public consultation.

SUBJECT: Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update - PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 2 of 27 September 8, 2008

This information update has been written to provide Council with an update of what staff has been hearing from the public since the endorsement of PW08043a on June 25, 2008. A summary of the survey results is attached as Appendix A to this report.

To date, staff has heard from more than 1600 people, representing all City wards, with 94% supporting rapid transit of some kind. This can be further broken down as follows:

- 66% support for LRT;
- 8% support for BRT; and
- 20% support for either mode.

Staff will report back to Public Works Committee in October 2008, following the release of the Draft Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy and to report on the results of Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Feasibility Study. The next few months are significant in terms of the process that Metrolinx is following for the Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy. These documents will be released in late September (delayed from July 2008) and their first 5-year Capital Budget will be released in November.

City of Hamilton staff have been working closely with Metrolinx staff through the Quick Wins projects, development and release of their Green and White Papers, which form the basis of the Regional Transportation Plan, their Investment Strategy and their Capital Budget.

Public Consultation

Since April 2008, with the release of the agenda for the first Public Works Committee meeting that dealt with the issue of rapid transit in Hamilton, there has been significant interest in the community regarding this initiative. In order to maintain this momentum and to provide Council with the public's opinion on the rapid transit initiative, staff has been aggressive in attempting to reach out to all residents of the City of Hamilton and solicit their input. Staff has been able to obtain significant community input (over 1300 responses to a rapid transit initiative survey over the month of July, and 1600 responses in total since May 2008) through radio and newspaper advertisements, making surveys available on-line and at public offices, municipal service centres and other public facilities. In addition, staff attendance at community events and fairs, "lunch and learn" sessions for City of Hamilton staff and a daytime public information centre has garnered additional attention and public input into the project.

A summary of what staff has been hearing from the public is attached as Appendix A, including residents' views on the funding of a rapid transit system and the level of support the respondents believe should be provided from other levels of government.

Although the public consultation process will continue, only comments received by the City by August 11, 2008 have been included in this update (due to internal circulation deadlines). It should be noted that, through the public consultation process, all wards have been represented either through attendance at the public sessions and/or completion of the comment sheets or survey. The survey results, stakeholder letters, comments received at the public sessions and community events and continued review of media/internet blogs all indicate that the overall public opinion in regards to the Rapid

**SUBJECT:Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update -
PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 3 of 27 September 8, 2008**

Transit initiative is that of support for a rapid transit system (94%) and more specifically, the public supports the idea of rapid transit being provided in utilizing LRT technology.

There is overwhelming support for Light Rail Transit (66%) over Bus Rapid Transit (8%). Of those that commented, 20% (328 residents) believed that either mode would be acceptable.

There has been a lot of interest in the community since initial discussions regarding Rapid Transit began in April 2008, following the release of the Public Works Committee agenda that included staff report PW08043. Since that time, as a result of the media coverage and community interest, excitement for the initiative has grown and staff have been able to keep the momentum high through the execution of an aggressive communications plan. Staff has been able to maintain an excitement in the community in regards to this initiative and have kept rapid transit at the forefront of discussions.

Typically, public consultation over the summer months is not desirable, given the change in daily routines for the average person, however, the importance of ensuring that the public had the opportunity to participate in the rapid transit initiative during this critical decision making stage required staff to be creative in reaching out to the public to garner their input. The goal was to reach as many citizens as possible, while ensuring that the input process was simple and efficient. In order to achieve this, staff re-vamped the on-line survey to make it user friendly and provided better access to the survey, for those that do not have access to the internet, at Hamilton Public Library branches, Municipal Service Centres, Councillors' Offices, Mayor's Office, Clerks Office, HSR ticket office/GO Station.

Critical to ensuring a successful response to these surveys was getting the message out to the public that the Rapid Transit Study Team and City Council wanted to know their opinion. Radio advertisements regarding the request for public input were broadcast on CHML and Y108 between July 7 and July 18, 2008 and on K-lite FM between July 8 and July 18, 2008 (a total of 120 radio commercials during this time frame). During this same time period, print advertisements were placed in the Hamilton Spectator on July 7, July 14 and July 18, 2008 and in all 6 community (Brabant) newspapers on July 11 and July 18, 2008 advising the public on how they can provide their input.

In addition, the local media also published articles on the Rapid Transit initiative on July 11, 2008 in all 6 community (Brabant) newspapers and on July 15, 2008 in the Hamilton Spectator. Radio interviews with Rapid Transit Study Team staff occurred on July 8, 2008 on CHML (Bob & Shiona Show) and on K-lite FM, as part of their news programming, on July 7 and July 8, 2008.

The Rapid Transit Study Team has also been active in reaching out to the community through attending various community organized events. While in attendance at these events, staff handed out brochures regarding rapid transit, provided hard copies of the survey and were available to answer questions on the initiative. These events include the Landsdale Neighbourhood Association's "Summer in the Park" event that took place on July 6, 2008 at JC Beemer Park and the Barton Village Business Improvement Association (BIA) First Annual Festival on July 19 and July 20, 2008 at Woodlands Park. Staff will also be attending the University of McMaster "Clubfest" in September

**SUBJECT:Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update -
PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 4 of 27 September 8, 2008**

2008 and other fall festivals to continue to discuss the rapid transit initiative, answer questions and hand-out brochures and surveys.

Staff also worked with Councillors to use their existing communication channels to help spread the word about the rapid transit initiative.

Lunch & Learn sessions were held to educate City staff on the initiative on Thursday, July 24th at 330 Wentworth Street North and on Friday, July 25th on the rooftop of Jackson Square. A downtown lunch time public information centre was also held on Monday, July 28th, 2008 to capture downtown commuters who are potential riders of a rapid transit system, many of whom presently commute to work using a single occupancy vehicle.

Staff has also continued consultation with stakeholders within the community, some which have been identified as key nodes in the City. Most recently, staff has met with representatives of the Hamilton Halton Home Builders' Association, Lime Ridge Mall, Eastgate Square (also representing Centre Mall), Jackson Square, St. Joseph's Health Care and Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Areas (HABIA). All stakeholders fully support the implementation of a rapid transit system, supporting LRT over BRT and are anxious to continue discussions, particularly as they relate to route selection and station location/design. Letters from the stakeholders (received by August 11, 2008) are included in Appendix B.

Over the coming months, staff have meeting dates set with McMaster University, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, St. Joseph's Healthcare, and are pursuing opportunities to present to Mohawk College, Hamilton Health Sciences, additional community groups, special interest groups and the business community (an advertisement inviting businesses to contact Rapid Transit Team staff will appear in BIZ Magazine's fall issue). Staff has indicated to the public that comments on Rapid Transit are always welcome either through the project website www.hamilton.ca/rapid-transit, direct project e-mail rapidtransit@hamilton.ca or in person. Staff have comprised an extensive mailing list of the general public and stakeholders and will provide a Newsletter Update (Fall 2008) following Council's direction. Rapid Transit Study Team contact information, study background and a route corridor map have also been included in the September 2008 HSR Bus News and a profile on Rapid Transit will appear as part of the Perspective Hamilton publication, in conjunction with the Economic Development Office. This publication will be provided to every Hamilton household and will be an insert in the Globe & Mail on October 28, 2008.

A chronology of key dates and events is detailed in Table 1 of this information update.

In addition, consultation on the Rapid Transit Initiative has included the following City Departments, who are in support of this work:

- Public Works (Transit, Capital Planning & Implementation, Operations & Maintenance)
- Planning and Economic Development (Development Planning, Community Planning, Downtown and Community Renewal, Strategic Services and Special Projects, Real Estate, Parking and By-law Services)

Public Works has continued to work collaboratively with Planning and Economic Development in this process as the project is of true importance to the City as a whole

with great economic potential and has implications to the Nodes and Corridors Policies of the Official Plan, Zoning By-laws and the Urban Structure Plan. There will also be a role for Public Health Services to play, especially in the area of improved air quality as a result of rapid transit implementation. The economic review has strengthened the need for this continued collaboration between internal City departments, stakeholders and the general public. To compliment this work, another round of public consultation is planned in order to continue collecting public opinion and responding to citizen inquiries.

Table 1: Chronology of Events

EVENT	DATE	OUTCOME
Transportation Master Plan (TMP)	February 2007	- Rapid Transit in the form of BRT endorsed by Council along three (3) City of Hamilton Corridors with long term vision of LRT
MoveOntario 2020 Plan	June 2007	- \$17.5 billion plan for Rapid Transit in the GTHA, including two (2) corridors in Hamilton that had previously been identified in the TMP.
Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (RTFS) (Phase 1)	November 2007 - May 2008	- Study to investigate the major considerations in route selection, technology (LRT or BRT) and the identification of opportunities and constraints of each type of system. - Discussions with the Province (Metrolinx) in regards to MoveOntario 2020 and what this means for Hamilton.
Public Works Committee / Council	April 14 / April 25 2008	- Staff Report PW08043 endorsed. - Recommendation approved to release findings of the RTFS to the public and initiate public consultation.
Public Consultation (Phase 1)	April - June 2008	- Participation in Hamilton Light Rail Workshop on May 1 - Public Information Centres (PICs) held May 6 and May 8. - Extensive media coverage (print, radio and TV) - Stakeholder consultation (Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Burlington Real Estate Association, BIA's, Hamilton International Airport etc)
Public Works Committee / Council	June 16 / June 25 2008	- Staff Report PW08043a endorsed. - Recommendation to continue with Phase 2 of the RTFS with focus on LRT, continued public consultation and continued communication with Metrolinx in regards to their proposed 5-year Capital Budget (Nov 2008).
Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (Phase 2)	June – Ongoing	- Study to investigate alternatives to using James Mountain Road, focus on LRT, project priorities and staging. - Preliminary economic review of other municipalities and system development research. - Discussions with the Province (Metrolinx) in regards to MoveOntario 2020 and what this means for Hamilton.
Public Consultation (Phase 2)	June – Ongoing	- Extensive outreach using the media for solicitation of public input (print and radio); surveys made available on-line, and at public offices, municipal service centres and public facilities. - June 2008 Newsletter Update to mailing list - Lunch & Learn Sessions (July 24 & July 25) - Lunch Public Information Sessions (July 28) - Attendance at Community Events and Fairs - Stakeholder consultation (HHHBA, Eastgate Square, Lime Ridge Mall, St. Joseph's Health Care, BIA's, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction) - Continued media coverage (print, radio, TV)
Public Works Committee / Council	September 15/ September 24 2008	TODAY

Next Steps

It is expected that Metrolinx will release its Draft Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy on September 26, 2008. These documents will outline potential revenue sources and financial tools to deliver the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) recommendations, maintain existing transportation infrastructure, and support the operating costs of current and future transit services. Staff will continue to work closely with Metrolinx to ensure that the City of Hamilton is included in these plans and any on-going discussions, particularly as it relates to rapid transit in Hamilton.

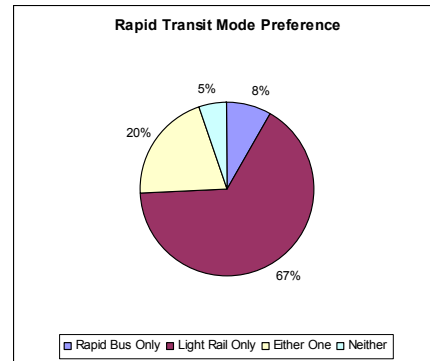
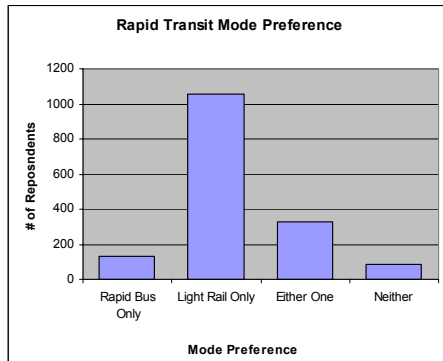
Staff will report back to the Public Works Committee in fall 2008 to outline the impacts of the RTP and with recommendations on how to proceed in regards to rapid transit in Hamilton.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works Department

Appendix A – Survey Results

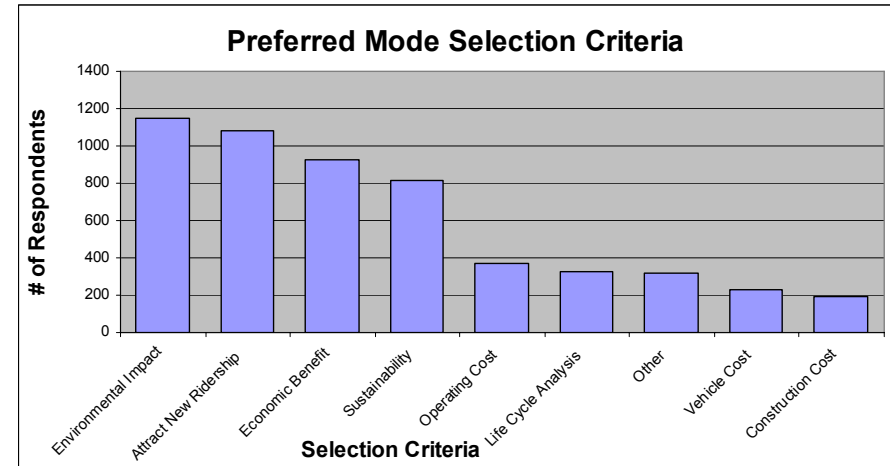
Question 1:
If you do support a rapid transit system, which mode would you prefer?

Transit Mode	Number of Respondents	%
Rapid Bus Only	132	8
Light Rail Only	1059	66
Either One	328	20
Neither	86	5
Total	1605	

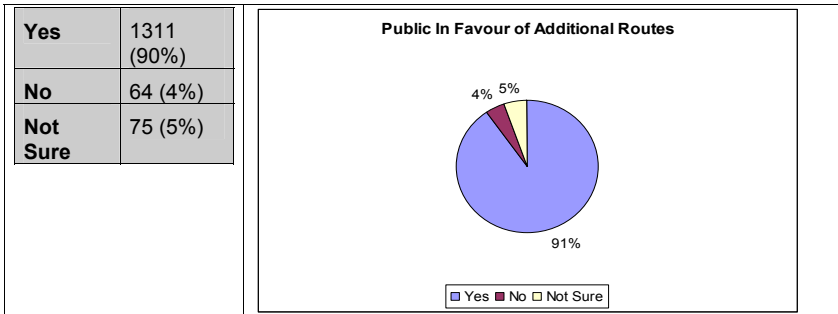


Question 2:
If you support LRT, BRT or Both, what was your selection based on? Please check all that apply.

Issue	# of Respondents	%
Environmental Impact	1147	71
Potential to Attract New Ridership	1079	67
Potential Economic Benefit	923	58
Sustainability	818	51
Operating Cost	371	23
Life Cycle Analysis	325	20
Other	317	20
Vehicle Cost	226	14
Construction Cost	194	12

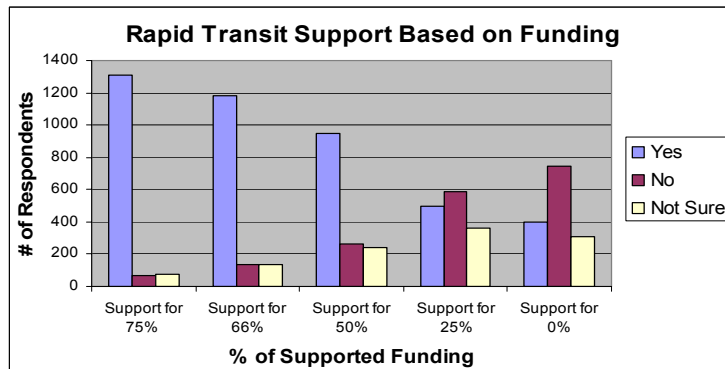


Question 3:
Would you be in favour of implementing additional rapid transit routes in the future, once the recommended routes are established?



Question 4:
If Metrolinx and/or the federal government will support a maximum of 75% of capital costs for rapid transit in Hamilton, will you still support the initiative?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Support for 75%	1312 (90%)	66 (4%)	75 (5%)
Support for 66%	1181 (81%)	135 (9%)	137 (9%)
Support for 50%	948 (65%)	265 (18%)	240 (17%)
Support for 25%	500 (34%)	588 (40%)	365 (25%)
Support for 0%	398 (27%)	747 (51%)	308 (27%)

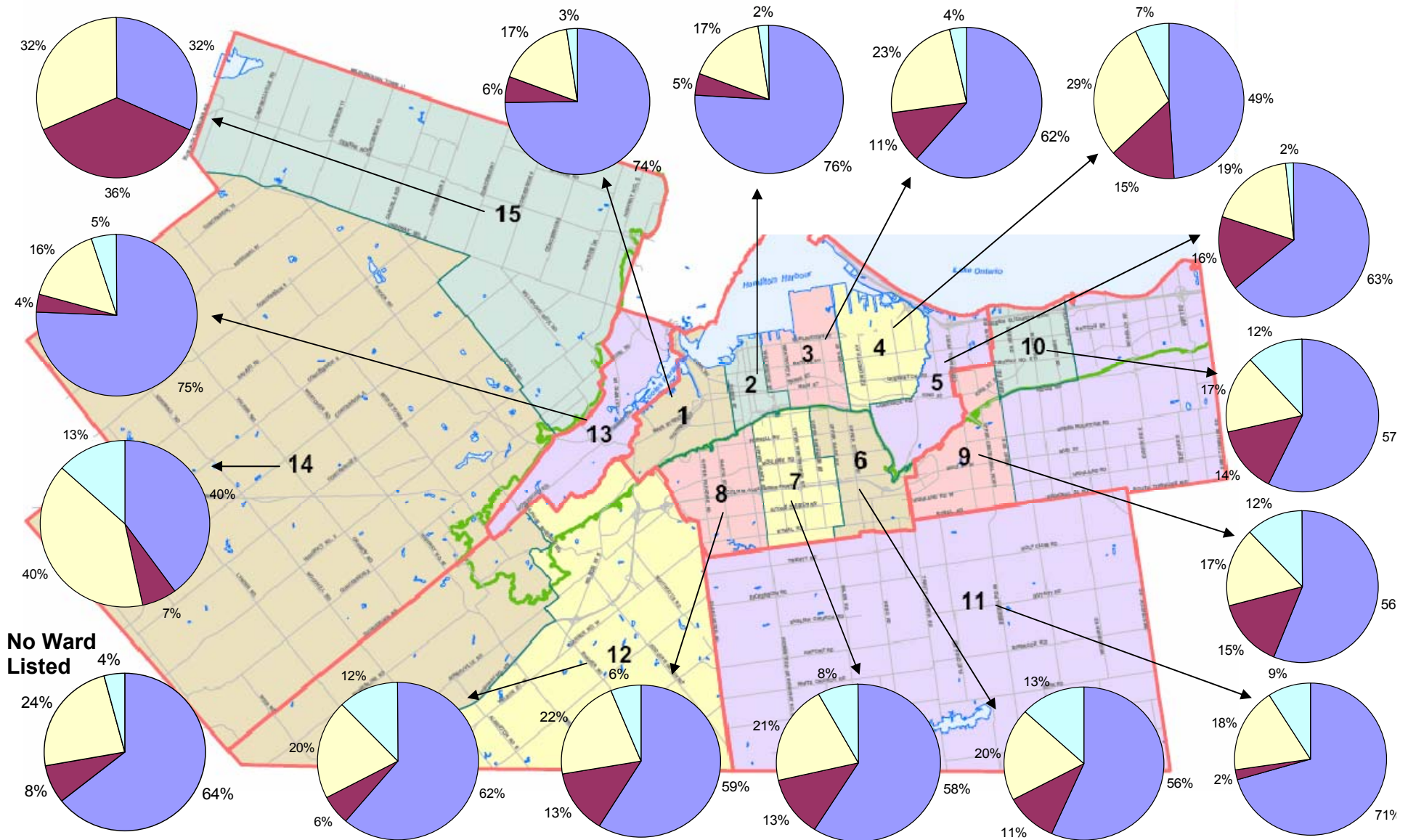


Question 5: Rapid Transit Type Preference by Ward



Rapid Transit Preference by Ward

Legend: Light Rail Only (Blue), Rapid Bus Only (Red), Either One (Yellow), Neither (Cyan)



Appendix B – Stakeholder Correspondence



His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Members of Council
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3

May 14, 2008

Dear Mayor Fred:

On behalf of the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB) and our 2400 members we are writing to express our full support for the development of light rail transit (LTR) in Hamilton.

We understand that some in our community have voiced concern over the potential costs of light rail over bus rapid transit (BRT). However, we are part of a larger group of citizens who believe that Hamilton has the potential to become a great city.


In order to achieve this goal we need to be forward thinking in our plans for the future, and we believe that light rail is one of the best ways to achieve many of the goals of the city. These include, but are not limited to: revitalization of the downtown core, intensification along main corridors, increased economic development and broadening of the tax base.

As an association, RAHB has adopted a number of guiding principles to demonstrate the commitment of the real estate profession to improve quality of life by supporting policies that encourage economic vitality, provide housing opportunities, preserve the environment, protect property owners and build community. Light rail transit will help achieve many of these principles.

We urge you to move forward with the decision to develop light rail transit (LTR) in Hamilton as the best option for the future of this city.

We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,
REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington


Ann Cosens
2008 President


John Vail
2008 Government Relations Chair

CC: Jillian Stephen, Manager Strategic Planning – Capital Planning and Implementation Division
Lisa Zinkewich, Senior Project Manager for Rapid Transit

SUBJECT: Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update -
PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 13 of 27 September 8, 2008



C/o City Hall, 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8P 4Y5
www.hamilton.ca
Phone: 905-546-2424 Ext. 1275
Fax: 905-643-4250

July 28, 2008

Lisa Zinkewich
Capital Planning & Implementation
Public Works
City of Hamilton
Suite 350 77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Lisa Zinkewich:

Re: Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

Clean Air Hamilton is a multi-stakeholder group dedicated to improving air quality in Hamilton. We are committed to improving the health impacts due to poor air quality and the quality of life for the citizens of our city. We encourage and support the development of environmentally sound practices through science-based decision-making and the adoption of management plans which are consistent with sustainable development.

One major source of local air pollutants in Hamilton are emissions from transportation sources (i.e., cars and trucks). Over the past 10-15 years, emissions from transportation sources have increased in spite of steady improvements in pollutant releases from modern vehicles; this lack of overall improvement in mobile emissions is linked directly to the increased number of private vehicle trips and truck trips in our city and the surrounding area.

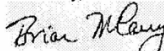
Clean Air Hamilton recognizes that a key component to reach our goals of improved air quality and mitigated climate change is the need to reduce vehicular emissions. One important way to achieve this goal is to provide Hamiltonians with access to efficient, low-polluting transportation alternatives.

Clean Air Hamilton supports the City in the principle of investigating options for rapid transit in Hamilton. A full city bus can remove up to 50 private vehicles from our roads and a full light rail transit up to 300 private vehicles. To increase ridership and reduce vehicle trips, the option of rapid transit must be affordable, convenient and attractive to the public.

Clean Air Hamilton sponsors the Upwind/Downwind Conference every other year. At more than one conference we have heard presentations on the environmental and economic spinoff benefits associated with LRT projects. These presentations cited the preference of many riders for an LRT system over a BRT system. Clean Air Hamilton recognizes the increased initial cost of an LRT system; we encourage you and your committee to examine not only ridership factors but also the economic impacts and benefits that LRT systems have brought to large urban centres, particularly where downtown redevelopment has been an issue.

Strong public transit systems are essential to improving air quality in our cities and will go a long way to reducing locally generated emissions which contribute to the premature deaths and hospitalizations associated with poor air quality in Hamilton.

Yours truly,



Dr. Brian McCary, Chair
Clean Air Hamilton

cc: Jillian Stephen, Manager – Capital Planning, Public Works

Downtown Hamilton BIA
20 Hughson Street South
Suite 807, Hamilton
Ontario L8N 2A1
Tel: 905-523-1646
Fax: 905-523-5433
info@downtownhamilton.org



May 26, 2008

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: GORE PARK PEDESTRIAN PLAZA AND RAPID TRANSIT PROPOSALS FOR HAMILTON

The City of Hamilton is currently reviewing its Downtown Transportation Master Plan. The conversion of parts of King Street to 2-way traffic from Wellington to Queen is being addressed for possible implementation. In conjunction with this a project to redevelop Gore Park area along King Street into a "PEDESTRIAN PLAZA" (an open-air, on-street shopping mall with space for outdoor patios and locale for special street events) has been added to this proposal with several options to extend the closed plaza concept to Wellington. Also further changes to King Street have been proposed as part of a BRT/LRT transit development.

These projects will have a profound impact on the downtown business community in general and upon certain BIA members in particular.

IMPACT OF PEDESTRIAN PLAZA or SHARED SPACE CONCEPT ON BIA MEMBERS LOCATED IN THE GORE PARK AREA:

- King Street closure in any of the recommended versions could provide opportunities to be used by those businesses facing Gore Park in conjunction with outdoor patio activities and more on-street displays however would have a very detrimental effect on business levels and access to businesses such as the former Connaught site and Crowne Plaza Hotel. It would also remove some on street parking spaces on King Street which is not supported by the merchants on King.
- Programming on the south leg of King Street could attract more people to the area on a regular basis

Downtown Hamilton BIA – Downtown Transportation Master Plan

Page 2

- Commercial vehicles servicing BIA members within the Gore Park Area and along King Street will be limited to a certain window of access which would have a detrimental effect on supply vehicle movements, banking services, restaurant delivery services
- A reconfiguration of Hughson Street North and South would be necessary to facilitate a street closure at King and would make access to this area very difficult
- Bus laybys around Gore Park will be relocated to either MacNab Street or Hunter Street locations however keeping bus stops on the north side
- Public vehicle restrictions in the impacted area will restrict access to those businesses inside the closed area
- Creation of a rapid transit route from the Waterfront to the Airport through downtown will bring more people to the core however there are concerns for the narrowness of James Street North to accommodate two way rapid transit
- Creation of a rapid transit route from Eastgate Mall to Dundas through downtown will facilitate more use of public transit than is currently experienced however members are concerned about the King Street location for a two way rapid transit corridor
- The type of technology (BRT or LRT) the city will support in the wake of a \$300 million investment by the Province of Ontario will still not be enough to complete the proposed system and will have a significant impact on the tax levels in Downtown Hamilton that are currently still too high.

The Downtown Hamilton BIA surveyed its membership, and also held a special membership meeting to explain the issues and receive comments and concerns from BIA members.

Recommendations:

The Downtown Hamilton BIA offers the following comments regarding the proposed changes to the Downtown Transportation Master Plan:

1. That only the south leg of King Street be closed to traffic (with restricted access for service and supply vehicles). We do not agree with the complete closure of King Street on the north side.
2. That the 8 bus stops on the south leg of King be relocated to a seamless transit centre at MacNab Street
3. That Hughson Street remain open to northbound traffic
4. That King Street be converted to 2 way traffic
5. That Gore Park and the south leg of King be redeveloped with streetscape improvements and more landscape changes necessary to ensure the reforestation and replanting of the park for more pedestrian use
6. That the City of Hamilton support a complete conversion to a LRT (Streetcar) transit system similar to Portland

Downtown Hamilton BIA – Downtown Transportation Master Plan Page 3

- 7. That the recommended LRT route (East/West) be Main Street not King Street**
- 8. That the recommended LRT route (North/South) be James and John Streets**

We thank the City of Hamilton for the opportunity to provide input to the overall Downtown Hamilton Transportation Master Plan and hope that we can continue to provide feedback and input into a master plan that will be a positive influence on the Downtown Hamilton business community.

Sincerely

Tim Bullock

Tim Bullock
Chairman

c.c. N. D'Souza, Project Manager, Downtown Transportation Master Plan
Jill Stephen, Manager, Strategic Planning, Rapid Transit Feasibility Study



INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

May 30th, 2008

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and
Members of Council
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Fred and Members of Council:

RE: Pedestrianization of Downtown Hamilton

Through the current review of the City of Hamilton's Downtown Transportation Plan, the possible implementation of two-way traffic on parts of King Street East between Wellington and Queens streets is addressed.

Originally, the plan was to convert King Street from one-way to two-way with a single traffic lane in each direction, flanked by parallel parking where feasible.

Now, there are a wide range of potential scenarios for the 'Pedestrianization' of King Street East ...

Of the various scenarios ... the only one that International Village BIA approves of is ...

. That ONLY the south leg of King Street be closed to traffic (with restricted access for service and supply vehicles).

. We do NOT agree with the complete closure of King Street on the North Side.

. We do agree with the temporary closure of King Street on the North Side for times of public celebration and/or community events as agreed to by the City of Hamilton and the respective business organizations and/or communities that would be directly or indirectly affected.

*Rec'd
6/10/08*

. That the 8 bus stops on the south leg of King be relocated to a seamless transit center on MacNab Street

. That Hughson Street remain open to northbound traffic.

. We agree with the recommendations of Downtown Hamilton BIA, that Gore Park and the south leg of King Street be redeveloped with streetscape improvements and more landscape changes necessary to ensure the reforestation and replanting of the park for more pedestrian use.

With regards to the Rapid Transit Proposals for Hamilton, International Village BIA supports ...

. Complete Conversion to a LRT (Streetcar) transit system. We prefer the system used in Portland, Oregon.

. The recommended LRT route, East/West, be Main Street NOT King Street

. The recommended LRT route, North/South, be James and John Streets.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the various proposals being made in presentations to members of Council and the citizens of the City of Hamilton on these important issues.

Sincerely

[Signature]
Peter J. Quaglia

Past Chair, Board of Management

Cc: N. D'Souza, Project Manager, Downtown Transportation Master Plan;

D. Hull, General Manager, HSR

Jill Stephen, Manager, Strategic Planning, Rapid Transit Feasibility Study



June 2, 2008

Scott Stewart
General Manager, Public Works
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Stewart:

RE: Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Durand Neighbourhood Association with our support for the light-rail rapid transit system.

As you know, the Durand neighbourhood is the inner-city district bound by Main Street West, James Street South, the Escarpment and Queen Street South. The Durand Neighbourhood Association ("DNA") was established in 1972 as a politically independent community organization and chartered as a not-for-profit provincial corporation. It is the DNA's vision to be an active, resident-based voice that successfully addresses priority issues affecting the neighbourhood to nurture a vibrant downtown community.

Consistent with our vision and the objectives of the Transportation Master Plan, we believe that the light-rail system would better help Hamilton achieve the following goals:

- ◆ Reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles;
- ◆ Increase the use of public transit; and
- ◆ Create a catalyst to economic development and growth.

Light rail has a proven record of increasing ridership, averages more passengers per vehicle than a bus, is more handicapped accessible, and offers a quieter, smoother ride. Light-rail transit would benefit the Durand neighbourhood and Hamilton by replacing polluting, noisy buses that crowd our streets, help to concentrate economic development downtown, increase business assessments to help reduce the residential tax-burden, and speed up travel to downtown and other areas of the city.

Thank you for your diligence in this initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns.

Yours very truly,

Sarah Matthews, President
Durand Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jill Stewart, Strategic Planning
Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council



**Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association
of Resident Homeowners Inc.**
1063 King Street West
Suite 221
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4S3
awwca.ca

July 18, 2008

His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3
(Sent via e-mail)

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council:

The **Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc.** wishes to express their support for light rail transit (LRT) as the preferred rapid transit choice for Hamilton.

The AWWCA supports LRT over bus rapid transit (BRT) because of its potential to:

- attract new economic development and increase the tax assessment base
- attract new riders to public transit, helping Hamilton to achieve its goal of doubling per capita transit use
- decrease pollution
- decrease congestion
- improve the image of Hamilton locally and internationally as a progressive, forward-thinking city

In particular, LRT would benefit Ainslie Wood and Westdale by connecting our neighbourhoods to the rest of the city (and the greater Toronto region via GO) in the most comfortable, fast, and efficient way possible.

Since McMaster University students will see a vastly improved level of service, they will have a wider choice of places to live within easy reach of the campus, which will relieve pressure for additional student housing in our neighbourhoods.

We urge the city to pursue LRT, so as to be able to take advantage of the provincial funding made available through MoveOntario2020 and Metrolinx this fall.

Yours sincerely,

John Wigle, President
Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc.

cc (via e-mail):
Scott Stewart, General Manager of Public Works, City of Hamilton
Jillian Stephen, Manager, Strategic Planning, Public Works Department, City of Hamilton
Nicholas Kevlahan, Hamilton Light Rail steering committee member
Kenneth Sherman, Hamilton Light Rail steering committee member
Carolyn Kinsley, Corresponding Secretary, AWWCA

Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Light Rail Transit

Issue:

The City of Hamilton's Transportation Master Plan calls for the development and implementation of 3 Rapid Transit Lines (E-W along the current "BLine" route; N-S from the Airport to the Waterfront; and, E-W along the Mountain - using the Linc or Mohawk Rd.) The Ontario Governments "Move Ontario" budget will bring in approximately \$300 million will be given to Hamilton towards Capital expenditures in developing these Rapid Transit lines. Currently, the City is looking at both Bus Rapid Transit and Light Rail Transit (LRT) as the options to adopting proper Rapid Transit within Hamilton.

Background:

Rapid Transit is not new to Hamilton. Currently, we have a pseudo BLine bus rapid transit (BRT) route that operates from Eastgate Square to McMaster University. Hamilton's Transportation Master Plan identified the need for improved Rapid Transit lines. It was anticipated that the initial phase would see BRT implemented first, with the move to LRT as budgets allow. With the announcement of the Ontario Governments "Move Ontario" and the creation of Metrolinx, some \$300 million will be channelled to Hamilton for Capital Costs to develop Rapid Transit Lines. It should be noted that only two of the Rapid Transit Lines were identified in the "Move Ontario" program. (The E-W Mountain Line was not included as identified in Hamilton's Transportation Master Plan.)

The City is currently reviewing the costing models of LRT versus BRT, and through the PICs, have noted that LRT carries significant advantages over BRT. LRTs expansion capabilities and economic spin-offs show greater advantage over BRT, and that operational costs are relatively fixed over the term of a LRT line.

While there is still more study work to be done, it has been demonstrated very clearly that LRT carries fixed operating budgets (i.e. - fuel), the potential for increased development along the lines, and lower operating costs as the train size can be increased with use without adding additional manpower. Understanding that funding is only coming for Capital expenditures, the City should look at the long-term operating costs as they effect the tax base.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce urges the City of Hamilton to:

1. Utilize LRT for Rapid Transit development, while reserving our opinion as to optimal proposed routes.
2. Include full integration of growth development, employment development and comprehensive goods movement studies in the proposal.

**SUBJECT:Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update -
PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 23 of 27 September 8, 2008**



**President and
Vice-Chancellor**

1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8S 4L8

Phone 905.525.9140
Ext. 24340
Fax 905.522.3391
Email presdn@mcmaster.ca
<http://www.mcmaster.ca>

June 9, 2008

His Worship, Mayor Fred Eisenberger
and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I thought I would write to you about McMaster's views regarding transit choices that are now being considered by the City of Hamilton. I wish to express my support for exploring light rail transit (LRT) along with other rapid transit alternatives, and trust that Hamilton's preferred rapid transit choice will be based on full analysis of the relative strengths and weaknesses of these options.

The University is aware of both the ongoing discussions and the various draft plans that are being considered. At this stage of the project, McMaster is taking steps to ensure it is informed on this issue.

This process involves hearing from various individuals and groups through a variety of forums. I am pleased to learn that my colleague, Dr. Nicholas Kevlahan, is making a presentation to the President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR) at its meeting June 19, which will facilitate an exchange of views on this important issue with representatives of our immediate neighbourhood.

The University has also engaged with other stakeholders interested in these issues, including the Hamilton Street Railway, city staff and members of Council. We look forward to receiving ongoing information updates and encourage consistent dialogue as this initiative progresses.

The University is deeply interested in the outcome. Members of our University community will benefit from a rapid transit connection between the Central Campus, the McMaster Innovation Park, the McMaster Downtown Centre, and the proposed Downtown Family Health Centre that provides comfortable, fast and efficient service. Our students, staff and faculty will certainly benefit from an improved level of service which will effectively expand the range of choices of places to live within easy reach of campus, and hopefully lessen some of the pressure of high-density student housing on our neighbourhood.

1...2

*Rec'd
6/11/08*

**SUBJECT:Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Public Consultation Update -
PW08043b - (City Wide) Page 24 of 27 September 8, 2008**

2

We would be happy to nominate a member of the University faculty or staff to work with the City on the planning and development of the route(s) and stations serving McMaster.

Yours sincerely,

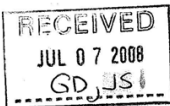
Peter George

cc: Scott Stewart, General Manager of Public Works
Jillian Stephen, Manager, Strategic Planning
Nicholas Kevlahan, McMaster University



U16715
JUL 3 2008

His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Members of Council
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3



June 17, 2008

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

On behalf of the McMaster Students Union (MSU), we are writing to express our full support for the development of a light rail transit system (LRT) in Hamilton. We understand that some in our community have voiced concern about the light rail transit option, however, we know that an LRT system would be beneficial to the students of our university, the McMaster community, and more generally, the city of Hamilton as a whole.

This goal of bringing an LRT system to Hamilton will work to facilitate the growth of our city. It will allow students easier accessibility of the downtown core, as well as help rejuvenate this area with more business and life. It will also help students who live off campus. An efficient LRT design will create an environment wherein McMaster students will choose to live, rent and buy property in more diverse areas of the city. In turn, the diversification of student living areas will help alleviate the some of the town and gown issues currently facing the high-density student housing surrounding the McMaster campus. As a result, Hamilton will experience an increase in property values in the Westdale area, as well as throughout the city and downtown core.

We hope that to begin this project, one of the main goals will be to construct the McMaster University to Gore Park stretch of the LRT track as quickly as possible. This will help with some of the current transit issues on this stretch, and it will serve as a good example to demonstrate the benefits of the LRT to the Hamilton community.

We urge you to move forward with the decision to develop light rail transit in Hamilton as the best option for students, and the future of this city. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

McMaster Students Union

Azim Kasmani
President

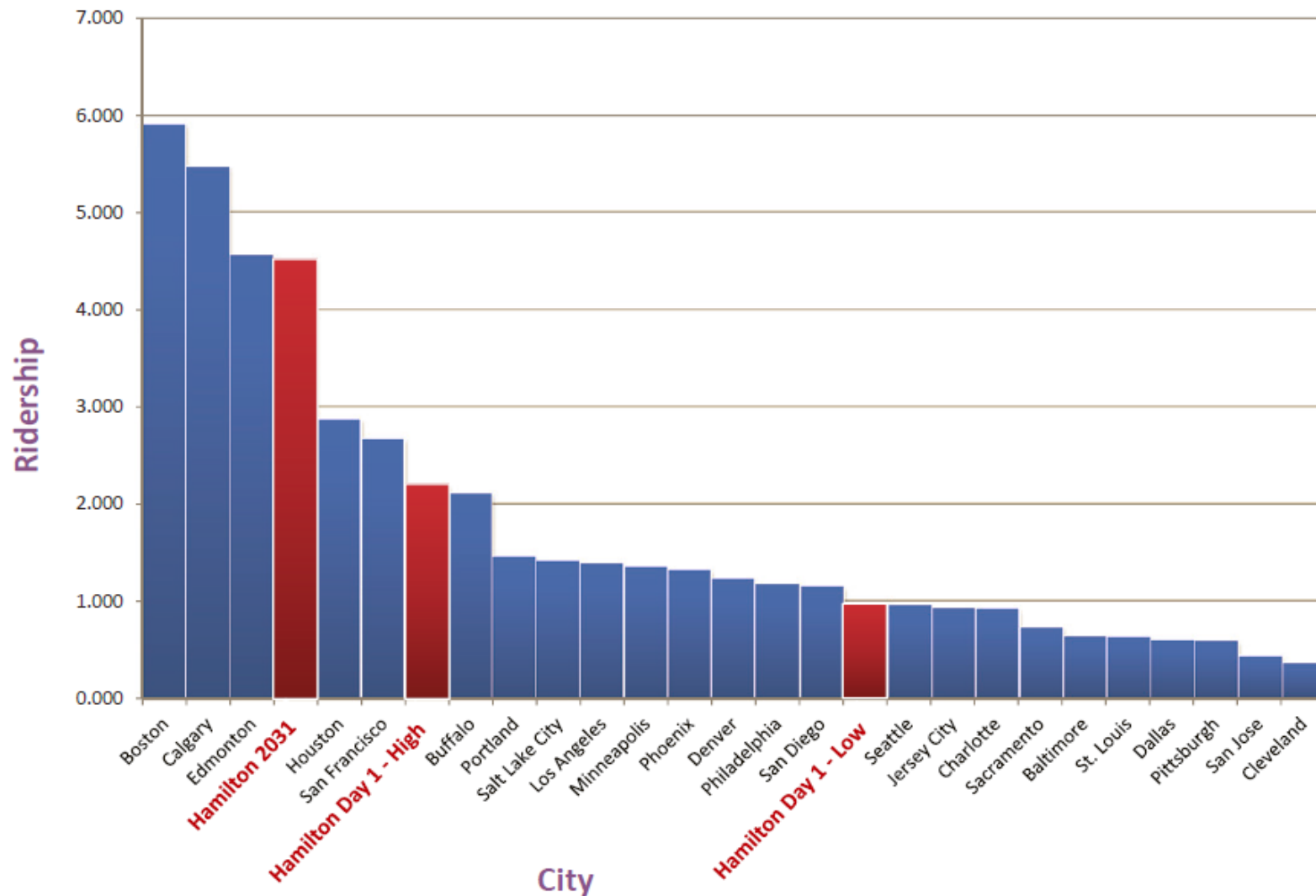
Michael Pett
House Leader



City of Hamilton B-Line Ridership Projections & Route Plan

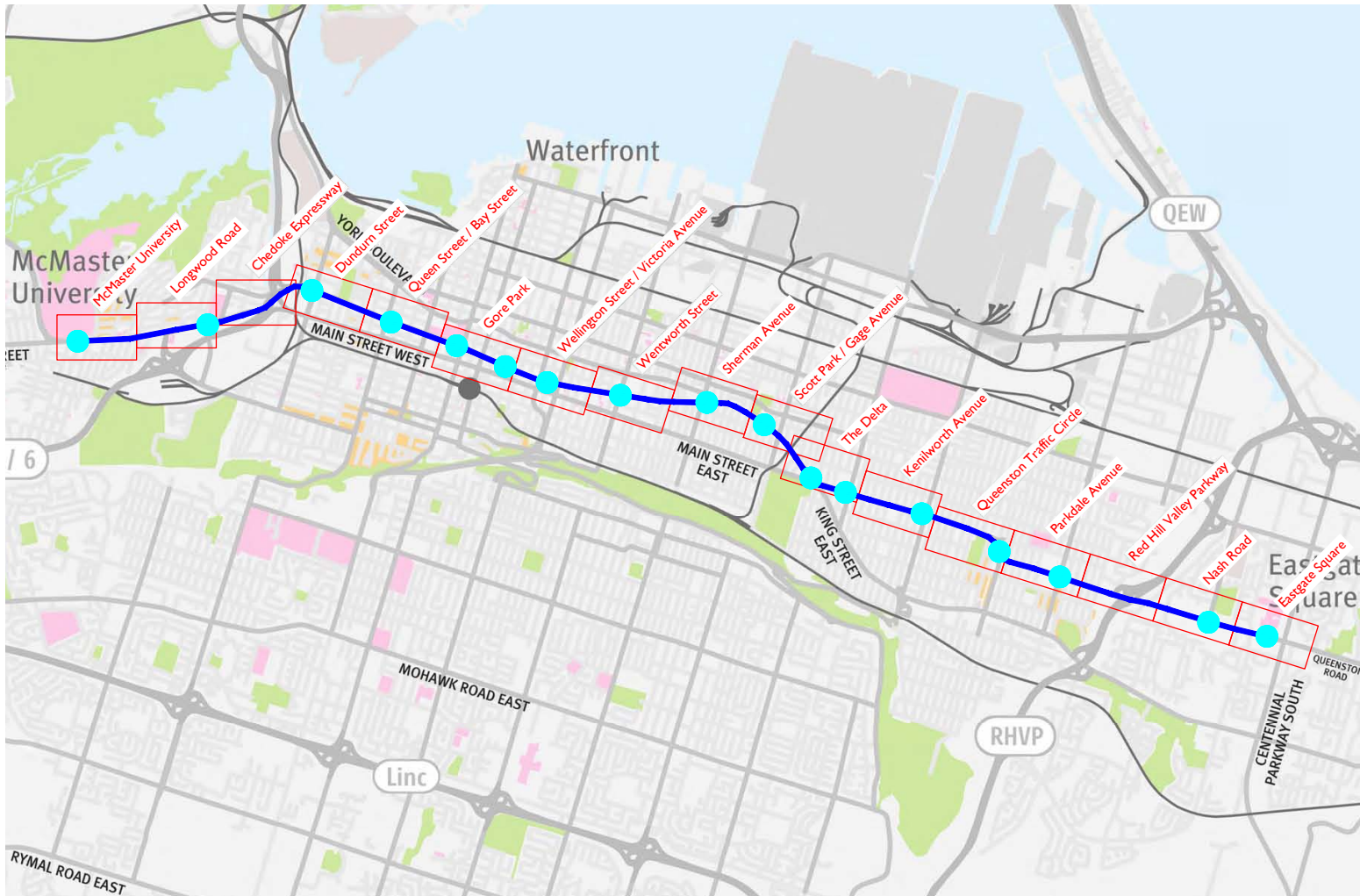
Produced by The Hamilton Light Rail Initiative

A comparison of projected LRT ridership in Hamilton with other systems across North America shows that Hamilton has potential to be one of the leading systems



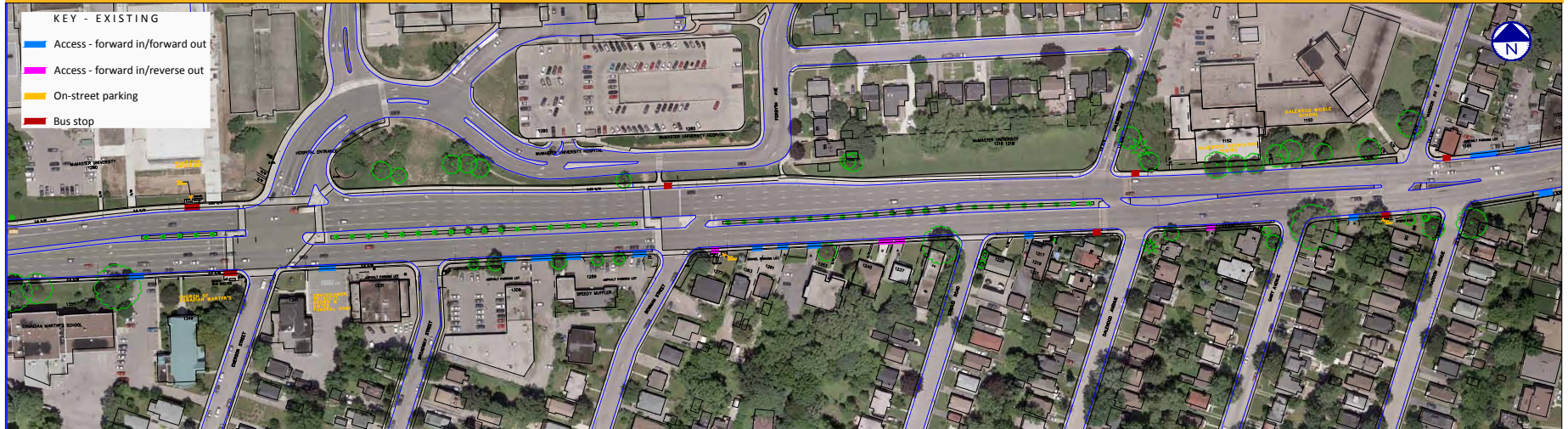
Source: Rapid Ready Report, City of Hamilton, 2013

B-Line Key Plan

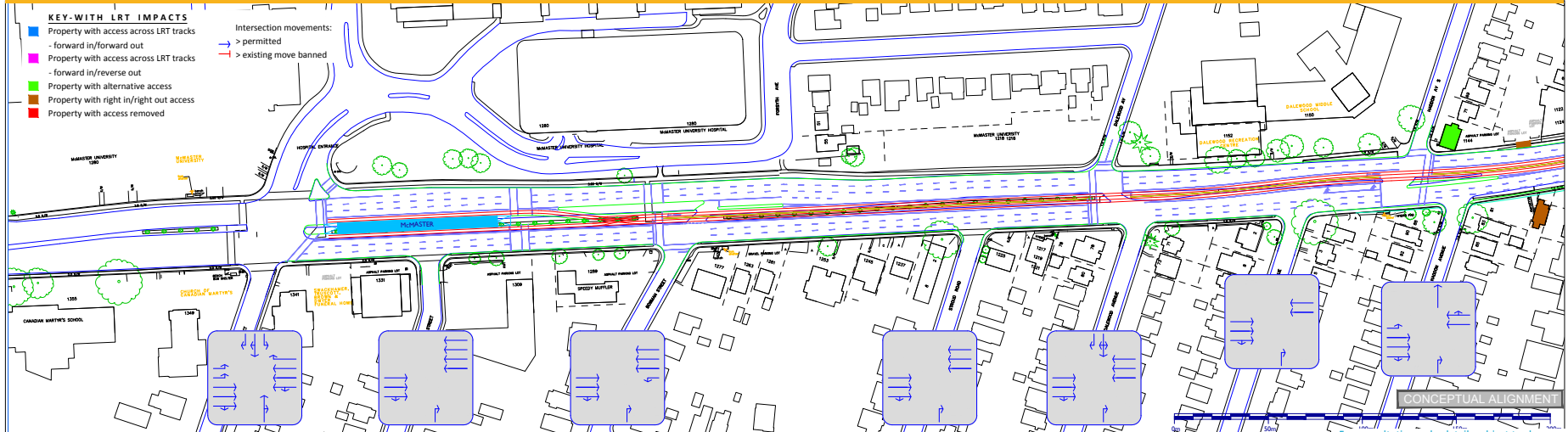


McMaster University

Existing Conditions



Proposed Layout with LRT

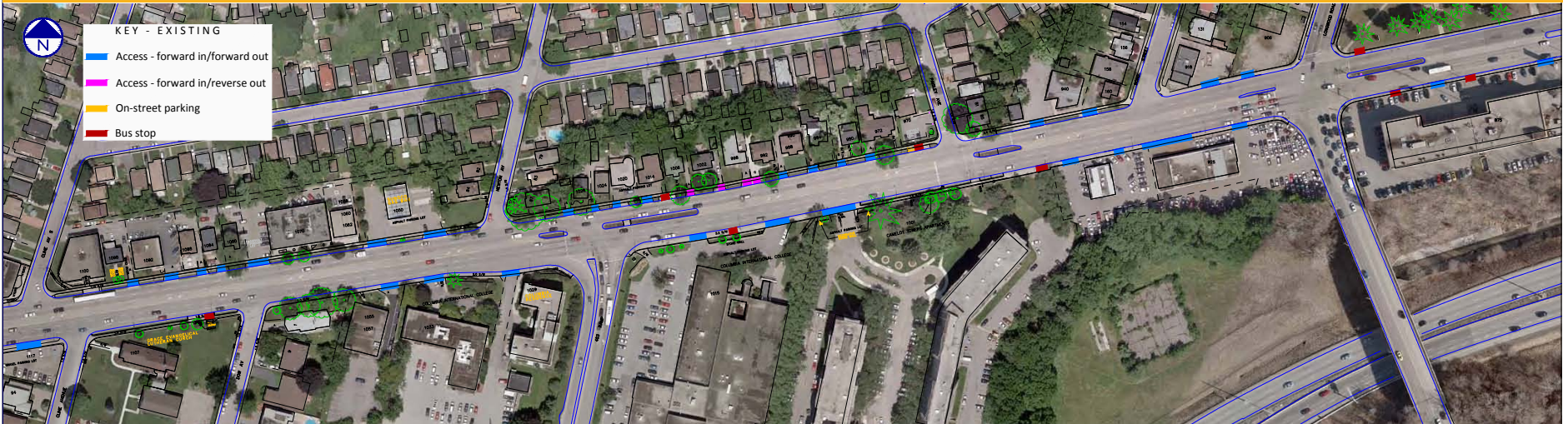


The City of Hamilton and McMaster University are working closely together to determine the most suitable location for the LRT stop

For consultation only, details subject to change

Longwood Road

Existing Conditions

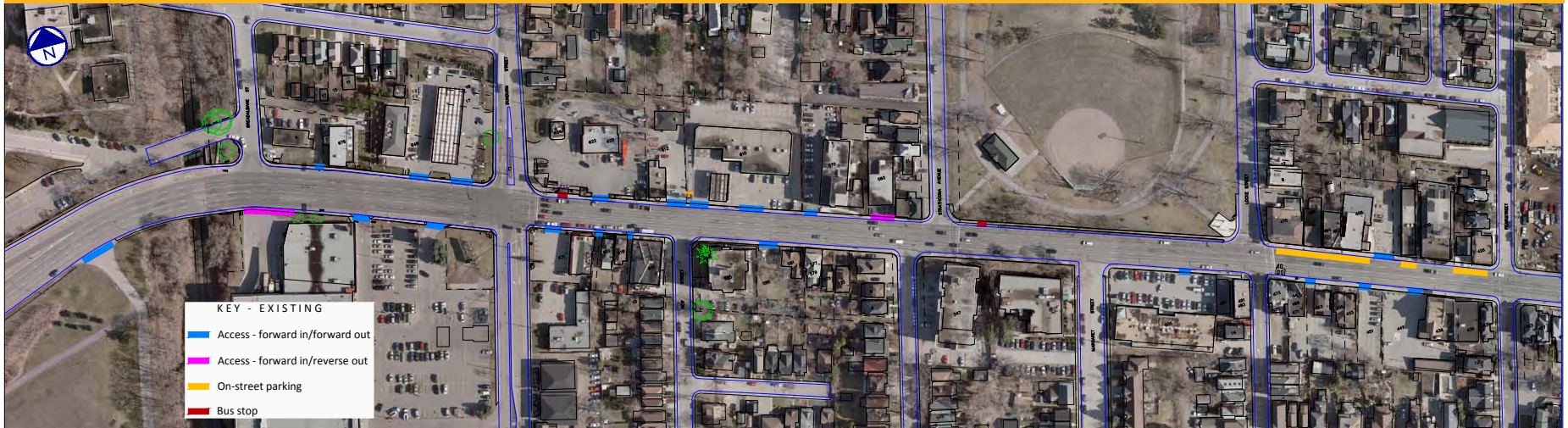


Proposed Layout with LRT

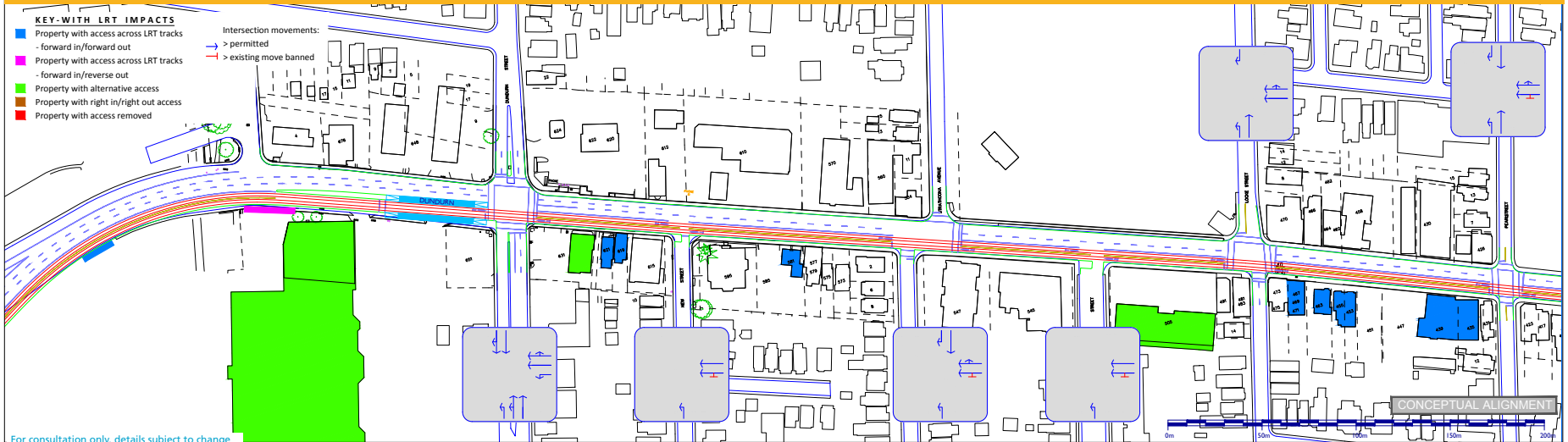


Dundurn Street

Existing Conditions



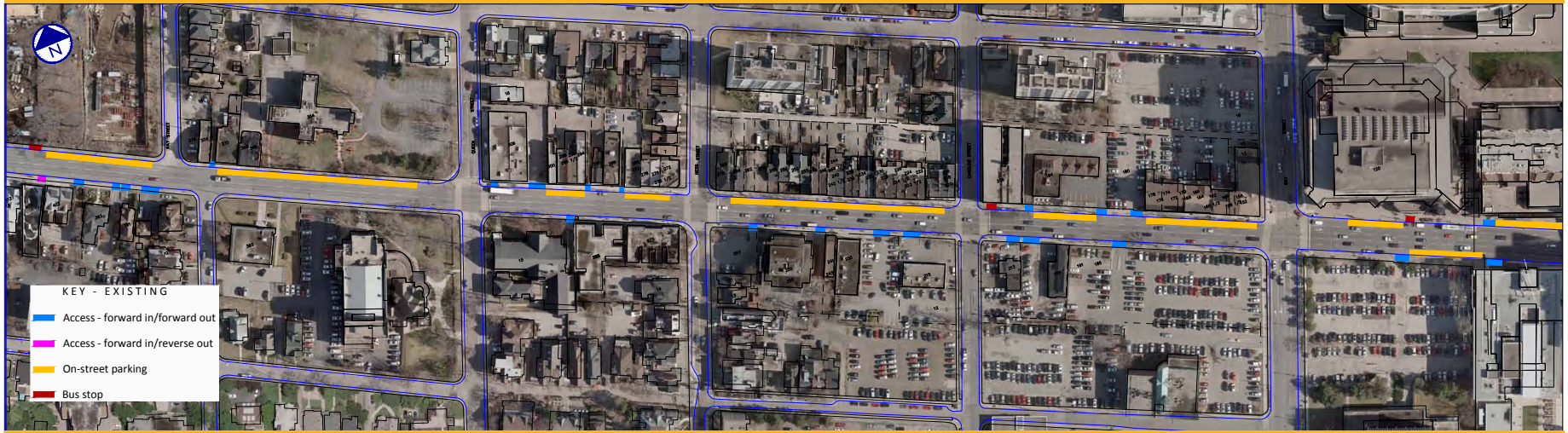
Proposed Layout with LRT



For consultation only, details subject to change

Queen Street/Bay Street

Existing Conditions



Proposed Layout with LRT



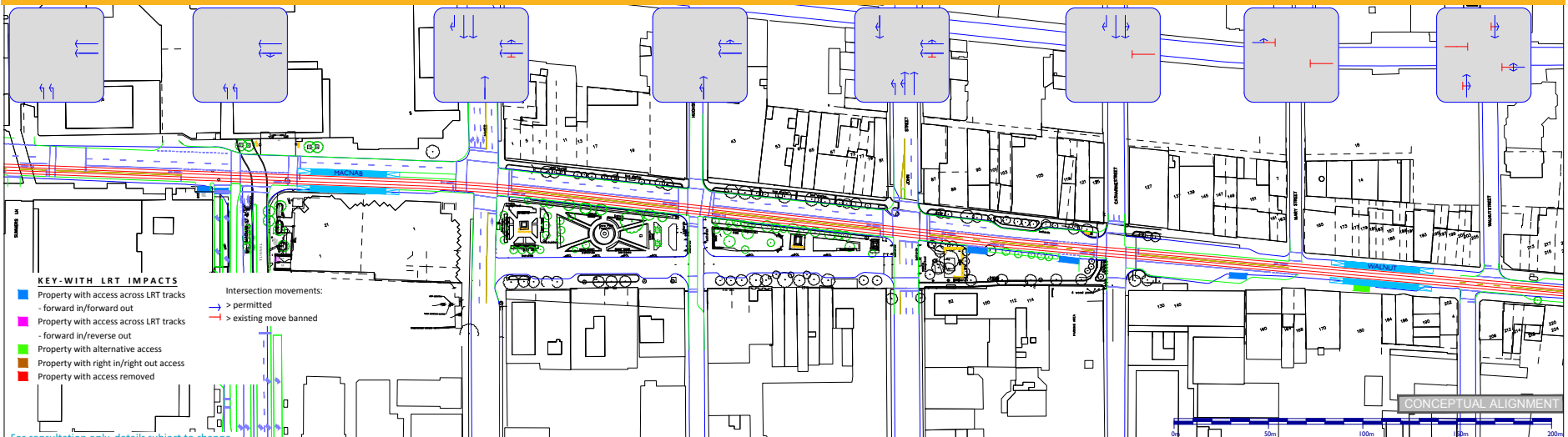
For consultation only, details subject to change

Gore Park

Existing Conditions

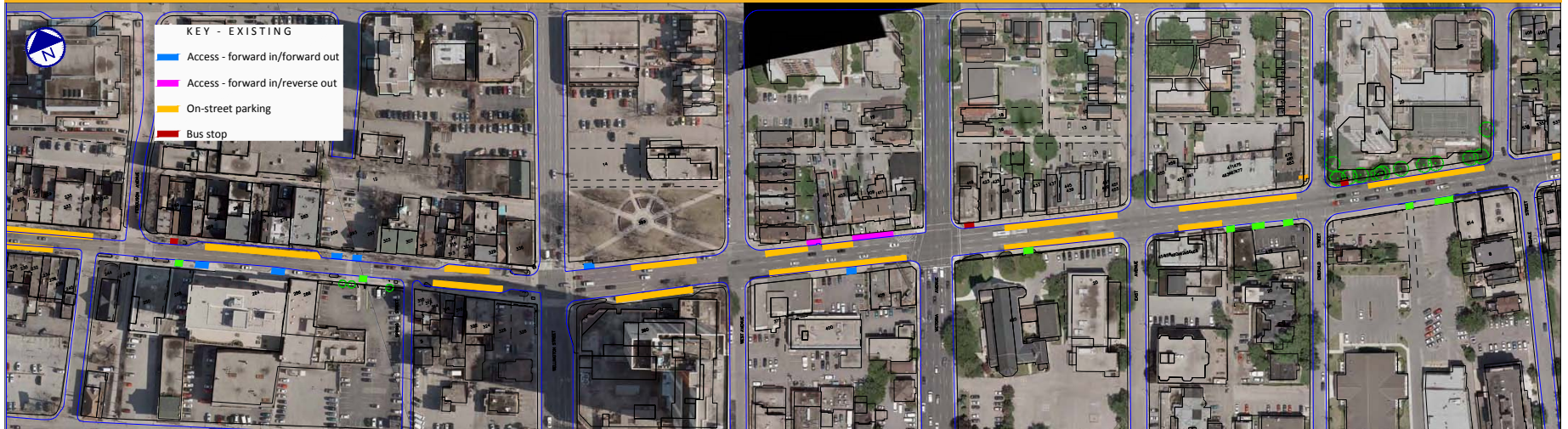


Proposed Layout with LRT

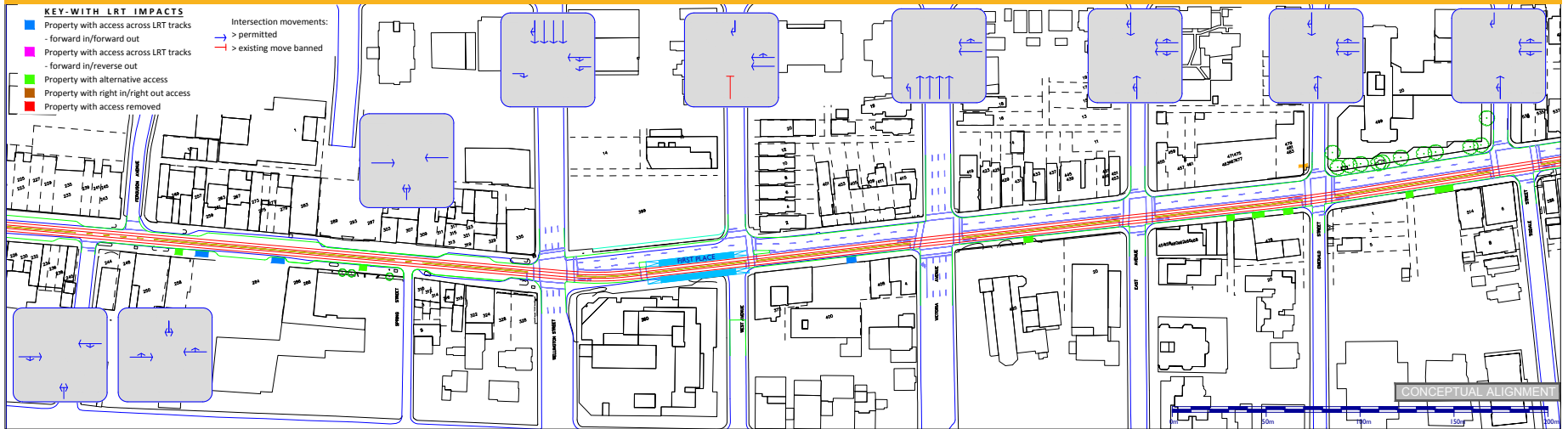


Wellington Street/Victoria Avenue

Existing Conditions



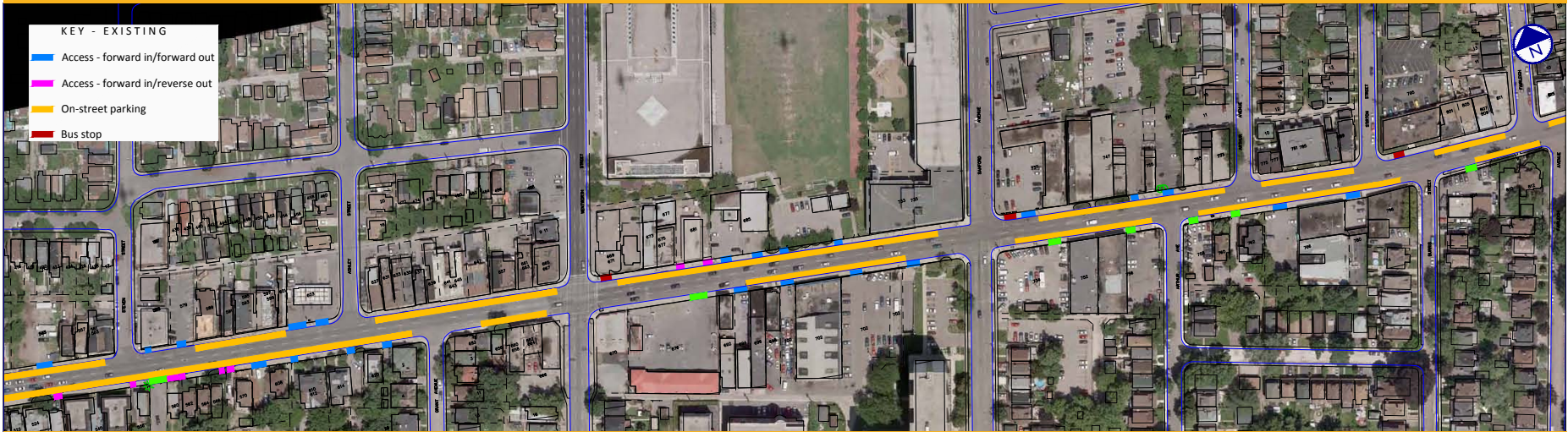
Proposed Layout with LRT



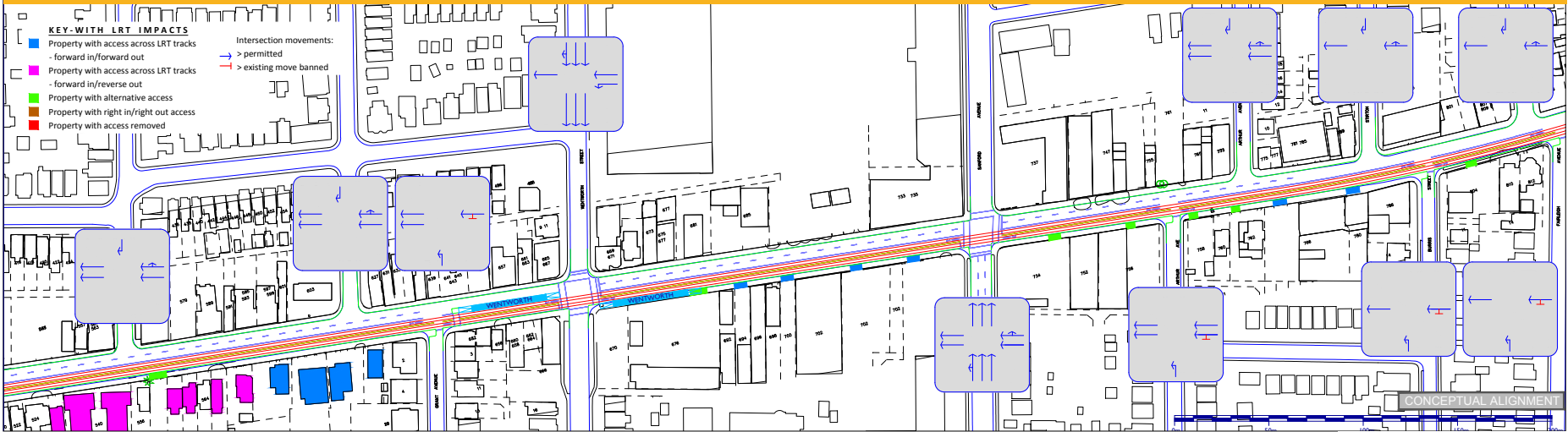
For consultation only, details subject to change

Wentworth Street

Existing Conditions



Proposed Layout with LRT



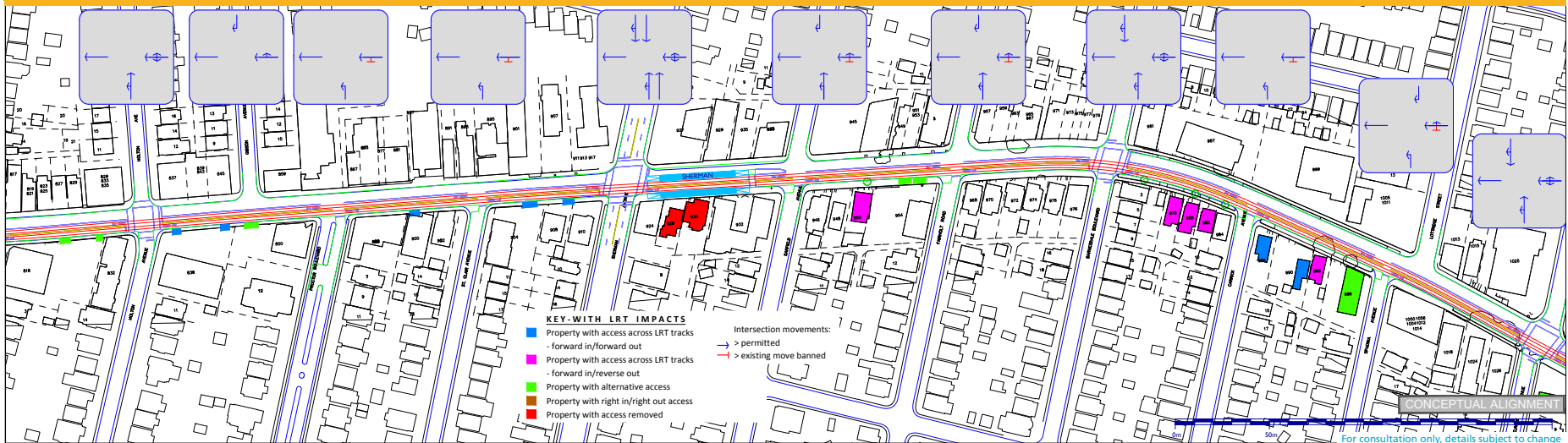
For consultation only, details subject to change

Sherman Avenue

Existing Conditions

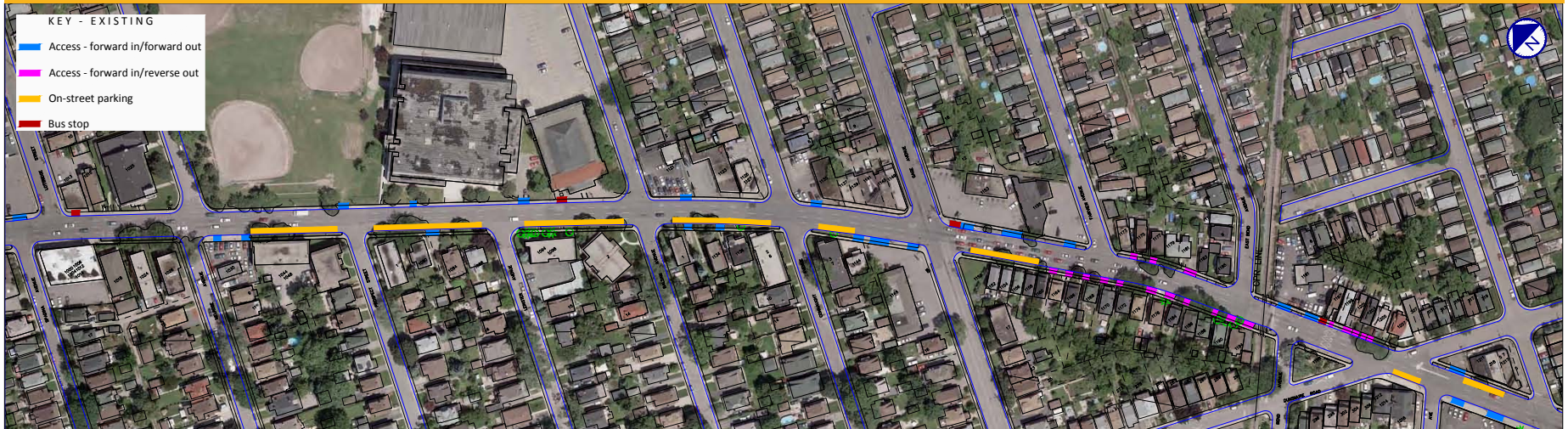


Proposed Layout with LRT

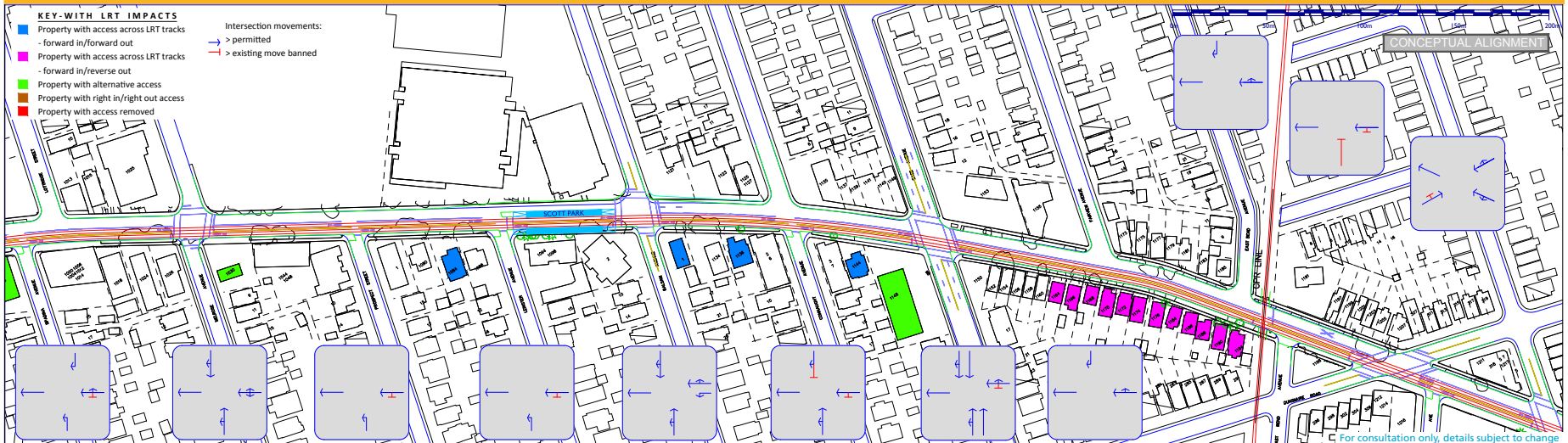


Scott Park/Gage Avenue

Existing Conditions

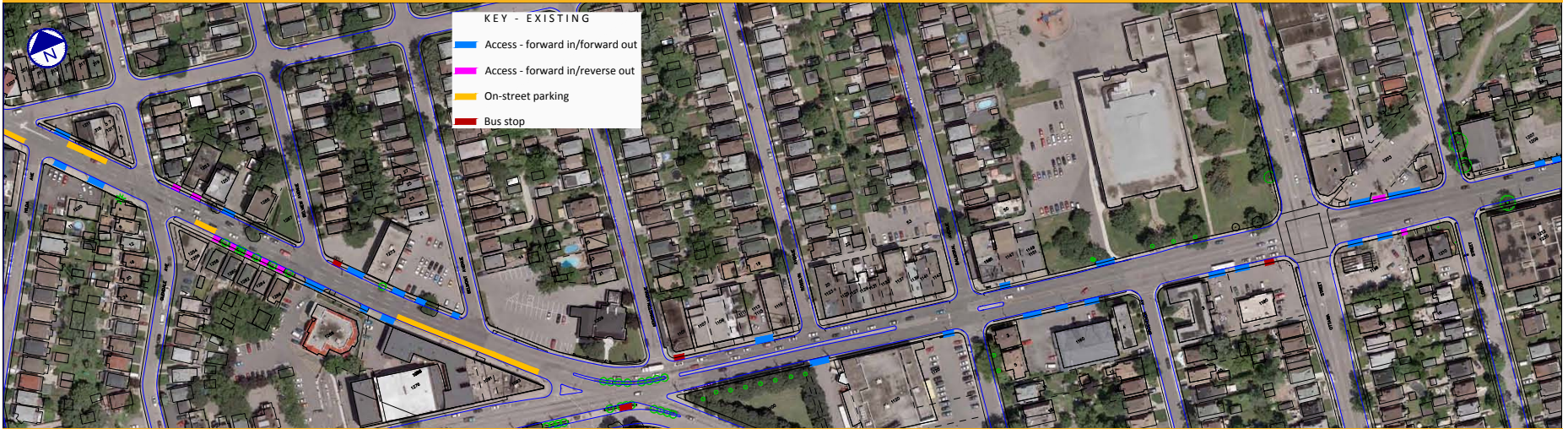


Proposed Layout with LRT

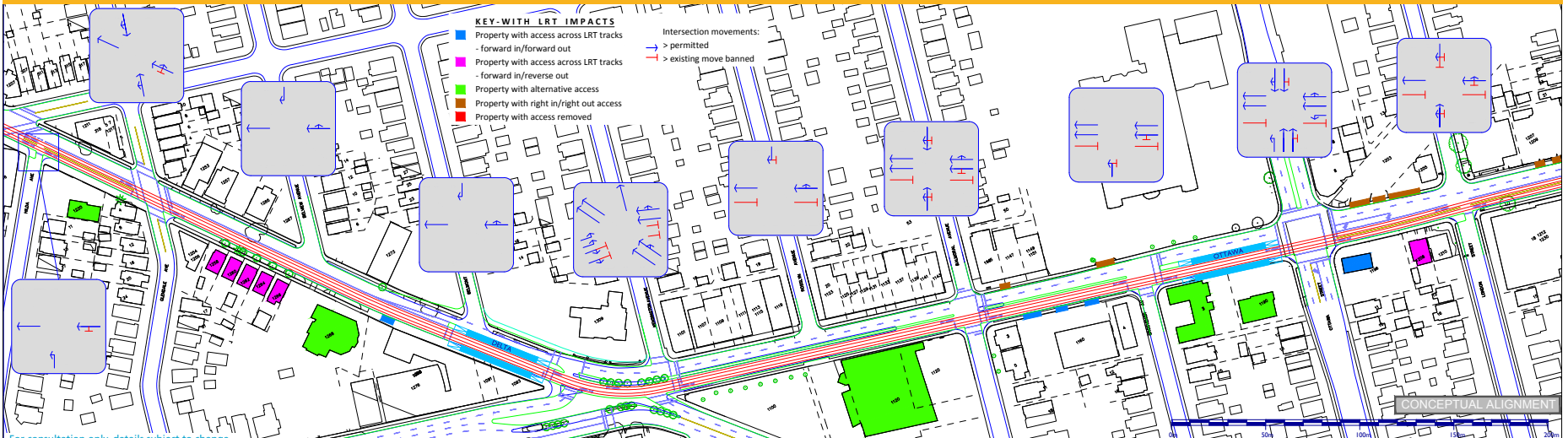


The Delta

Existing Conditions



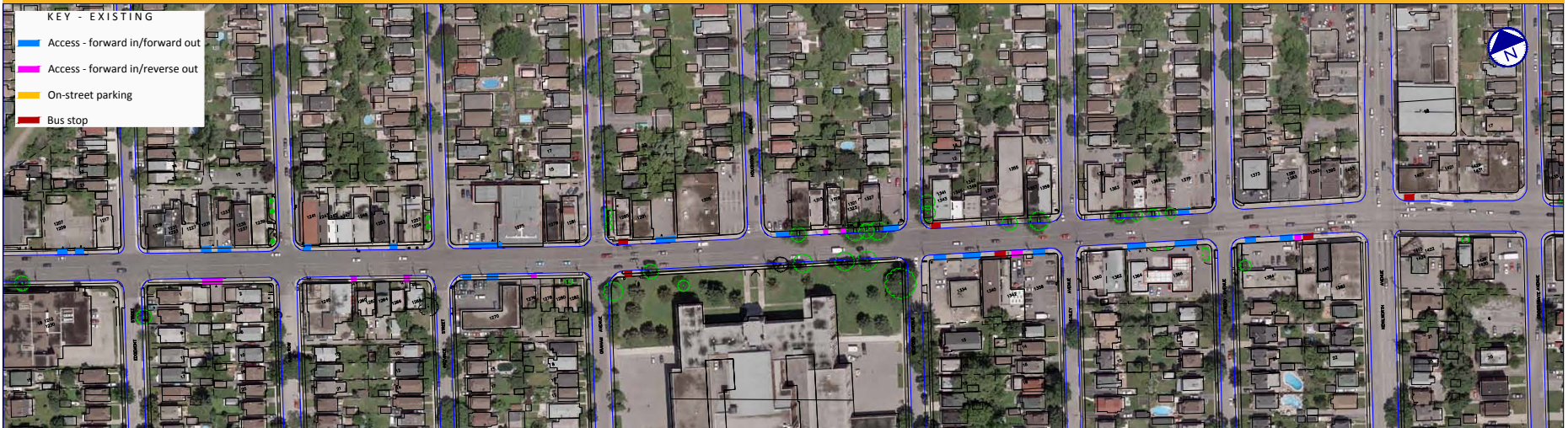
Proposed Layout with LRT



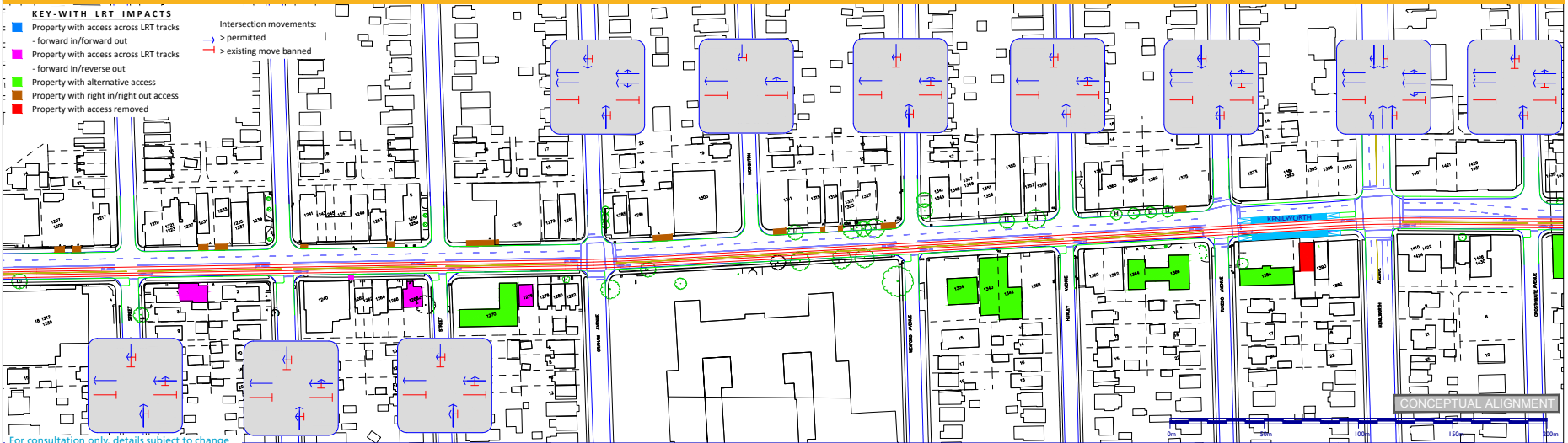
For consultation only, details subject to change

Kenilworth Avenue

Existing Conditions



Proposed Layout with LRT



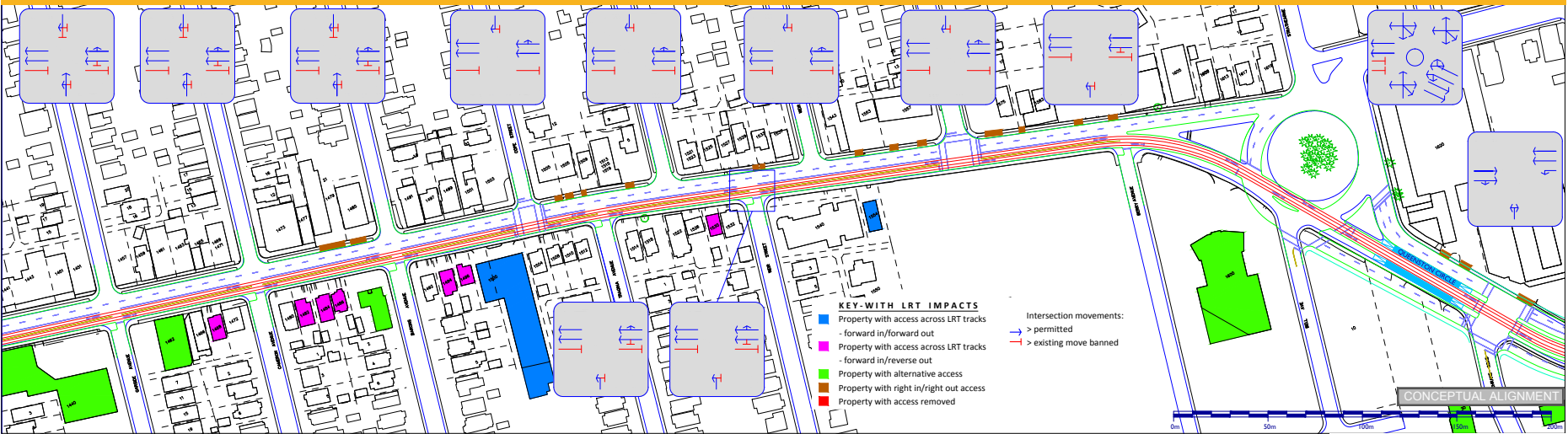
For consultation only, details subject to change

Queenston Traffic Circle

Existing Conditions



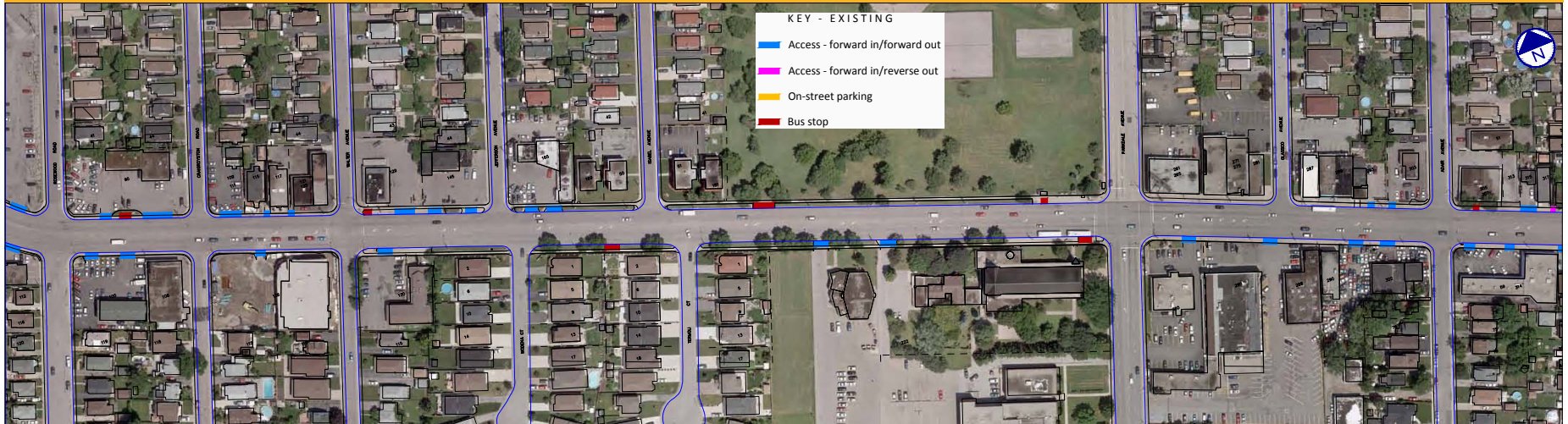
Proposed Layout with LRT



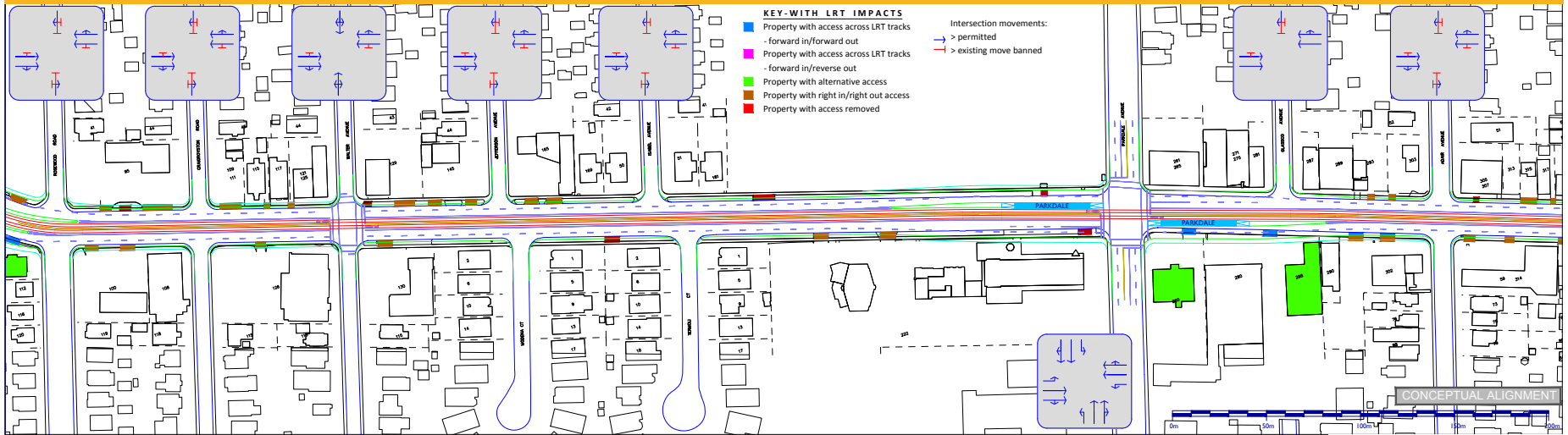
For consultation only, details subject to change

Parkdale Avenue

Existing Conditions



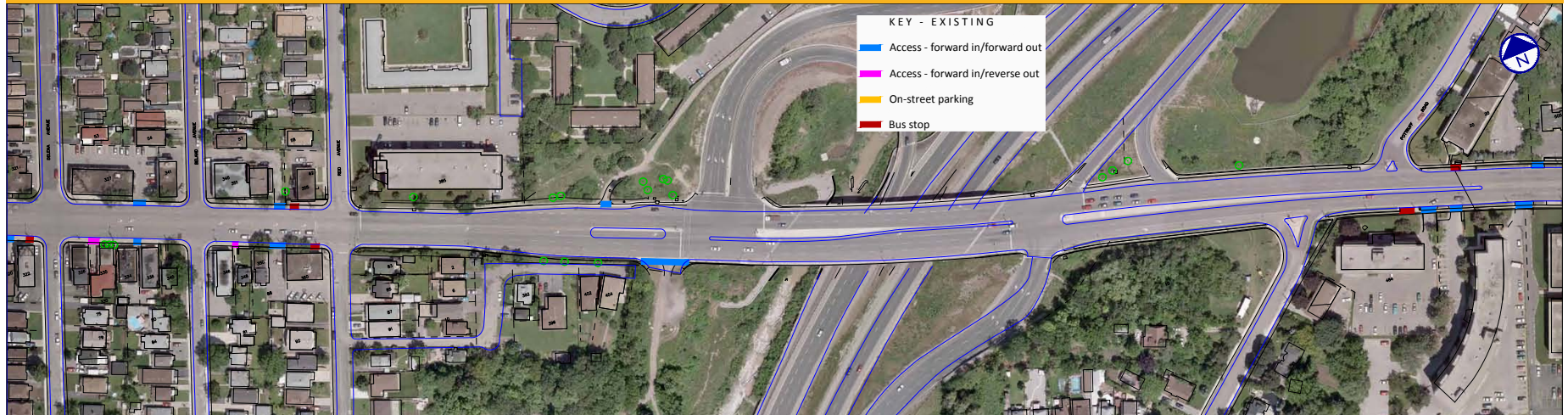
Proposed Layout with LRT



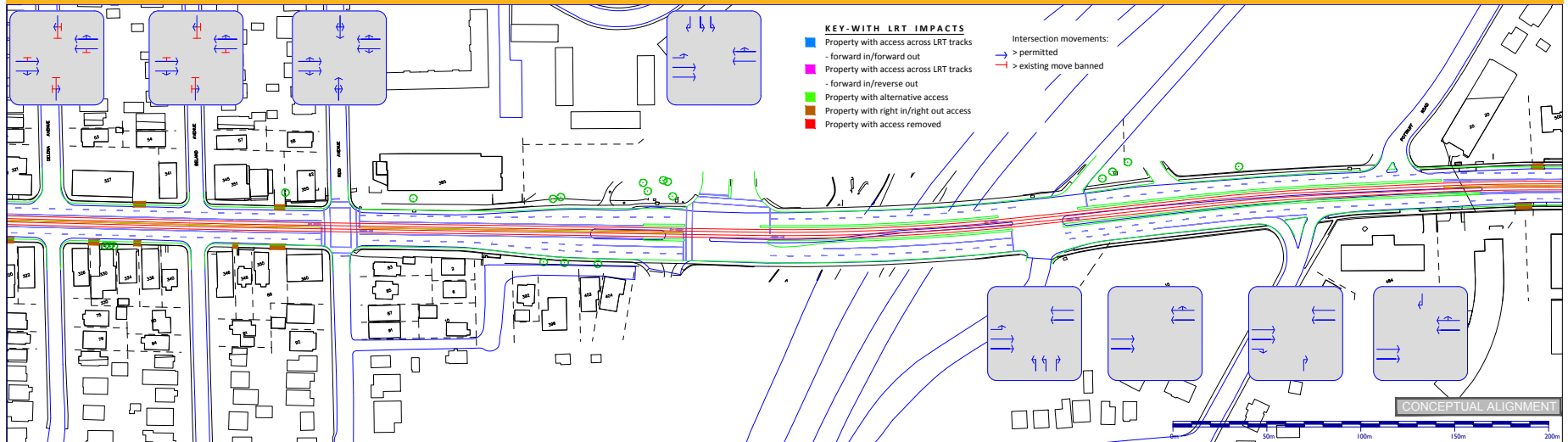
For consultation only, details subject to change

Red Hill Valley Parkway

Existing Conditions



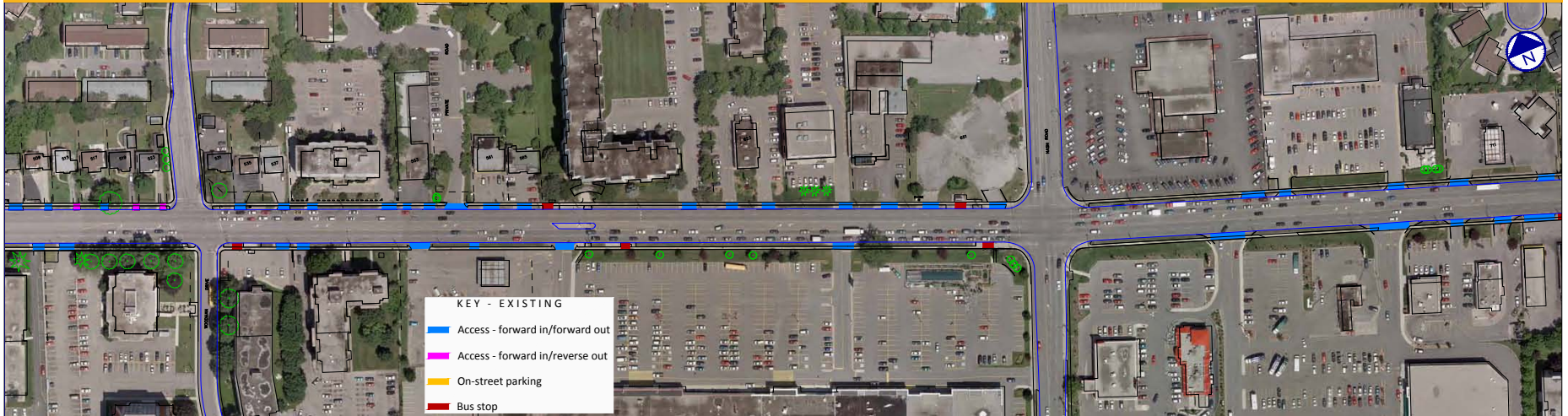
Proposed Layout with LRT



For consultation only, details subject to change

Nash Road

Existing Conditions



- KEY - EXISTING**
- Access - forward in/forward out
 - Access - forward in/reverse out
 - On-street parking
 - Bus stop

Proposed Layout with LRT



- KEY - WITH LRT IMPACTS**
- Property with access across LRT tracks - forward in/forward out
 - Property with access across LRT tracks - forward in/reverse out
 - Property with alternative access
 - Property with right in/right out access
 - Property with access removed
- Intersection movements:
- permitted
 - existing move banned

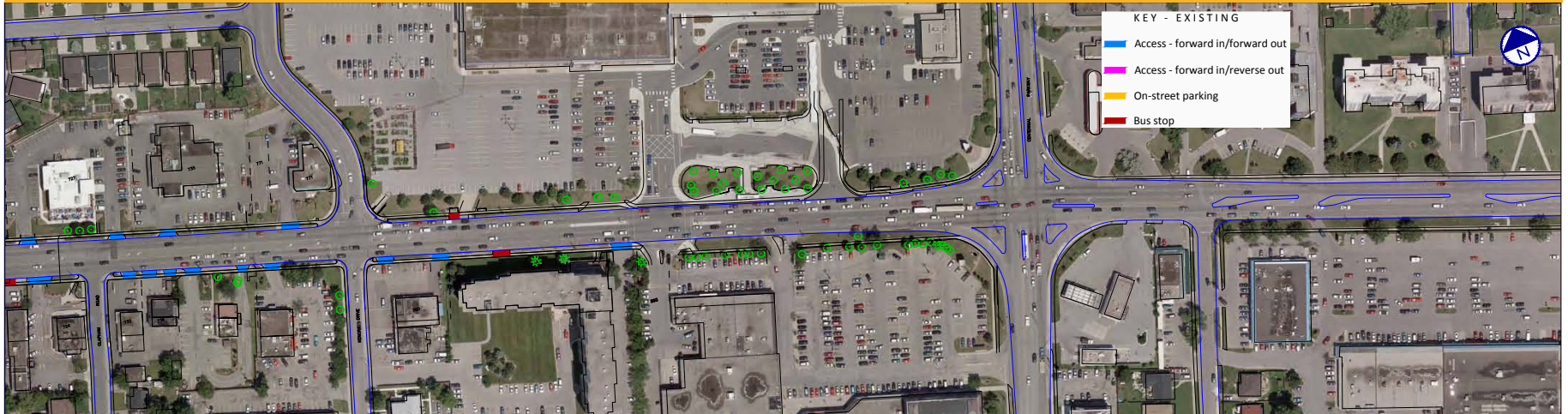
CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT

0m 50m 100m 150m 200m

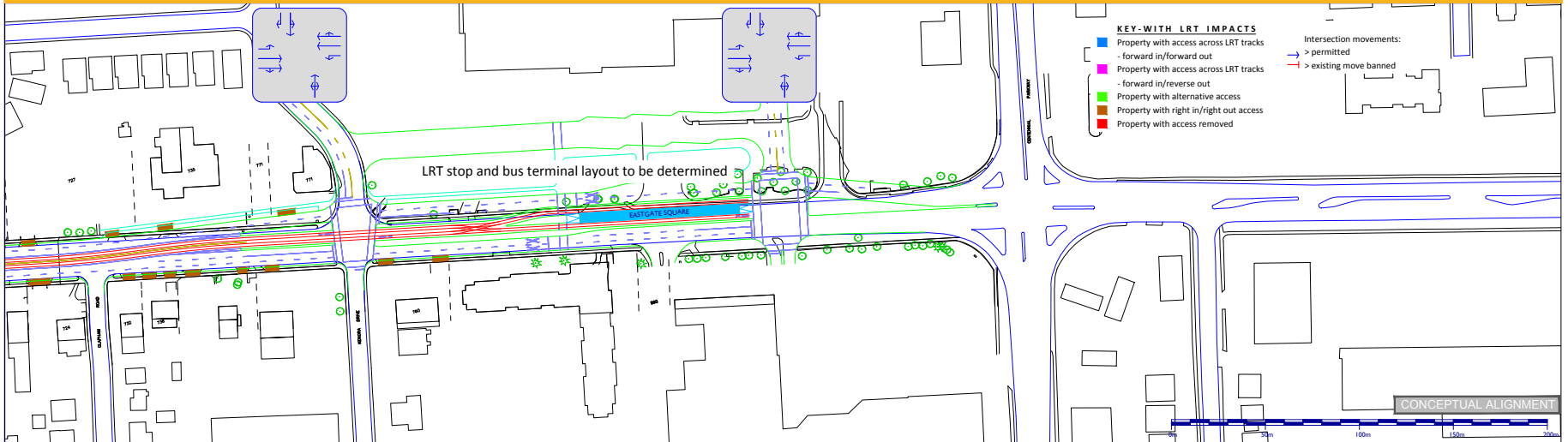
For consultation only, details subject to change

Eastgate Square

Existing Conditions



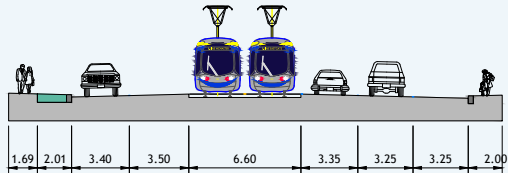
Proposed Layout with LRT



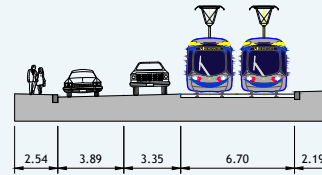
For consultation only, details subject to change

Typical cross sections

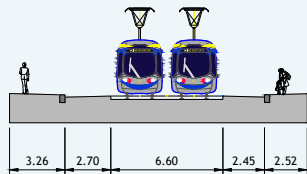
Main Street West east of Dow Avenue



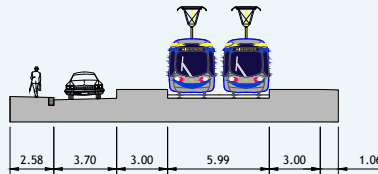
King Street West east of Locke Street



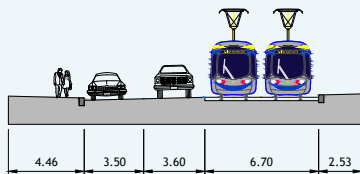
King Street East at International Village



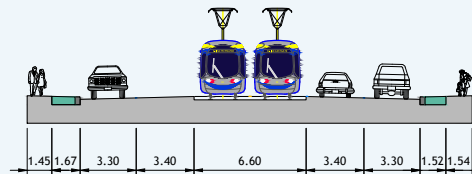
King Street East at Sherman Stop



Main Street East east of Wexford Avenue



Queenston Road east of Jefferson Avenue



All cross sections are taken looking east, widths shown are approximate and vary along the route



Hamilton Light Rail Initiative Public Comments

Produced by The Hamilton Light Rail Initiative

Nicholas Kevlahan

LRT has the potential to transform and revitalize Hamilton by attracting development, protecting the environment and improving the city's image nationally and internationally. Metrolinx and City staff have done numerous feasibility studies that have demonstrated the advantages of LRT over the alternatives. They have also engaged in unprecedented public consultation, and have documented overwhelming public support for the initiative. In 2007 the provincial government promised to build two LRT lines in Hamilton. This promise must be kept. The 30% engineering design and Environmental assessment is finished. Now is the time for the City and Province to work together to make LRT a reality in Hamilton!! believe LRT in Hamilton will have a positive impact on the urban development of our city's core. That benefits all of us, not just those of us living here. Certainly, there are costs involved but can we afford not to invest? Inaction also has consequences. Conversely, LRT could be a catalyst for positive social, environmental change. That's a sound investment. One long overdue.

Stephen Hayes

Please help move Hamilton forward. Rob Ford is wasting enough money trying to switch the Scarborough plan to a subway that could fully fund a LRT in Hamilton! You are the government of Ontario, not Toronto!

Hudah Azeez

I am a new resident of Hamilton I came from Toronto and I was pretty disappointed to know that there isn't a subway system like there is in Toronto considering the fact that I am student and my university is in Toronto. So hopefully the city does decide to build one while I am in Hamilton though I am sure by then I will have my own car.

Gordon Schilde

This started in 2007, to date NOT one thing has been done. Not even a shovel lifted to get started.

Unacceptable.

John Thompson

I fully support LRT for the B Line corridor, due to the advantages of a superior ride for passengers, operating and maintenance economies, and the potential to stimulate development. However I question why a line built entirely on city streets is budgetted at \$800 million.

Jason Leach

I live in Hamilton and am pleased to be raising my young family in the heart of the city. We've seen new vibrancy slowly return to our neighbourhood in recent years, but now is the time for the city and province to fully commit to propelling Hamilton forward as a successful, growing mid-size city with an unparalleled quality of life. Much has changed in our society in the past 50 years. Oil prices continue to rise and the next generation is in love with urban mobility options. Hamilton has trained many of the brightest minds on the planet in recent decades, but has seen far too many of them leave here upon completing their schooling. It's time to commit to LRT along Hamilton's East/West corridor.

Shiona Mackenzie

I spent a decade living and working in Asia, where the population densities of major cities are massive and where owning a vehicle is a costly luxury for individuals, as well as ecologically... Lesson learned: LRT is a superior choice for the long term, for the health and safety of all residents; for the environment; for economic success.

A bright future for Hamilton hinges upon light, rapid transformation. Tomorrow flows from today. Yes, LRT.

Sean Roberts

I see no reason not to do this.

Gord Stephan

I strongly urge the Ontario government to follow through on their commitment to bring light rail transit to Hamilton. This would be a large step in reducing gridlock, pollution and contribute to the economic well being of a city that has been majorly affected by the economic conditions of the past 20 years.

D. Malcolm Johnston

Saw your item in LRPPro blog and would like to recommend the Rail for the Valley Website and blog for further information.

Rail for the Valley engaged Leewood Projects of the UK to do a study, re: the return of the former BC electric Vancouver to Chilliwack interurban service, using tramtrain a variant of modern LRT.

The RftV blog also involves itself with LRT development in Vancouver as well and is constantly debunking the anti-LRT rhetoric.

<http://www.railforthevalley.com/>

<http://www.railforthevalley.com/blog/>

Kathy Drewitt

The Downtown Hamilton BIA is very supportive of the concept for LRT and will be making a submission to the GIC for October 13th.

Andrew Durman

We need a large capital project. LRT is it, the numbers from other cities don't lie. If we build it they will come. Push for it agree to it and you will see the developers come out of the wood work. Property values along the proposed route will climb as they are snatched up and flipped. The amount of secondary jobs and monies that will flow into Hamilton is the real long lasting reward. Don't let the Province off the hook take their check lets go buy some shovels. Mayor Bob and Mr Clark need to wake up before they are run out of town on a rail.

Brian Evans

LRT is not just a bigger bus to move poor people around town. Its the kind of higher order transit that gets people excited about their City. It gets people who otherwise wouldn't use public transit to reconsider how they commute to work or around town.

More importantly it sets the City on a path to capitalize on a future where the cost of owning and running a single car is all the typical family can handle. I don't foresee a future where my children each have their own car for driving around. My teenage children will have to share the family car and investments we make now in public transit will make it possible for my family to have reasonable transit opportunities in the future.

Matthew Green

I consider people, our most valuable asset and one only has to look to our congested streets and overrun buses of our current system to know it's failing. The movement and flow of people through the city of Hamilton will no doubt add to vitality, growth and prosperity of our community.

David Kuruc

Hamilton needs Light Rail. I can't think of another city project that could connect and unite so many people and neighbourhoods. Sustainable. Innovative. Forward thinking. It's about time we shifted Hamilton into the future.

Heidi VanderKwaak

Just spent 2 weeks in Portland Oregon with awesome transit and bike paths, lanes and trails. More people out of their cars and healthier than ever. Safe, efficient, economy boosting, convenient transit is what we need. No longer a subsidy for the poor but let's get everyone out of their cars more and develop our downtown instead of letting it lie in ruins.

Nick Warzin

Surface light rail is the connective tissue of a healthy city. This is demonstrably true in many European cities, in some American cities, and in nearby Toronto's downtown.

Many of those American cities that abandoned surface rail are researching its return. Surface rail is widely accepted as good city building. It raises values, it inspires new growth and development, and it makes areas far more inviting than similar networks of buses ever could.

Hamilton was built on its street railways. They were removed by Canada Coach Lines--a bus operator who purchased HSR--at the same time many streetcar networks across North America were removed. This was a self-serving business decision that had nothing to do with efficient people-moving or sound city building. See this Wikipedia article for details:

The Great American streetcar scandal: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_American_streetcar_scandal

Hamilton, like many American cities, lost its most efficient transit network most unfairly, and, some might say, many areas of Hamilton still have not recovered. Hamilton deserves better than this.

Hamilton has a tightly-knit urban core, and would benefit hugely from a surface rail network. McMaster would benefit with easier access to downtown, as well. This could be the turning point what many see as the continuing decline of Hamilton.

Please support a fixed rail transit network in Hamilton. In times of fiscal uncertainty, investment in infrastructure is one of the safest bets, and it would benefit the city immeasurably for decades to come.

Thank you.

James Scarfone

I support LRT for Hamilton. I want our city to take the next step in its development. We are so close and many would argue we are there. LRT will show our citizens we want a better future for Hamilton. LRT will prove to people and businesses considering a move that we care about the future of the city.

We care about being prepared for the flight back to urban cores. We care about attracting a youthful and educated workforce. We care about companies that want to be part of a city with a vision. We care about environmental sustainability by encouraging efficient public transit use.

LRT has proven to be a boon to cities everywhere. The evidence is overwhelming that it can transform an urban area and reduce sprawl. It encourages development and attracts a young, skilled and educated workforce. I am young, skilled and educated. Though I live here, I do not work here because the opportunity is not there. Yet. I aspire to work in my hometown.

We deserve LRT and the benefits it will bring. Why can't it work for Hamilton?

Matt Grande

Are we seriously still debating this? TWO feasibility studies, one municipal and one provincial, have shown that the B-Line can support, and NEEDS an LRT line. Let's get it done!

Kevin Miller

I think that Hamilton needs LRT. I live in the lower city and take the B-Line to work every day. LRT would provide the needed service improvements to make the trip more enjoyable. Also, I believe that LRT can be the catalyst for growth in downtown that this city needs.

Ryan Moran

The decision to champion LRT is one of the most important issues facing the current City Council. Here Council has a very real chance to not only make amends with mis-steps of the past, but to leave behind a legacy that can truly transform this city into the Hamilton that it can be.

Patrick Brennan

I recently invested \$\$\$\$\$\$ in commercial property on King Street West in Hamilton. I believe that light rail development will aid the redevelopment of neighbourhoods along the full route. In particular, the food/beverage and entertainment industries grow when transit is comfortable and available. I have visited many cities in Europe during their transition to light rail. In these cities I saw the quick redevelopment of neighbourhoods around the transit lines. So in the UK, Europe, and major cities in the US LRT projects started in the 1990's. It is time to get going in Hamilton!!!

Meredith Broughton

For Hamilton to continue moving forward, we need the efficiency and intensification this type of transit brings. This is a prerequisite for many types of growth here.

Adam King

An LRT network would be an immense improvement to the urban fabric and impression of social and economic vibrancy of Hamilton — both for those looking from the inside and outside. It's exactly the sort of thing needed to distinguish Hamilton as having shed its old, tired image and joined the modern world. LRT says this is a city that cares about innovation, quality of life, and urban vibrancy.

Jay Parlar

I believe LRT is the best chance our city has to create positive momentum. For too long, those in charge have been content with a slow decline of the city's core. LRT is a gamble, but if it pays off, it will rejuvenate the core, connecting the west-end and McMaster with

downtown. McMaster is the centre for innovation in Hamilton, and a dedicated transportation link to the school can only benefit the core.

Laura Cattari

Please make sure we proceed with LRT in Hamilton. The economic spin offs of this development will ensure intensification, sustainability and prosperity in Hamilton. Developers are waiting on it and the Hamilton Real Estate Board supports it fully. This project will generate much needed jobs in Hamilton as our unemployment rate drop is directly proportional to Ontario Works caseloads rising. Please do not let this project fall by the wayside, this is critical.

Catherine Cox

Having grown up in Grenoble, France, I witnessed how LRT can transform a city in just a few years, making it far easier to get around quickly and enhancing the city's atmosphere. I truly hope that Hamilton will be able to benefit from this modern form of transportation in the near future - please support LRT for our city!

Annette Toulouse

I am a transit operator for the Burlington system. I also travel a fair amount and rely on transit on vacation to get me where I need to go. In your presentation, we noticed that you have Zurich, Switzerland as one of your examples, and I've had the pleasure of riding that system multiple times. Most people rely on transit there, it is very quick and you can get from point A to point B quicker with transit than you can with your own car. If done properly, the system would get tons of cars off the road therefore saving on road repairs and also the pollution caused by idling cars especially in the downtown core. What would be very beneficial is to see a light rail system connecting Hamilton to Burlington and possibly further in the future. As I see it, it can not fail unless the fares are out of reach. If kept at a reasonable price for the passengers, they will take it.

East to West of Hamilton is a great start, but also look at the big picture and start connecting cities, tons of people commute, and our Highways and city streets are over crowded especially at rush hours.

Kathryn Wrong

Help Hamilton prepare for the future!

Ian Brisbin

I strongly believe that light rail is a truly transformative opportunity for the city of Hamilton, and for the entire Golden Horseshoe area. Given the transportation pressures that exist throughout southern Ontario, a viable, sustainable transportation alternative with mass appeal can only help to continue the momentum that is building in downtown Hamilton.

I fail to understand why all-day GO service, to move people in and out of Hamilton, should be given precedence over LRT which would serve to move people within the City, rather than each being considered to be complementary prongs of economic development planning.

I hope and trust that the key decision-makers at each level of government will give appropriate consideration to the benefits that are sure to flow to our City with the introduction of LRT, hopefully in time for the 2015 PanAm Games.

Hugh MacLeod

Dear leaders,

Hamilton was public promised a fully funded rapid transit system by a Premier and MPP during the throws of the last provincial election. Apparently we had to vote Liberal to keep this plan afloat, preventing the Conservatives from killing this billion dollar project. Now 4 years later it feels like Hamilton's Light Rail Transit has been shelved in manner that has the most horrible optics.

The illusion of a priority switch was created by our mayor's office. The unilateral decision to pursue all day GO (which we need), and dismiss Light Rail Transit (which we need even more) was made outside of the regular decision channels. At no time did my elected Councillor get to vote on the shelving of LRT. At no time was this highly advertised

change in course discussed by our elected council. Tragically this usurpation of process was endorsed by our Premier while an entire city, and elected council, ogled in shock.

Toronto is enjoying more than \$9 billion dollars in transit development from a shared pot while Hamilton has received NOTHING. All day GO is wonderful and fully supported but it represents a capital expense for Hamilton. The Metrolinx Light Rail Transit is more important and represents a billion dollar investment in Hamilton. All day GO is something attached to Light Rail Transit, there is no reason to pit one against the other.

So it appears that the Mayor's unilateral action, and the Premier's support of this action, is an engineered way for the province to escape from a fabulous promise. A fabulous promise that could transform our city. If our council rejects light rail that is fine. If there is no money for light rail that is fine, but less fine. But when light rail is shelved by the apparent collusion of our Mayor and Premier that is not fine. The fact that our Mayor is publicly standing with Liberal Candidates does not help this perception. The optics are very dark, if not completely opaque.

So to correct this I ask that our Premier, local MPPs, Mayor and councilors stand up for the promise made to an ailing city. If we our council rejects the committed investment, so be it. The way it is being handled now darkens everyone's view on the entire decision making process.

Hugh MacLeod, BPE, MD, CCFP
Owner The Staircase Cafe Theatre
Hamilton ON.

Brian Coleman

I rode the light rail tram in Paris and was extremely impressed. It would be a great thing to have.

Lavinia Welsh

LRT will give the University a fast method of transportation and provide the opportunity to further develop a downtown campus with quick links to the Westdale campus. LRT will also mean that students can live in areas of the city other than Westdale and still have easy access to campus. This would lessen the strain on the near campus neighbourhood. LRT has the potential to provide great benefit to redevelopment of downtown.

Kevin Hollingworth

Even though I live on the east mountain, the chances of me taking the LRT system is low. However, being a former downtown resident, I still fully support the initiative and would definitely support any tax increase directly associated with proposed rail line. I am a Civil Engineer working here in the City and fully understand the net benefit the system would have for the entire City of Hamilton, not just those properties along the proposed LRT alignment.

Sean Morrison

Light Rail Transit in Hamilton is vital to rebuilding the downtown area. Mass transit is important to provide a fast, effective means to bring people into the downtown area, there by stimulating stores to want to be downtown. As we have seen with so many other cities, a healthy downtown assists in revitalization. Hamilton needs light rail Transit!

Hamish Shea-Pelletier

Are we deadbeats or working for a better future ?I say, clean the air in this town and make it a livable city .LRT removes cars and buses (danger ,noise and pollution)from a pathway that can now be safe for young and old to cycle ,walk or skate on.In time, this can work as a signal to bring even more good people to call Hamilton home.

Marc Skulnick

I urge all levels of government to commit to funding and pursuing LRT for Hamilton. I support LRT for Hamilton 100% and urge city council to recognize the positive financial impact of LRT on the city. We cannot afford NOT to do this. Please bring LRT to Hamilton and help make the

city the centre of innovation, development and vibrancy it deserves to be. We're on the cusp of something special. Let's make it a reality. Thank you!

Jonathan Deveau

In 2010 I decided to move from a GTA suburb to a condo in downtown Hamilton. While there were several factors that influenced this decision, one main one was that I was encouraged by the direction that the city and province were taking in regards to sustainable transit planning and urban development in the core. At that time it seemed certain that Hamilton would have a functioning LRT system in time for the Pan Am games.

After the events of this summer, it's hard to be certain if I'll even still be living in this city by the time (if ever) we do get a sustainable, long term transit option. Certainly if I was considering buying property downtown now as opposed to in 2010, I would have a harder time convincing myself it's a good idea. There are many existing benefits to living in this city, and I won't regret my decision even if we never get an LRT line. But as an outsider looking in, it's difficult to want to invest somewhere where you can't trust the leadership. LRT was so heavily promoted by the mayor, council, and province previously, and now it seems like they may be trying to sabotage the project. How do you invest in a city with "potential" when the leadership is unable to complete the projects that give the city its potential in the first place?

Matt Jelly

We need clarity and assurance from both our Municipal and Provincial governments that this project is still a priority for Hamilton. I'm no fan of megaprojects that claim to transform the City over night- but this project will have true economic and transportational benefits to the City as a whole, and is exactly the kind of infrastructural investment Hamiltonians deserve. Build LRT NOW!

Paul Vicari

All day go is important but SHOULD NOT be considered more important than the LRT initiative. We must go ahead with this!!

Julie Gordon

Improved public transit is long overdue in Hamilton. We have been given an opportunity to bring LRT to our city, let's not waste it.

Michael Hampson

Always enjoyed light and rails

Nik Bennett

If it works in Manchester it will work again here in Hamilton

Darlene MacNeil

I would like (for once) to see the City of Hamilton actually follow through with something!!! Wouldn't it be nice to see some real progress instead of wasting our time and money on stupid debating that shows NO RESULT???

Clyde Cope

Light Rail is the vision for the future available NOW. The rejuvenation of our central core is dependent on it.

Brodie Chree

This happened to Hamilton already in the late 70s with another Rapid Transit bonus from the federal government that we stalled on. Vancouver actually had it's act together and built Sky Train with that bonus. Hamilton's council squandered the opportunity. I'm also highly disappointed in Mayor Bob Bratina and Hamilton City Manager Chris Murray for their anti-democratic Father-Knows-Best approach to this issue that is close to MANY citizens. That's not how we run a government in 21st century. It wasn't acceptable last century.

Seema Narula

I have already voiced my opinion with both the mayor and my city counsellor. I believe that light rail transit will do wonders to revitalize the downtown core, and to bring business back to the community. It will increase pedestrian traffic, and attract people who want to live in urban centres without having to have a car. People who live in Hamilton, will be able to move across the city with greater ease, and

it will give those people that do drive a car another option to leave their cars at home, reducing car congestion on streets and reducing carbon pollution. There is already the population and ridership to support LRT. By having LRT in Hamilton this will put Hamilton on a competitive playing field with regards to other developing and growing cities and communities like Kitchener Waterloo, who are getting LRT, and who will be attracting competing business investment and potential new residents, who are moving from Toronto in search of cities that are more affordable but that still enable the convenience and lifestyle of urban living.

Susan Edwards

Clean and green - enhances the environment - no emissions at street level

Safe - many times safer than car travel

Speedy - short journey times

Avoids traffic congestion - through segregation and priority

Smooth - no violent movements vertically, laterally, or backwards/ forwards

Comfortable

Compatible with pedestrians in pedestrianized areas

Civilizing - a city transported by light rail is a more human, more livable place

Acceptable and accepted - only rail borne modes can in practice get people out of cars

Re-assuring - tram lines give confidence that service operates

High capacity - only heavy metros have higher carrying capacity

Affordable - the cheapest and best value form of quality mass transit

Reliable - can keep going when snow or ice defeats road vehicles

Versatile - can run at high speeds on segregated way and can penetrate narrow historic centres

Adaptable - can cope with steep gradients and tight curves

Inspiring - modern light rail can be aesthetically breath-taking

Space age technology based on sound foundations and experience of 100 years. Why is this even being questioned? Source: <http://www.lrta.org>

Graeme Luke

Light rail should be Hamilton's top priority. The 50,000 people who came to Supercrawl show the support for the urban environment. Light rail will take Hamilton to the next level.

Do the right thing.

Calla Shea-Pelletier

The environment is the economy. The LRT will be a great stimulus for Hamilton on many levels.

Joey Mleczo

A city needs to be able to offer its citizens access to the outer and inner regions. Most importantly, the city needs to keep up to date with technology and this is the perfect chance.

Terris Taylor

Please make this a reality, I really do not want to read back in 20 years at the missed opportunity that we had before us. This is one of those ideas that is so good, and needs to happen so badly, that it's a mystery that it hasn't happened yet. Seriously, let's do this already.

Tanya Ritchie

Public transit, specifically LRT is imperative in any large city and Hamilton is no exception. It is ridiculous that we have gone so long without it, and that feet are still being dragged is a disgrace. It's way past time. Hamilton needs infrastructure if it is going to develop and improve its rather depressed reputation.

Brian Hamilton

Let's get this done. Build it, and they will use it. Face it: reducing car dependency is the way to go.

Sheri Vandenakker

This idea is fantastic and I support it 100%.

Laura Reid

Please stop the insane Hamilton tradition of shooting ourselves in the foot! We need growth! Stop dilly dallying and debating our progress to death!

Nicola Whipp

If Hamilton wants to revitalize the downtown core, be prepared for the already predicted massive influx of ppl immigrating to the Golden Horseshoe Area next decade (data already available) despite whatever the spin the mayor is attempting to put on it... & to help assist bringing the city & its image back* & beyond its past glory days - this is a no brainer. Not to mention the already spent funding \$\$\$'s on past feasibility research on the issue. The research is done - this is just a stalling tactic obviously. That & on a side note to bring the Festival of Friends back to its proper home e- downtown (I know not issue being addressed here)- but it's all part of a much bigger picture.

Steve Newberry

This is a unique opportunity, Hamilton is at the crossroads here. If we wait too long to build LRT, it will become harder and harder to do it. Look at how Toronto is fighting to build LRT now... then look at their gridlock! Hamilton is growing, and we can't continue to support car-first infrastructure only. Build it now, and we won't regret it!

David Cohen

The LRT will make public transit not only respectable in Hamilton but desirable. We should embrace it. A city that depends on the automobile for the vast majority of its citizens' trips (as Hamilton does) is not a real metropolis. It is an oversized suburb. We should not "wait" for the LRT. The city should be making significant infrastructure changes NOW. One such change would be to re-convert major one-way throughfares (King, Main, Cannon) to two-way to facilitate greater circulation in the city. (One-ways are a 1950's solution to traffic congestion, which is when they were introduced in Hamilton.) Such a change would speed up the creation of the conditions for re-development at important intersections (eg. Dundurn and King, Main and Longwood, etc.) envisioned once the LRT is implemented.

Paul Elia

PLEASE make this happen in Hamilton. It is really needed to attract more people to move in to our amazing city!

Liam MacLeod

LRT all the way.

Kevin Davies

Efficient, useful and affordable public transit can only help the citizenry of a city; from the disadvantaged to the affluent. Fewer cars on the road and easier/more commutes for 1000s of Hamiltonians - sounds like a winning idea to me!

Greg Gormick

This is a classic case of divide and conquer by Premier Dalton McGuinty and his lapdog agency, Metrolinx. How sad that certain Hamilton politicians have taken the bait. The question is not whether Ontario can afford to provide Hamilton with all-day GO rail service or an LRT starter line. It is whether we can afford to not provide both. They are equally urgent and important. The longer the politicians and their bureaucrats play games like this, the longer it will take to bring about the full revival of a socially vibrant and economically sustainable Hamilton. Shame on those who are playing games with something as vital as our public transportation system. They are tampering with the future of Hamilton.

Karijn de Jong

We Need LRT!!!

As a lifetime resident of Hamilton and user of public transportation, and knowing about the success stories to be found in other cities across the world, I believe that it is imperative for the city of Hamilton to construct and promote the use of LRT. Period. It would be ludicrous to miss this opportunity to put us on the map as a progressive, functional, conscientious place to live, play and work. We Need LRT!!!

Allan Hamilton

I have lived below the escarpment for the past 21 years. My wife and I moved to the mountain only five months ago but much of my life; work and play, will continue to be significantly connected to Hamilton neighbourhoods below the escarpment; the areas where I'm sure the LRT stands to have the greatest positive impact.

Everyday, I am inspired by this amazing (and under appreciated) city (please don't forget that much of the early growth of Canada is a direct result of this city and its forbearers being here) yet reminded of just how much opportunity and growth; for the masses, is still desperately needed. Hamilton has long been left in a state of needing every vital opportunity to modernize and advance with the rest of the country that seems; unless I'm terribly mistaken, to have forgotten the history and true value that remains here. The people of this city still need and want to contribute to this nation's growth, just as much as they need and want to boost their own. All the reports already exist to show that the LRT is an absolute necessity for this city and the GTA. For our elected officials to suddenly say that the LRT is no longer a priority without breaking down every honest reason why, in plain language, is actually quite heartbreaking to all of us citizens (a majority to my understanding) who can hardly wait to see this project get off the ground for a better future (for themselves and the succeeding generations).

We know that it will be costly. No one understands the burden of high price better than the average Hamiltonian, especially since the global recession took hold in 2008. We are still committed to the LRT project, nevertheless. How can that not count for something?

Ann Prowse

I think it's time for our "illustrious mayor" to do what IS in the best interest of the metropolitan area of the city of Hamilton, and NOT PUSH his OWN agenda, or what he THINKS is in the best interest of the same.

Robin Zilberg

I think this would be a wonderful idea and i would love to see this happen.

Chris Smale

Light Rail Transit would do so much for the city of Hamilton. The downtown core of Hamilton has so much potential and LRT would drive such great benefit towards the redefinition of Hamilton's character that is so needed. The case has been made time and again for what LRT does to a city's economy, tourism industry and environment.

Having moved here from Toronto, this is one of the things I miss most. I love the streetcars of Toronto and I think this is true of the residents of most cities with rail transit.

Sarah Merritt

Safe for the environment, people friendly. I think we should get ur done.

John Llewellyn

I hope our city fathers don't fumble the ball on this one!
Someone please show some real leadership!

Mike Belmore

As someone who has to commute to Toronto most days, I'm looking forward to extended GO service. Keeps my car off the QEW which is good for the environment, reduces gridlock and helps maintain my sanity.

As someone who grew up in East end and now lives in the Western reaches of Hamilton, it's just as important, for the same reasons, that LRT ties our city together.

Even more than that though, we must realize this choice is not just about sustainable mass transit. It's fundamentally about what we, as Hamiltonians, want our city to be. Do we want to be just another

bedroom community of Toronto, the new cheap real estate rump of the GTA? All day GO, without LRT, is a major step in that direction.

We need thoughtful and far-sighted urban planning, much of which hinges on good public transit, to help attract good jobs and provide home grown opportunities our city. This is essential if we want to continue build Hamilton as a place to live and work in it's own right, a place with its own unique identity and purpose.

Reject the false choice between all day GO and LRT. We can and should do both. But make no mistake, if we still want to proudly be "The Hammer" twenty years from now, what we do to build our own city is more important than what we do to connect it to Toronto.

Carolyn Kindly

I live in Westdale. LRT would be a boon to reduce car traffic to McMaster and through Westdale. It would make it easier for students to live in other parts of the city and commute, relieving pressure on single family homes near the university. LRT would make public transit more appealing to me than driving my car to go downtown or to the east end--a smooth, effortless ride. LRT is also quieter than buses, and Hamilton would benefit from less noise pollution.

Gordon Leverton

I absolutely support light rail in Hamilton - it's time to grow up and become a real city!

Michael Nabert

LRT is a wise choice for Hamilton and will provide us with a necessary element to our future success. With the age of peak oil upon us, effective transit systems become not only a useful tool for poorer members of an urban environment, but crucial for citizens in all walks of life. Please give this vital proposal its due attention, and move forward with a Hamilton LRT as rapidly as possible.

Michael St.Jean

I fully support LRT for Hamilton.

Robin St.jean

I fully support LRT in Hamilton.

Sevhra Reda

I fully support the LRT transit system in Hamilton. We need this for the future of our city.

Teresa St.Jean

We need LRT for Hamilton.

Alexis Fletcher

Let's move forward and make Hamilton great. We are sick and tired of our governments inefficiencies. It's time to actually DO something.

Justin Nusca

I fully support the LRT transit system in Hamilton. We need this for the future of our city.

We need thoughtful and progressive urban planning. Speaking as a McMaster student, LRT would reduce car traffic in student-heavy areas such as Westdale, and allow us to commute more easily from longer distances, thereby encouraging students to foster relationships and connections with larger swaths of the city.

Justin Wood

A big step forward for the city! Let's do this Hamilton.

Al Horzelenberg

All day GO is only as good as the systems that feed it. Unless ample parking at affordable prices is made available, the only real viable option would be to feed the GO system with a readily accessible Light Rapid Rail/Bus service. What is needed is an all-encompassing system (HUB) that utilizes Bus, Rail, Cycling' and Taxi with shuttles to parking or major transportation centers. Think of the WHOLE picture!

Michael Johnston

Please follow through with your commitment to the people of Hamilton to implement LRT.

The studies have been conducted, the results state clear benefits and design work has already begun. This has cost the Province \$3 Million and the Municipality countless worker hours, why squander it now?

All that remains is that you, our elected officials honour your promises for support and continued funding.

Giulio Amodeo

Hamilton has already lost out in having the stadium be a catalyst for city building and we are on the verge of blowing it with the LRT. Leaders need to make decisions that will benefit the City over the long term. I have lived in Toronto and have moved back to Hamilton because of the potential that this city has.

As a leader, if you cannot make the right, riskier decisions, then move aside and let someone else!!!

Anthony Panecasio

The HSR buses are getting busier and busier every passing year. Sometimes they never show up, other times they're late, and sometimes they drive right past because they're completely full.

Light Rail sounds like a much more reliable and environmentally-friendly alternative to the bus.

Fatema Hoque

As a McMaster student, I know how important it is to have reliable transportation around the city, especially in the winter.

Steve Mac Intyre

LRT will secure Hamilton's business endeavours in the following years. To pass up on this opportunity is something that future Hamiltonians will live to regret.

Ed Clayton

Great things are happening in Hamilton. We are finally stepping up and showing ourselves to be a truly world class city. We cannot shrink from this LRT initiative. The benefits of LRT are well known and have been clearly shown in a number of similar cities that have implemented LRT. This project is exactly what Hamilton needs as we continue to revitalize our downtown core, and encourage the ongoing development that will showcase Hamilton as the future friendly, forward thinking city it is poised to become. We have the need. We have the opportunity. Hamilton, it's time we stepped up.

Denise Hager

To me, all day Go service is not as high a priority as LRT. I don't commute to Toronto, however I do commute within Hamilton. It appears that all day Go service is a priority because of the PanAm games. I am angry that the support for LRT was just dropped, seemingly from out of the blue, and too much money is being targeted toward the PanAm games.

I don't recall disagreeing more adamantly with any Mayor at any time than I do right now with Mayor Bratina.

Christopher Krnezich

We can't afford NOT to do this.

Damian Orzel

I fully support LRT and really hope Hamilton makes this a priority. It will undeniably help in the revitalization of the downtown core!

Haider Alkayat

The current bus system cannot handle our transit requirements. It shouldn't take me one hour to get to McMaster University from within Hamilton.

Esther Lockhart

Reliable and efficient transportation is a plus for every community. It's better for businesses and better for the environment.

Jason Marmorean

I think it is high time Hamilton discovered a way to distribute the wealth across this city and I believe LRT is a great tool to help us accomplish this.

Look at Stoney Creek before and after the Red Hill. I believe they are a really good example that good infrastructure can pave the way for greater growth. If we want to build up our downtown, give people an easy way to travel across it. Just look how difficult it is to park. I think the lack of access to many downtown locations is a real deterrent for business.

Michael Sak

I guarantee, if LRT ever comes to fruition, I will most certainly invest in living somewhere in the core along the B-line. As an east mountain resident, hoping to move to my own place within the next year, LRT is one of the main reasons why I would ever stay in Hamilton.

This has been one of Hamilton's great planning projects within recent memory. To suddenly give up on LRT due to political inaction, is a step in the worse possible direction. It could be worse than the planning mishaps of the 70s and 80s (urban renewal anyone?/Jackson Square)

And then Hamilton will truly be the laughing stock of Southern Ontario (as Toronto slowly eats us up into the GTA)

Tianna Leclair

I feel LRT is something that is needed for our growing city. We are way behind the rest of the world in transit and taking almost an hour to get somewhere in our busy lives is rather inconvenient.

Tom Whattam

The government must keep their word and finally create some jobs in this city.

Catherine Burden

I completely support LRT for Hamilton.

Laura Farr

Having LRT lines in Hamilton would benefit everyone, update our inefficient transportation infrastructure, and in the long run, save the city money.

The economic spinoffs other cities such as Los Angeles, Portland, Washington DC, Charlotte, Denver and even Toronto have proven that more investment, building, and intensification happen along these lines, with a benefit to all socio-economic stratas.

For Hamilton to lose this opportunity would be regressive and make people that are finally noticing how great a city this is to think twice.

Robert Drake

This city was excited and on-track for LRT three years ago. While we've moved forward with feasibility studies and environmental assessments, we've moved backwards with our council and provincial support. Let's pressure both sides to get back "on track".

Tom Shea

I have lived in Hamilton my entire life. I have watched cars pull the city farther and farther apart until the central core collapsed. I believe LRT is the future of transportation in a sustainable, sensible, and environmentally sound city. And I want Hamilton to be that city--my city, my children's city. Do the right thing!

Duncan O'Dell

Dear Mayor and City of Hamilton Councillors, I respectfully request you proceed with the LRT project. I firmly believe this project has the power to transform Hamilton, a proud city of over 500,000 with huge potential that lies on the vital commercial corridor between Toronto and the USA into the modern and innovative city it could be.

One of Hamilton's biggest barriers to re-generation and development is its depressed downtown core: the centre includes a strip club, a depressing bingo hall, and boarded up buildings all of which which tell an appalling story of neglect and lack of vision by those in power.

Light Rail has been well documented to act as a lightening rod to draw in investment elsewhere. We badly need it here.

This is a truly exciting opportunity, the like of which rarely comes along. I for one believe that a modest hike in taxes is well worth it for turning our city into a place people want to live and work in.

Graham Crawford

Nothing big every came from thinking small. Except small, of course. Hamilton, and its citizens, used to think big and implement big. It was part of who we were. Of how we saw ourselves and how we saw our collective future.

LRT is one of those "think big" projects. We can see it. We can see ourselves using it. We can see the impact it will have on our city and on our citizens.

I support LRT not only because of what it is, but also because of what it means. It's an investment that will change the way we move within our city and the way we develop across our city. It's people-oriented and it's development-friendly.

Let's finish the work already begun that reflects the input of so many citizens and professionals. Let's tell every leader at every level of government that this is what we want. That this is what we expect. And let's keep telling them until LRT exists not only on paper, but on our streets.

John Sweeney

LRT is needed to invigorate and renew the city's core. Healthy cities must maintain a balanced mix of both residential and commercial properties to remain viable. Car culture is rooted in 20th century thinking and urban sprawl is not a practical or sustainable for cities, which are increasingly becoming independent from higher tiers of government for their own well being. LRT can attract business and residents alike, which would increase urban overall tax revenues, in the years ahead.

Mark Figliola

I moved to Hamilton from Vancouver last year. In Vancouver they have an LRT system called the sky train. This was offered first to Hamilton free of charge in the '80s and with their usual foresight they turned it down. Don't blow it again!!!!

Jennifer Hennigar-Shuh

I strongly reaffirm my belief that the LRT is absolutely the right direction for Hamilton to go to the new mayor and city council.

Hamilton is a large city but with inadequate, inefficient, and inconvenient public transportation which forces people to drive to get around.

As a resident of Hamilton for more than two decades, but who has lived in other large cities, I am frustrated by how difficult it is for me to commute to work using public transportation. Because of this difficulty it takes me an inordinate amount of time getting to and from work.

I have tried to avoid using a car for commuting and have done so successfully for years by cycling and walking and taking the bus but the truth is that the inefficiency in the public transportation is waring me down. There are many things that are not practical to do by bicycle and walking (often I walk because the bus routes are not well designed and too much transferring and back tracking is required). I am almost ready to throw in the towel and start driving because my travel time commuting is so long it means that I have little time to take care of things at home.

I am also frustrated by how difficult it is to enjoy the culture, green spaces, museums and other wonderful things that Hamilton has to offer because of the lack of good public transportation. It is nice that the mayor wants to improve GO service in and out of the city but I would like to be able to more fully enjoy being in my own city and that can only help our economy.

The LRT would make us a city that is greener, innovative and forward thinking, and one that supports its local economy and culture instead of taking everyone efficiently somewhere else.

Hamilton needs the LRT system to help bring together the various areas of the city, offer people practical alternatives to driving and make Hamilton a city that is enjoyable to live, work, and get around in.

I ask the mayor and city council, the premiere, and our MPP, and MP, to put the LRT back on Hamilton's priority list once again.

René Mélancon

This would add a new and interesting twist to Hamilton! Would like so see this in service next time I visit there! Who is the prospective Manufacturer of the LRT trains? Bombardier I hope!

Michelle Martin

Please make Hamilton more are more liveable, sustainable community - a better place to live, work and raise a family by committing to light rail transit.

Mary Koziol

I firmly support bringing LRT to Hamilton. If we want to move forward with the sustainable, economically strong and people-centred Hamilton of which we dream, LRT is a must.

I recently graduated from McMaster University and decided to stay here and work because I love Hamilton. The decision regarding LRT will weigh heavily on whether I choose to stay here long term or not.

Sophie Roher

This project will have economic, environmental, and social benefits to Hamilton. I know that with the LRT, I would be more inclined to travel to the city centre and explore the amazing things that Hamilton has to offer. Make LRT a top priority for completion!

Andrew Richardson

LRT is an absolute necessity not only for the continued growth of Hamilton, but also for the sake of improving accessibility throughout the city.

As a former Vice President of the McMaster Students Union, I can say without equivocation that students have long asked for improved access to not only McMaster campus, but the rest of the city.

If Hamilton is serious about improving the viability of the downtown core for student living, LRT is one of the best, and simplest means at our disposal.

Maximiliano Bonito

Although I now live in Ottawa for school and work, I am a proud Hamiltonian that always stays connected to how different initiatives are being proposed to make the city a better place to live. Light Rail Transit (LRT) will not only make Hamilton's transportation system more efficient, but in the long run, it will save the city money and make Hamilton an even more amazing place to live. If the province has planned to support LRT in Hamilton, promised to provide funding, and an assessment has already been conducted to determine the feasibility of LRT in Hamilton, then why regress and not progress to implement this initiative? City Council needs to commit to the implementation of LRT. I visit my hometown often and I hope to return to my beloved hometown. I would like to see improvements being made to make the city better and LRT is one initiative that should be put into action.

Cheryl Kipling

I don't have any wonderful words of wisdom, or insight that hasn't been stated already. My point of view is only that of the commuter.

As a resident of Hamilton who travels the B-Line route on a daily basis, I urge you to reconsider your support of LRT in Hamilton. We need LRT. The B-Line is well beyond capacity. There are days three buses bypass my stop because they are full. Adding more buses will

be extremely difficult. Not only do we need a lot more buses, we need drivers for those buses. Only LRT makes sense as an alternative. And LRT will become more necessary as more and more people take public transit.

Please support LRT in Hamilton.

Kathy Woo

Hamilton needs LRT. The long-term effect of the project would benefit the city in simple ways--efficient transportation to track down arrival times, economic growth for the city, contribution to a greener future, and a status that Hamilton is in-tune with this method of transportation that has been well-received in Toronto, Waterloo etc.

As a student, efficiency in LRT is probably the highlighting reason for having this for our future.

Lesia Malanchuk-Stephens

Thinking about moving back to Hamilton to buy a home and start a business. LRT and all day GO service would certainly make Hamilton more lucrative and liveable.

Mike Borrelli

Hamilton is faced with two options: 1) the status quo of building sprawling box malls, subdivisions and highways on greenfields; or 2) a denser, more sustainable future where we take advantage of existing infrastructure and re-build our core.

#1 requires nothing of us except a willingness to face the expensive consequences down the road. #2 requires longterm vision, and a transit system like LRT that will strengthen our downtown and turn it into the economic engine that sustains the City.

I'm not satisfied with the costs of the status quo, so I support LRT as just one piece of a larger plan that will revitalize Hamilton and make us more resilient in the face of an uncertain future.

Lee Skinner

Invest in moving people within Hamilton, not shuttling them out of Hamilton. Please and thank you.

Corinne Razem

LRT would make my life so much easier. It would also help the environment and paint Hamilton as an innovative city. Please make it happen!

Ron Cassidy

We need to press the Ontario Government (in this case the Liberals) to keep it's commitment to fully funding LRT Line-B and Line-A as promised in the 2007 elections. We should not vote for any party who will not live up to this past promise. We also need to curtail Mayor Bratina's utter disrespect for the political due process. Last time I checked he was 1 singular vote on council, yet he continues to operate unilaterally against council decisions. He has thrown LRT under the bus and opened the door to Premier McGuinty to nix his LRT promise to Hamilton as "The Mayor (Mr Unilateral) has told the Premier that LRT is not a priority in Hamilton, so please don't spend the \$1 Billion you promised us for LRT! Since when does any Moyer have this much power. He must be STOPPED.

Agata Mancini

This would transform the city into something incredible. Hamilton is changing, transforming into a positive force and this is the next, clear step to help propel this change.

Please make this a reality; stop stalling and making excuses. It's time for Hamilton to step up and take her future into her own hands.

Mara Adams

I live in an area that will not have direct access to the B-Line LRT; however, I do recognize the inherent benefits of intensification, the LRT initiative and secondary planning and development. In the end, all the citizens of Hamilton will pay for our successes and failures. We

need to leverage whatever we can from the province to ensure our sustainability moving forward.

Molly Merriman

Hamilton is in the perfect position to rediscover the dynamic, efficient and lively city that currently lies dormant in its genes and history. Choosing light rail is just so obvious; it is a modest, civilized and smart way to connect and make accessible our city's neighbourhoods. Good public transit combined with safe pedestrian and bike routes is truly the way of the future; we need to ACT NOW! Let's make traveling around the city fun, easy and cheap and make Hamilton a more welcoming place for everyone.

Eric Nanayakkara

Hamilton needs a modern day solution to public transportation and LRT most certainly presents itself as a leading option. Political lip service is no replacment for courageous action. Come on Hamilton, we can get this right!

Robert Prouse

I was extremely disappointed when I learned that the city council was cooling on the idea of light rail in Hamilton in favour of pursuing all day GO service.

I don't understand why the two are mutually exclusive. All day GO service is fine for people who live in Hamilton, but work elsewhere, but the LRT is about re-vitalizing the city and creating jobs in Hamilton.

Juliette Prouse

Please reinstate plans for the LRT. Hamilton needs to become a city of the future and modern public transportation should be a cornerstone of this vision!

Alex Young

LIGHT RAIL CITY

Ray Fullerton

LRT is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform the City of Hamilton!

Patrick McCafferty

I call on every member of City Council to debunk allegations that a provincial guarantee for a new Pan-Am stadium was traded behind the closed door of the Mayor's office in exchange for the City's agreement to decline Metrolinx funding for LRT on the premise that it is not a priority for Hamilton at this time. Please stand and speak up to reaffirm that Hamiltonians indeed want and need LRT to restore our place as not just another bedroom adjunct to Toronto, but a thriving, more independent and Ambitious City.

Rolf Lutz

Our political leaders have an obligation to develop public transit options that are clearly the right choice for the long term. Light Rail fits this criteria perfectly, and will contribute significantly to the development of its neighbourhoods and well being and productivity of its citizens. Failure to move forward on this file will set Hamilton, the GTA and Ontario back for decades to come.

Andrew Hancock

This city is well on it's way to making some changes for the good finally and LRT will only help the rejuvenation of the core and rest of the city, this should be a priority for the city.

Sevhra Reda

It's time the people take control of our city. Our leadership is dysfunctional and LRT is a must for Hamilton. It's time the old guard step away and let the new leaders and citizens of this city take action. Unfortunately some of our most significant leaders don't believe in the city the way the people do.

Evan Pray

GO is great.. but why is council more worried about a quick way OUT of the city??

Kim Doucette

I feel it's important that we don't give up on the LRT. Hamilton is a wonderful city that has been ignored for too long. As we struggle to reinvent ourselves an LRT is critical for our future.

Dan Thompson

Beyond the obvious benefits to local businesses and freeing up parking lots, I think light rail has real potential to reignite civic pride in Hamilton as a city and a prosperous place to live. Hamilton has the potential to place itself amongst the ranks of Canada's more desirable cities, with its affordable housing stock, excellent regional transit links, and strong and diverse economy. A crucial piece in this puzzle is to break the stigma of Hamilton (which is profound in much of Canada) by taking on this exciting and game-changing task.

Amy Rogers

Many more eloquent people than I have championed the benefits of LRT. Please listen to them.

Elizabeth Parker

LRT must come to pass for Hamilton. Together with the All day Go Service, this initiative will see Hamilton's population move to where it could and should be. It is no longer acceptable to keep putting forward moving initiatives off. Hamilton is a major urban centre and requires transit that serves this reality.

It is actually quite inconceivable that this project would be under threat of being stalled. Stunning really. Strongly put - myopic anti-vision.

The LRT IS a large piece in the transportation needs of Hamilton. Good for the environment & good for the growth of ALL the areas of the City.

We must not make it either/or and must stay the course of all the planning and study. Just do it.

David Hosten

I have lived in cities with LRT and have enjoyed the utility of it, and now that Hamilton has a chance to get it, I want to be sure we do not blow that opportunity.

Wendy Jackson

"Whenever and wherever societies have flourished and prospered rather than stagnated and decayed, creative and workable cities have been at the core of the phenomenon. Decaying cities, declining economies, and mounting social troubles travel together. The combination is not coincidental." Jane Jacobs

Make our city 'workable', go forward with LRT.

Melanie Olsa

It's time to make a commitment to the future we all envision for the city of Hamilton.

David Wootton

I understand that Toronto is getting its LRT free at Ontario government's expense. That is my tax dollars going to support Toronto - again! It is time that the Ontario Government support and pay for an LRT system in Hamilton. I will vote for whoever promises this

Daniel Jelly

LRT is an opportunity that Hamilton should be grabbing with both hands. Seldom does a project come along that will enhance the lives of so many and lead to innumerable economic and social spinoff benefits. The short term sacrifice will pay dividends for generations to come, providing citizens from all walks of life a safe and reliable form of transportation and neighbourhoods designed around people, not just around the automobile.

LRT is the beginning of a transformation to a healthier, more livable Hamilton. As we continue to feel the effects of volatile fossil fuel prices and increased population density, LRT will help insulate our

local economy by providing an affordable and convenient form of transit when other options become unsustainable or unattractive.

We are not just building LRT for today, we are building it for a future generation of Hamiltonians who will demand more than the status quo. If we don't build it, they will move to cities who already have, and it will be just that much harder for us to catch up.

I can understand that in a world driven by 4-year election cycles it's difficult to commit to a project that will be built and completed by successive governments. I encourage all of our elected representatives to look past the ballot box and lead boldly. LRT is an opportunity to build something big, a true legacy that will help tie our community together and define what Hamilton will become.

Anne Wilson

Hamilton has always been a resilient and resourceful city. We used to be a tobacco city, we used to be an appliance city; but we don't dwell on these things. Most recently we canned perishable fruits; now we have pear cider. We are a city that changes with economic tides. We adapt. We take chances. We recognize a good thing when we see it. We used to be a light rail city. Well, its time to be a light rail city again. Light rail is both an economic and ecologic leap into our future, and a firm hold on our heritage. What could possibly be more Hamiltonian than the LRT?

Matthew Oliveira

We need to prepare for the future. Let's get light rail in place to make it easier for people to get around without a car!

Nicholas Valerio

I was excited when the initiative was brought up initially, and was quite disappointed to hear Mr. McGuinty's recent comments that were very passive on the subject. Both the Go expansion and LRT would bring so much to the city a very great look and efficiency to the city.

Frances Murray

It's time for our democratically-elected politicians to get together and represent the people who elected them. LRT is a priority for the city of Hamilton. Stop backing down on your promises and move forward. Now is the time.

Simon Geoghegan

LRT is a critical component in the rejuvenation of Hamilton's downtown. It is a sound investment and the commitment by the McGuinty government should be honoured.

Jason Allen

It's time for our Mayor to get out of the way of what the people want. Hamiltonians want LRT, and Hamilton needs LRT if we are to stand any chance of being a competitive, prosperous, attractive city in the medium to long term. Don't sell our future short.

Barry Diacon

Light Rail Transit is the most important transformative initiative that Hamilton can make or has ever made.

It is very important that Hamilton commit itself to a sustainable future, rather than pouring its scarce resources into ever-farther flung suburbs which must be serviced and which require automobiles to travel to.

The supply of gasoline has already reached its peak and will make huge SUVs, large pickup trucks, humvees, etc. an expensive luxury. The suburbs will become the new ghettos. We will have to spend money to transform suburbs back into parkland.

Let us not spend any more money or time going down this unproductive road. It is time to focus on the urban, on livable density, on people living together, on all the cultural benefits of a growing, vibrant, people-centered city. It is time to build a Light Rail Transit in Hamilton and bring us back to the innovative city that Hamilton was at the turn of the 19th century.

Sean Burak

We need this for so many reasons:

- Economic development
- City image
- Transit service improvements
- Improving density
- Encouraging infill and filling vacant spaces
- etc!

We cannot afford to squander this opportunity!

Sarah Moore

I rely on the HSR system here in Hamilton every single day. I have learned to adjust to waiting and bus stops and keeping myself busy on long bus rides. The option of getting around at a speedier and efficient rate would make a dramatic change to my life and my time. By choosing to use Public Transit exclusively, I am supporting the eco-friends movement, which is predominant in Ontario right now. This should be noted and valued. Also, the great numbers of other Hamiltonians who rely on the HSR (partly due to the high poverty rates in this city), Hamilton deserves the Light Rail, it needs the Light Rail and efforts should be made to make this possible.

Michael Muller

I have great hope for the city of Hamilton. As do the people I live with and know in our downtown neighbourhoods. This hope needs to be tied in with actions. The LRT is a positive step towards transforming Hamilton into the great city it can be.

John Rogers

Canada has 2 declining U.S. style "RUST BELT" cities. Hamilton is one of them. We don't have to accept this model for the future. Light rail is a game changer. Unfortunately, our current Mayor is apparently not!

Michael Clase

Having used light rail in other places, I have seen first hand the efficiency and convenience that such a system would bring to Hamilton. With increased traffic, rising oil prices and the need to combat global warming, there is a short to medium term need to provide efficient transportation alternatives everywhere, not just in Hamilton.

Let's be ahead of the curve and ensure that Hamilton remains an attractive place to live and work for years to come.

Noelle Allen

Light rail would revitalize many parts of Hamilton's downtown; connect the city from East to West; aid students, the elderly, the poor; benefit the environment; and show that we are a city looking to the future. I don't understand why we are still asking questions about this. Build the rail while we still have the money from the Provincial government.

Gillian Booth

To be successful, you need to think successful. Why does hamilton council still think like a small town? We have the makings of a modern, vibrant city. If only the city would think and act like it, the province might take us more seriously.

Peter Malysewich

You cannot grow and sustain a city without an infrastructure that encourages its own people to work in that city. The plans for downtown need to be supported by transit, or our prime industry will soon become 'parking'.

Linda Miocinovich

Let's get our city into the future. we have already spent money on studies and received monies from the federal government. I can only see positive development happening with LRT. I was so impressed with LRT when I visited Europe a few years back.

Martin Hering

I know many cities with modern light-rail systems - many of which are in Europe and much smaller than Hamilton - and these cities show that light rail works very well. Passenger numbers grow well beyond original expectations, and customer satisfaction is very high.

I urge you to make light rail a top priority for Hamilton - it is a key ingredient in Hamilton's recipe for growth and prosperity. If much smaller cities can do it, Hamilton can do it, too.

Light rail and all-day GO service go hand in hand - Hamilton needs both for future development.

Dianne Lethbridge

I am a former Torontonian. Even though I owned a car, the subway was the first consideration when going anywhere in the city. It was faster and cheaper (parking being very expensive). There was always good shopping at any stop. I miss that element. If we had LRT the downtown would improve for shopping and east of James Street would become more desirable especially to those at McMaster University.

Justin Jones

Hamilton is a proud city, one that has displayed resiliency in the face of hardship, and one that is poised to become an even more attractive place to live for people looking for all the amenities of an established city without the insane costs of living found in other GTHA municipalities. The need is there, the demand is there, and the benefits of installing an LRT would be massive. No more relying on diesel fuel (which will only continue to increase in price), no more delays and concerns due to traffic, and most importantly it displays a commitment to new, sustainable, effective forms of public transit. Stop the petty bickering between the levels of government and put the interests of Hamiltonians (present and future) first. Let's get some shovels in the ground, get some jobs created and make Hamilton an easier city to get around.

Taylor Shadney

This project will move Hamilton ahead economically and help support it's future.

David Colacci

I am not an all-out advocate for LRT in Hamilton. I do believe, however, that after seeing in person Edmonton's LRT in person that it is a must to modernize HSR services in Hamilton. And that even if only half of the believed development occurs along the B-line corridor, that we are substantially further ahead than we are today. LRT can and will be a building block in the re-birth of our great city.

David Couture

Light Rail is important to Hamilton so we do not fall behind other local communities such as Kitchener-Waterloo in terms of economic growth. We cannot pass this opportunity by or we will lose more potential, crucial jobs to these emerging progressive communities. Development is popping up everywhere along Toronto's Eglinton Crosstown LRT corridor; something that will happen once B-Line LRT is also under construction. Light Rail NOW for the Future of Hamilton!

Rupa Dissanayake

I fully support the LRT and would support any tax increase directly associated with proposed rail line.

Matthew Zantingh

As a downtown resident, I wholeheartedly wish to see the LRT project come to fruition. I currently commute to McMaster where I am a graduate student via bus or bicycle, so I am often frustrated by full buses or long time gaps between bus arrivals. On the flip side, the highways that are Main and King Street always present serious obstacles if I bike. The LRT line would help to alleviate some of these obstacles while also fueling downtown growth, something I would love to see happen. Having travelled through many of Canada's largest cities over the past few years, it continually disappoints me to see how great their downtown cores can be while Hamilton's continues to

stagnate. Please stop sending mixed signals about LRT and throw your weight behind this project. As one of the many Hamiltonians who live and work in this city, this project means far more to me than all-day GO service.

Jennifer Miller

The city of Hamilton had a great reputation once upon a time. Over the years it's ambition has left us. Let me remind you of the definition of ambition: 1. A strong desire to do or to achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work. 2. Desire and determination to achieve success.

Lets prove that we have not lost this great quality and do what was once set out to do: make Hamilton a better city by finishing what was started with the LRT. . People may see potential in Hamilton, but are turned away by it's game playing politicians. It's time to show them we have what it takes and stop playing games. Let's build the LRT with ambition!!!

Daniel Cummings

Hamilton is a wonderful city that gets a very bad rap. A decision in favour of a light rail line would be a big step in revitalizing the city. Not only would it attract more visitors from outside the city, but it would attract more people already in the city to use it.

George Smith

Believe that all of Ontario's large urban centres should have some form of rapid transit- preferably electric powered and our smaller cities have well-designed city and intercity bus stations to improve public transit throughout this province. Here in Toronto massive investment and improvements of our existing system are needed as well.

Justin Eisinga

It seems clear to me that the city is more focused on connecting Hamilton to Toronto then connecting their own city together. This needs to change!

Paul Hoang

I totally support for LRT, because that is the need for our Southern Ontario region traffic, when it is getting worst on the highway to go to Toronto and surrounding areas. It is a better way to go for jobs creation, a greener Hamilton's future.

Craig Burley

I support the building of LRT in Hamilton, starting with the East-West B Line. I will use it regularly and my business is located within a block of the B Line. I think the B Line will be crucial in enabling clients to get to me with a minimum of fuss. LET'S MOVE FORWARD!

Roseatta Long

As someone who would value and nmake use of LRT in Hamilton, I would like to say that it would be a welcome addition to hamilton transit. Environmentally we cannot afford to ignore this opportunity. I think people would be persuaded to leave their cars at home. For those who are unable to afford the luxury of their own car, what a difference it might make to their lives.We have to consider the needs of all the people.

Laura McGilvery

As a former resident of Toronto, I adore living in Hamilton and find it a very affordable and convenient alternative to the GTA suburbs.. MANY torontonians wanting to own homes would move here if there were better public transit options. Commuting to Toronto costs about \$600 a month so many commuters cannot afford to live here and own a vehicle. Not much point in having all day GO service if no one lives here- but the torontonians will come if we ourselves apart from the burbs... With LRT

Laura Spoelstra

This would be awesome for Hamilton. It's a city with so much to offer and so much potential waiting to be developed. It's time we invested in a city that's worth investing in!

Eric Baldry

Not having a dedicated LRT system is really the only reason I still drive a car anywhere anymore. Out west in Vancouver, I could do all of my daily tasks and commuting without having to stand around for 45 minutes for a bus that will probably not even be on time.

Please help though of us who want to get rid of our cars and cut emissions!

Raymond Braun

I have written several letters to Ed to var. newspapers; latest in all local papers on Sept. 15 with a photo of an LRT car in Erfurt, Germany. Erfurt is only half the size of Hamilton and has 3 LRT lines, very modern. efficient and quiet, reliable. I travelled last June in many small cities in Germany and Austria and they all have such systems.

Hamilton should have one. In above letters for the Dundas, Ancaster, Mountain and Stoney Creek News I suggested an extension to Dundas. The lines already exist, when the old street-car/radial line went there, so land is not a question.

And I also thought of a "loop" through West Hamilton including University Plaza and down the hill and back through the area of Spencer Creek where 2 trails exist.

Please read the Sept. 15 edition. --- I did have 2 responses from City Hall about this, so they noticed it.

Raymond Braun, Dundas

D'Marc Lewis

Just get it going already. I may want to live there in the next five years!

Kevin Makins

LRT is critical for our city continuing to grow and emerge as a place to work, play, and live.

Let's finish what we have started and secure LRT for our city.

Sharon Benjamins

I feel as though this really could benefit a lot of people, including students. Being a student myself at Redeemer University College this would be a much more solid alternative if one doesn't have a car as opposed to the bus system, which isn't always reliable.

Tim Ritchie

As a lifelong Hamiltonian I can say with certainty that myself, my family and my guests will all use and benefit from LRT. Don't let this opportunity slide past.

Aaron Newman

We must be ahead of the urbanization that is bound to happen in the coming years. Our cities must reflect a livable model. Buses will never be cool, will never supplant the car nor spur economic redevelopment, but light has that potential for creating economic redevelopment and making people want to live downtown. We can't lose out on this model of redevelopment.

Patricia Baker

I have, in the past few months, had the opportunity to see LRT in operation in Portland, Vancouver and Dublin. What a difference to these cities has been made by these trains! Ease of movement, new businesses, far more people visiting areas of the cities previously unknown to them, easing of traffic congestion etc. etc. The sooner we can get away from the 'thruway' mentality for traffic movement on our main roads and move to a modern mode of transport the better.

Fred Sandoval

This would be a huge and excellent initiative for Hamilton, just do a little research in all the similar systems in the US in see how they've lived up to or exceeded expectations.

Thomas Bernacki

It's time again for city council to make it's position clear on LRT, as it's done in the past. Recent statements by the mayor downplaying support for LRT are not indicative of the broad support among

citizens and council. And the province needs to follow through on its promises to the city. Toronto is getting massive investment from the province for transit expansions; certainly Hamilton deserves it too. LRT will be amazingly transformative for the city. We are raising our young family in the core of the city, and other young professionals like ourselves continue to make the same choice. I have no doubt that the prospect of LRT across the lower city has played some part in that. With a solid commitment from council and the province, that momentum and positivity will only increase. Not only that, but it will set our city on the right track (no pun intended) for reducing pollution, increasing transit use, facilitating intensification, and ensuring mobility through a future of increasing fuel costs and scarcity.

To all politicians involved in this decision: I call on you to reaffirm support for the east-west LRT line in Hamilton.

Len Dezoete

I am totally opposed to any LRT system. Those who think we need it can pay for it. All glitz for nothing more than glorified bus service which is already in place.

Gillian Varlow

If we don't do this soon, we'll turn into Canada's version of Flint, Michigan. We must move forward or be left behind.

Enrico Seminerio

Our municipal and provincial governments have an opportunity to do something that shows a lot of foresight and vision. As cities grow and the cost of fuel keeps rising, Canadian cities will have to rely more and more on public transit, just as large urban centres in Europe and Asia do today. Unfortunately our municipal and provincial (and federal for that matter) politicians rarely have the courage to make the tough long term decisions because they are so focused on short term goals so that they can get re-elected in four years. I am calling on all three levels of government to support LRT for Hamilton now.

Chris Mayhew

Light rail is what Hamilton needs to move the city forward. Everyone is focusing on how to get people to take mass transit, but we need effective transit before this happens.

Hamilton's slow, packed city buses are inferior to driving. LRT is a step in the right direction, towards making mass transit more useable and fixing the traffic problems that plague the city.

Erika Strong

Hamilton needs light rail. The bus system is inadequate and never on time. It's also impractical in many ways.

Hamilton is growing and developing. LRT will make help it grow into a great city, like it once was.

Rob Taylor

A definite catalyst to a bigger, better and more vibrant city. If we want to be a world class city, this is the type of investment we must have.

Adam Peet

Considering the amount of tax revenue that could potentially be generated from new investment along the LRT routes, it makes me wonder if the right people are on the job here in Hamilton. A simple business adage would be "to make money you have to spend it". As a new resident and small investor to Hamilton I came here because of the now defunct pan am games projects and the LRT. I like many other small investors see Hamilton as a place for tremendous growth.

However, the non-committal direction we're getting from both the province and council is unacceptable at a time when smart investments are needed to help propel growth. Investors such as myself are already planning escape routes if the city continues to show regressive steps.

Hamilton needs the LRT to sprout new business, if we had a council with any gumption I'm sure they could add jobs to the LRT contract.

Once again, I doubt that will happen, as it seems that our overly bureaucratic governing class needs to conduct a study. One that has already been completed. I love my new home, and the city it's in, but

if the city doesn't reciprocate that love, I may leave. Imagine a bustling, metropolitan city with new development all along the proposed routes. Not committing to the project seems ridiculous at this point. Or maybe our governing class is bi-polar???

Artur Rozumek

Hamilton is a major city in Ontario that requires improved transit linking neighbourhoods and the city with the suburbs. Buses are not enough, and the present buses-only network is not up to international standards for a city of Hamilton's size. Without better transit, it will be hard to encourage people to use transit willingly and poses challenges for those who have no other option. It means congestion and a lower standard of living for people in the city. Hamilton has numerous neighbourhoods in need of revitalization, and LRT will be key to improving transportation and accessibility to those neighbourhoods. It will make them more attractive to investment. Please do not neglect Hamilton. Not building the LRT line will only be regretted.

Connor Clark

I believe this system is perfect for Hamilton. We are looking forward to a bright future and becoming a more desirable place to live. This system will only help that.

Andrew Maas

Light Rail is a bold initiative whose time has come. This is an opportunity for Hamilton to attract investment along well-planned corridors, and intensify development in a way that corresponds with Provincial growth plans.

Bob Leach

I believe that LRT is essential for the ongoing growth and development of our city. This is not the time to turn back or in any way reconsider commitments that have been made previously. Hamilton needs and will greatly benefit both now and in the future from LRT.

Let's get it done!

Andrew Pettit

Elected Representatives,

I love our city. I am excited for our future, as our leadership has pointed us in a promising, human-centric, community-first direction. The LRT system is the start of a major shift away from our current multi-lane highway/dearth of life that we currently enjoy (?), moving towards something much more sustainable and engaging. It's part of a collection of small movements - Open Streets, bike lanes, library and farmers market reinvigoration, etc. - that are shaping this city into something greater. Please have the courage to stay the course. Hamilton is worth it!!
Sincerely,

Andrew Pettit
181 Hess St. South

Mickey Bellavia

The LRT in Hamilton is very much needed and a long awaited solution to public transportation in this area.

Our city has much potential in utilizing this transportation benefit and making public transportation easier for many users.

Brian Thwaits

Building an LRT line is crucial to the future of Hamilton. The city's fragile economic progress depends on it, and it's my sincere hope that governments at all levels will understand its importance and move the project forward. Thank you for your support.

Boris Brott

The City of Hamilton has probably the greatest potential for growth in serving its citizens of any in the Golden Horseshoe. At the centre of this MUST be rapid and convenient transportation both local and in connection with Toronto. Missing yet another boat for Provincial support in the LRT construction is criminal. Let's all pull together on this one. The positive energy we show and experience will inspire us to

work together more often. If we can move forward in musical harmony - nothing will stop the city of Hamilton from reaching its great potential!

Boris Brott
Artistic Director
Brott Music Festivals, Hamilton

Meredith Vanstone

Please support light rail in Hamilton!

Mary J Dawson

This city is just waiting to be reborn and LRT is a good initiative to move this along. Do not let this opportunity pass us by as we have so many others.

Jane Osier

We need the LRT

Maureen McKeating

Hamilton downtown needs to be re-vitalized. LRT will help in this process. LRT is the way to go.

Casey Park

The Province of Ontario under the McGuinty government has already pledged and earmarked public money towards LRT planning and construction in Hamilton. Parallel to these statements, current members of Hamilton's City Council have already stated that they support LRT as the next phase in Hamilton's downtown and overall renewal.

Regardless of shifting political optics and reality (especially considering the imminent provincial election) groundbreaking on LRT is the obvious best next step for Hamilton for pragmatic, civic and researched reasons.

Many parties have let Hamilton down over this issue but it's not too late to pick up the pieces and move forward to a more sustainable and uplifting future for the East, West and the Mountain communities.

Andrea Lynn Sloan

Having LRT lines in Hamilton would be a benefit to everyone. It would help us update an old, inefficient system that the city very dearly needs. Please, Hamilton do not add the LRT to a much too long list of missed opportunities.

Tom Hurd

In July I wrote the following letter to the City Council. I still support LRT 100%.
Dear Councillors,

In the light of recent serious backpedalling by some City Councillors, I find I have to reiterate the commitment I made 4 years ago to the concept of LRT in Hamilton's core. I don't need to go into the detailed pro/con arguments that have been studied over the years, that are nicely summarized in the article:
http://www.raisethehammer.org/article/1401/light_rail_needs_leadership_from_mayor

I just want to remind the members of the City Council that I am 100% committed to LRT in Hamilton, if financed with a fair capital funding formula from Metrolinx.

Go For The Best Deal Possible: Just Do It!!!

Denise Neutel

I believe that light rail is important for making a strong city and community. After amalgamation, Hamilton's borders grew to an unprecedented size. We now span from Stoney Creek to Flamborough, a large distance, so something like LRT is needed to allow citizen to move from one end of the city to the other. We need also to look at a way to move people that makes the least impact on the environment, it seems to me that more people in Ancaster are using HSR especially during peak times than ever before. If there were more direct and quicker routes from places like

Ancaster that could incorporate cycling as well, there would definitely be more users of those systems.

Rachel Wallace

LRT would set up Hamilton to as a progressive and world-class city, making it attractive for people to live in and businesses to settle in. As a citizen committed to green living, LRT would make using public transit far more accessible for myself and many others.

Henry Brouwer

We need a new vision for transportation in this city (and beyond - more highways and roads will not solve our transportation problems, especially as oil will become an important concern in the future, along with having to reduce carbon emissions. An electrified system reduces pollution and can run on renewable energy.

Sandra Dykstra

There are many in this city (greater Hamilton) that already use the buses because they do not own a car. However for those of us who do own a car sometimes the roads can become so congested and parking is at a premium. Light rail would be so convenient to get across the city in a hurry and would free up congested roads. I know at first there would not be too many built but if one line was successful I know other lines would be built too. Please continue to think about this and encourage the province to step up and help to make this city a thriving place to live. Thank you.

Matt Wright

They only way you will be able to attract people to the corners of city, is by making transit efficient and user-friendly. Hamilton needs LRT.

Susan Lau

Please let the rest of Ontario see that Hamilton can really achieve something that will better the city for generations to come.

Myke Hutchings

As our city grows in population and geographic size, what remains evident is the need for its population to move around freely with little hinderance.

Currently Hamilton is often gridlocked as individuals in single passenger cars crowd the downtown streets and where major thoroughfares meet, such as the Red Hill Expressway and Queenston. There HAS to be a better way of moving people efficiently in the city.

LRT is that way.

Mayor Bratina says his focus is on all day GO Transit, moving people into and out of the city. Well Mayor, these people that are coming into the city are going to need to move around and travel while they are in the city? LRT on an east-west and a north-south corridor would provide an efficient way to move these people.

Vince Franco

Years ago, Hamilton made a huge mistake by removing the HSR tracks and trolleys for the sake of the automobile. We now have a change to reverse this grave error with partial funding. Please don't ruin the future of Hamilton for another 50 years. Become a legacy for positive change in this city instead of being another name in disgraced leadership.

Steve Porter

Bluntly, the LRT project is of vital importance for the renewal of downtown Hamilton. The City and Province really do need to work together, figure this out and get this project moving forward.

Jon Davey

I'm writing to urge you stay focused on the commitment to bring Light Rail Transit to Hamilton. Help take Hamilton into the future with a bold infrastructure investment that will be utilized by a majority of Hamiltonians everyday. Building an LRT system will signal to

investors and businesses that Hamilton and Ontario is thinking long term in terms of sustainable development.

Cathy Swenson

LRT is a tremendous opportunity to transform this city. Please get on with it.

Matt John

I am in support of light rail services in Hamilton. An LRT line in Hamilton would be a boon to the core, generating many direct and indirect jobs for Hamiltonians. It would be a demonstrable effort by city council to revitalize Hamilton's city centre.

Robert Bowers

It's time to stand up for Hamilton.

Craig Hermanson

The evidence has been clear: LRT has the greatest potential to transform our city, would serve our present needs and help ensure the competitiveness of our city in the future. What kind of future will we build for Hamilton and our children? Please lend your support and commitment to LRT!

Tom Kelly

It feels like many of the politicians in this area here are forgetting their place. They are there to serve the interests of the public. The most transit improvement I have seen is Jason Farr looking smug in his shiny new truck.

I am beginning to become very very worried about where the priorities lay in this city. We have a council and a mayor, that are paid very handsomely, who have billed the taxpayer over \$27,000 in meals while lower income people in this city are going hungry...yet showing absolutely no remorse. The privileged using the taxpayers as their own piggybanks to fill their bellies sounds like something out of Nottingham, no?

Richard Robertson

Let's get on with it! LRT is the future.

David Sanderson

I have lived in Hamilton for 54 years and in that time our city fathers never seem to have a plan for the city's future. Here's an opportunity for a strong commitment for our future. Let's not pass this one up.

Graham McNally

It's too easy to say that development isn't happening so there is no need for LRT.

Currently, developers aren't coming to the B-Line so lack of LRT can't be the reason. They're staying away because of development regulations and a perceived lack of ROI for developing. Certainly, if we do nothing to change the current conditions, developers will continue to not invest in the corridor.

City staff have reviewed, researched and studied the LRT corridor and I am confident that the changes to the zoning bylaws and other development related regulation recommended will, with the inclusion of LRT, stimulate development in our city, specifically along the LRT corridor.

Without LRT and the associated zoning & bylaw changes, nothing will change along the B-line corridor.

We need strong leadership for LRT to be realized. We need city building champions. We need to be progressive and that means changing the status quo and moving forward, together, as a city.

Terrance Odette

I strongly believe that public transit enures growth and vibrancy in a city. LTR is the way to achieve that.

Kathryn de Ruijter

It's time.

Hank Balfort

Hamilton needs the LRT for economic and environmental reasons. It will be great for commuters and tourism. It would also keep cars off the roads and ease parking along the route.

Mike Jerome

You cannot grow and sustain a city without an infrastructure that encourages its own people to work in that city. The plans for downtown need to be supported by transit, or our prime industry will soon become 'parking'

Mikael Andersson

"Potential" is the one word that keeps being thrown around whenever Hamilton comes up. When are we going to realize all this potential we have? When are we going to come to the table and AGREE that the future of our city does not lie in more parking lots and mountain sprawl, but in creating a vibrant core? When are we going to take serious action to remove the stigma associated with taking public transit?

Hamilton's potential does not lie with being a Park-and-Ride zone for Toronto. GO service is already excellent. What we're lacking is a reliable, fast, stigma-free way of getting around our own city. We don't need more parking lots, we need better alternatives than personal cars for intra-city transportation.

Evelyn Hielema

I urge the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario to go forward with the idea of light rail transit for Hamilton. For multiple reasons (environmental, social, economical) this is an important step forward for Hamilton.

Stephanie Hilson

Just get it done!

Al Salmon

We need this rail system in hamilton Ever take the king a 4 pm on a week day

Frank Taylor

I am a Commercial Realtor that is heavily involved with the revitalization of the downtown core and can attest, without a shadow of doubt, that serious private investment is waiting in the wings for the City of Hamilton to stand up and take a lead in getting the LTR up and running. No single act will help the downtown core and the City as a whole, more than having the LTR.

Ben Trafford

I -left- Hamilton because initiatives like this weren't being supported. I am currently a partner in a business that earns over a million dollars a year. Does the city council want to lose more people like me?

David Jenkins

Light Rail Transit is amazing in other parts of the world, we need it here.

Jack Bernacki

Light Rail now. No excuses, no back tracking. This is the future of our city. Light Rail now.

Darcy Wienk

so what, they city does not care for the people who LIVE and WORK in Hamilton? only the people who Live and work in Toronto, or Niagara, or where ever the go will take them?

Patrick Speissegger

In the light of recent serious backpedalling by some City Councillors, I find I have to remind city council of the detailed pro/con arguments that have been studied over the years, that are nicely summarized in the article:

http://www.raisethehammer.org/article/1401/light_rail_needs_leadership_from_mayor

I am 100% committed to LRT in Hamilton, if financed with a fair capital funding formula from Metrolinx.

Go For The Best Deal Possible: Just Build It!!!

Kim Newcombe

Hamilton is always on the cusp of being discovered. People who live here recognize the balance and pace that life in this city offers. Could the LRT be the tipping point that opens the Hamilton to the gaze of others in a new and flattering way?

Not to mention aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sound, economically viable - what a bold, confident step into the future

Brian Gerrard

Let's keep this city moving forward. It's listed as one of the 10 best cities in Canada to invest in, let's keep it that way.

Katie Zazulak

I think that the LRT will provide Hamiltonians with a much more efficient way to get around the city. While the HSR does service a large part of Hamilton already, increasing traffic and increasing numbers of people using the major routes make it difficult and uncomfortable for people to utilize this service.

There is constant talk about how we need to revitalize the downtown core, and repeatedly there is never any action to back up this talk. This is the perfect opportunity to make a revitalized down town core a reality.

Like the age old statement says "build it and they will come"

Joan MacDonald

Any city I have attended with LRT has been successful in providing access to its citizens throughout its city. Once built, there have been even more benefits than previously anticipated.

Chandra Rice

For my three teens, the transit system is their primary means of moving through the city. Currently, getting from one end of the city to the other is a long process. Light rail would help bring the city together, offering my kids a more integrated whole city experience. It is a forward looking investment. Hamilton is worth it. So are my kids.

Douglas Gerow

This is a project that must become a reality... Just try taking any rush hour bus and you can see that public transit needs an overhaul of routes as well as LRT to properly transport the people of this city... We cannot lose this opportunity..

Elizabeth Syrotuik

I was born and raised in Hamilton. I fully support the development of a light rail system as a viable option for public transport. The current system is not frequent enough and doesn't service the city efficiently.

Mark Gichuru

DO IT

Cynthia Waters

With a lower city that needs and would benefit greatly from the development shown to precede and follow Light Rail Transit, it is time the city and the province made a solid commitment to this project. The city needs to turn its focus away from greenfield development and the Aerotropolis and focus on the potential intensification and brownfield development that would occur with Light Rail Transit. The city needs to stop favouring the parking lot and to start promoting our future. The province needs to step-up and make a firm commitment to the citizens of Hamilton. As government they need to help lead the citizens of Hamilton and Ontario from the over dependence on the car by championing planning that promotes transit, walking and cycling.

Laura Goheen

I fully support the vision for the Hamilton Light Rail. It is time for the City Council to truly invest in this city the way that so many of the residents do each day -- putting creativity, time and money into dreaming and realizing a better Hamilton.

Kurt Braun

Council, look to the future...please

David Schuurman

I've lived in Calgary and Vancouver and the LRT is what makes being and going downtown viable and convenient in those places. Not to mention living downtown! I live on the outskirts of Hamilton but would move inside the city if there was a rail system to get me around the traffic and bustle.

I've been hoping for an LRT in hamilton for years. I hope it happens.

Sarah Wayland

The studies have been done. The business case has been made. LRT is an investment in the kind of future Hamilton I want to live in: progressive, environmentally responsible, and with a highly developed urban core. All we lack is the political will of our leaders to make this happen. Can we please be BIG thinkers instead of small thinkers? Can we please look FORWARD instead of backwards?

Jon Murphy

LRT is crucial to the future of Hamilton!

Jeffrey Wynands

This will literally change the City forever. Why wouldn't any one, especially City Council - those elected to represent the good people of this city - be doing ANYTHING and EVERYTHING in their power to make this happen.

Karl Andrus

I was a child when the HSR removed trolley service, then later the electric lines for e-buses (bet you regret that mistake HSR). Moving forward into the 21st cent, Hamilton needs a world class transit service.

Jason Nason

I have been excited for the prospect of light rail transit for the '10 B-Line' HSR route since the first announcement of Move Ontario 2020 several years ago. Since then I have been following the progress with much interest and have been to several planning meetings. I also applied to be among the citizen team for the project.

I am disappointed that that the entire project is seemingly in jeopardy and hope that the project goes ahead. To quote a phrase I have heard many times, from many people, "Let's Keep Hamilton Light Rail Transit on track."

M Di Censo

LRT is progress, getting Hamilton into the 21st century. Developing a vibrant city is about more than an expressway and converting one way streets to boost our image! Provide citizens with a viable, modern alternative to the car, and an opportunity to explore the city and its businesses easily and comfortably. We missed our chance in the 80's, so now's the time!

Desiree Kelleher

Hamilton is a growing city, growing and changing. Make this a better city for the people who live in it. Get us out of our cars and out into the living parts of Hamilton. Out into the shops, on our feet, walking and spending our money.

When Hamilton is alive, its economy is healthy. It's residents are healthy.

We're not just a park and ride for Toronto. Help make us something to our own credit.

We want Light Rail Transit!

Sheila Sferrazza

I support the LRT and believe it will be the next best thing for our growing city.

Daniel Fitzgerald

Hamilton needs this!!

Gregory. J. Galante

It is no longer the 1950s Mr. Mayor and City Council. This is not Mississauga Mr. City Manager Chris Murray. Hamilton has an intensely urban core. With the exception of Toronto, probably the most urban on the province. It is in this core that our future lies. It is through innovation, diversification, and intensification of our core that this city will prosper. Not the clinging to old concepts from bygone eras.

LRT through that core and intensification along that corridor is an anchor to that prosperity. Not building stadiums in the wrong place for money losing football teams. (by the way I am a die hard TiCat fan).

Attracting young professionals to our community who are both entrepreneurs and want to live downtown is what will be a catalyst to our city's growth. BUILD IT !

Catherine Hordyk

How many times do we need to express how much we want and need this in our city?

Please keep your promise to Hamilton!

Andrew McPhail

We need LRT!

Suki Garson

Hamilton has the potential of being a 1st rate city. It has every geographical attribute to make it wonderful and instead, for the most part it looks like a dump. We need to modernize, we need to upgrade and let Hamilton be what it has the potential to be.

Lee Raback

As a home owner and long time resident of Downtown Hamilton, I am presently watching in dismay as the Light Rail Transit project seems to be coming off the tracks.

LRT is a top priority for Hamilton, and the Hamiltonians that have elected you. It is now time for you to follow through on the agreed upon plan. We have spent a great deal of time and, I'm to understand, a small fortune proving that this project is vital to the city's redevelopment efforts. I call on all levels of government to follow through on their election promises..

We cannot wait for Vrancor to become involved in the Light Rail industry. Stick to the plan. Do the right thing. Do what you were elected to do.

Nicholas Ellens

Please make LRT a priority for Hamilton. I have travelled extensively in cities including those of Hamilton's size through which Canadian-made Bombardier trains whisper. They are a pleasure to ride and are visually appealing. It's high time that Canada was home to more of these systems.

Van Hoang

Oh My God: Why are we hesitating to embrace LRT for the people of our city?

I saw the same LRT in Los Angeles, CA when i was travelling there few years ago and i was so impressed with it because it was so convenience for daily commuters within the city and i was just dreaming about Hamilton having the same one day.

I strongly support for LRT for our city.

Patrick Rogers

As a downtown resident who takes the HSR everyday, the need for an upgrade to LRT is obvious. Not only is an improved transit system necessary (especially one that may lure more people out of their cars),

but LRT would also be a boost for a downtown which is slowly picking itself back up.

A good transit link with Toronto is clearly important for Hamilton, but this mostly already exists. There are already rush-hour trains to downtown for commuters (my fiancee among them), and at most other times the QEW bus is much faster anyways.

An investment in LRT would clearly have a much larger impact on the city. Hamilton has a lot of potential, and LRT is the best way to invest in Hamilton as an important city in itself, and not just as another suburb of Toronto.

Courtney Matic

This is such an opportunity for Hamilton to help the environment, alleviate poverty- PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not squander it!

Dan Nedoborski

I Fully support light rail transit headquartered in hamilton

Matthew Bowman

Please make Light Rail Transit in Hamilton a priority - the type of society I want to leave my children involves effective publicly funded transit systems.

Hans Vermaat

We have travelled in Europe at various times. The light rail system in almost all places is an absolute pleasure to use. In Holland you can set your watch to the train schedules. The trains are sleek, clean and affordable to ride. In my mind it is a no brainer.

Elisabet Service

Infrastructure always costs but not getting it costs more. We need to invest in a future for Hamilton. LRT is essential.

Susan MacLarkey

I wish to add my voice in support of light rail transit for the city of Hamilton. I strongly urge our mayor and Councillors to stay the course and give this initiative top priority. Our city leaders can and must build upon the studies already completed and the commitments already made by the Province to fund LRT for Hamilton.

Rebecca Vanderlinden

It is time that our City council get the people of Hamilton's priorities on the table. And work with other levels of government to fix what needs to be fixed, and leave what is not broken alone.

Hubert Shen

Hamilton has many potential with all the forward development that is going on, improve, attracting new people, professional coming into the city. LRT is a very important part of it. With new investment, development coming into the city. The transportation should also upgrade to meet those future demand. LRT is a very important development to move the city forward, that benefit everybody in Hamilton, and business.

Barbara Dawson

This makes sense in terms of increasing job opportunities, attracting new business to the area, and decreasing carbon emissions. There are many advantages and I am not sure I see any disadvantages at this point. Get off the pot. Say what you mean, and mean what you say-- Parenting 101!!!!

Chris Kirkwood

I agree with the building of this LTR line. It can only help to improve the commerce of our great city.

Tor Lukasik-Foss

Light rail is the future, it helps de-stigmatize public transit, the downtown.

Fort Roberto

LRT is the public transit of the future for Hamilton. It will create jobs, improve the environment and ease gridlock. In reality we here in Hamilton are decades behind other modern cities. Mayor Bratina's quest for all day Go will not create one new job here in Hamilton. I have NO INTEREST in going to Toronto by GO! Our Mayor should bush for LRT or SHUT his mouth!!!

David Thompson

I believe Hamilton has the potential to be one of the great cities of North America. An investment in light rail is something we are in desperate need of. As someone who uses the bus regularly, they are overcrowded and stretched to their capacity. Hamilton is in a unique situation where most of the public transit traffic runs in just a few main corridors; the busiest being east/west along main and king. Regular, reliable LRT would not only help people travel without the use of a car, but also spur investment along the route.

Valerie Louter

Let's keep moving forward with LRT planning. Fewer cars on the road and great public transit mean a healthier, happier city!

Max Bonnell

This cannot die, Hamilton needs LRT. Start thinking about the future of this great city.

Jeff Taylor

Lets Really Try (LRT) and get this thing off the ground, it's so badly needed to get people moving around the city quickly, heck I'd even park my car & use it rather than drive.

Adam Luker

As a Hamiltonian voter, there is nothing that is more important to me, or my interests, than Hamilton getting a Light Rail Transit system. This is an unbelievably important issue for this city.

Kevin Van Hartingsveldt

I support a LRT system in Hamilton because:

- LRT is much more efficient & sophisticated than buses.
- The expansion of the GO rail into Hamilton is more a question of 'when' than 'if' ... the (provincial) money will come for this regardless of the LRT decision.
- Municipal & provincial government have already promised LRT to Hamilton ... so this is money that is already available.
- LRT could be a catalyst in changing Hamilton from a city of untapped potential into a vibrant & current metropolis.
- While funding Hamilton's LRT won't fix the overspending & misdirection of funds in our province, it is at least a sensible place for earmarked monies to go.
- The proposed B-line will start the upgrade of public transit in Hamilton, and will make us less dependent on automobiles in our communities ... hopefully with eventual expansions in lower, & possibly even upper, Hamilton.

Bill Kemp

Although I don't live in Hamilton I am very often in Hamilton.

In my opinion I have for several years felt the more roads and/or highways were not the answer. It is a never ending expansion of roads/highways taking up more valuable land and creating a very undesirable atmosphere.

Lets take a look at Europe for example and I do realize that this LRT is different than high speed trains, however in Europe they move people with both LRT and High Speed trains much quicker and with less road congestion not to mention less effect on the environment.

I also believe that if cities like Hamilton do not modernize their transit system with LRT and "now not later" they are going to miss out on industrial and commercial expansion, as companies tend to go to cities that are willing to go forward with modernization.

If this does not happen Hamilton will slowly but surely fade away as far as keeping up with the rest of the larger cities.

The Vancouver system from Vancouver International Airport and the City of Richmond are a good example of this.

Hamilton must go ahead with LRT or you will slip away from prosperity.

Janina Berenyi

I am appalled at the undemocratic way that LRT planning has been de-prioritized by our mayor and city manager. I call upon council to stand up for themselves and their constituents by reaffirming their support for the LRT initiative.

This is the best thing that could happen to our city. It will revitalize the downtown core and bring businesses back to life.

I can't believe, we will be having another circus, like the stadium, with poor decisions being made.... and total loss of a vision that would have benefited Hamilton.

Bonnie Patterson

The time is way past due for Hamilton to have an LRT system. Hamilton is my hometown and I remember when they talked about it back in the 1970's. As a user of the Skytrain and Canada Line in Vancouver, I can say that it's the quickest way to get around. For Hamiltonians to get up the mountain, out to Stoney Creek or into Burlington would save people so much travelling time and out of their vehicles. It would be amazing!

Don't give up on insisting that the provincial government keep their promise.

William G. Vance

As empty-nesters we're down to one car and bicycles. From a risk management point of view biking to downtown from Dundas is simply too risky. In comparison with an HSR bus, LRT would be a no-brainer to downtown destinations.

Bonnie Patterson

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Don't give up on insisting that the provincial government keep their promise.

Christine de Takacsy

Once again, Hamilton has the opportunity to be forward thinking. Once again the Mayor's office has unilaterally decided that it is better to take a step back rather than a step forward. The LRT has been studied and planned properly. The benefits have been demonstrated from fiscal, environmental and developmental perspectives. The province has made the commitment. Hamilton has a great future and the citizens are determined to see it achieved. The fact that the Major's office must be dragged kicking and screaming into the future, should only lead us to question their suitability to govern.

The LRT B-line should and must go forward.

Nancie Mleczko

LRT was strongly supported by the residents of Hamilton during the 2010 election campaign, and is an absolute must to the future successes of businesses and neighbourhoods. The Province is talking now, because of the upcoming election, but we can't let this opportunity fall between the crack--literally!!!

Chris Sanislo

To continue the rebound of downtown Hamilton, I feel investment in LRT is an important part of making the city more liveable. It will help retain those who study here, help achieve in-fill objectives and mitigate the urban sprawl that's becoming an increasing burden on our tax base and environment.

Jeff Strong

I support the LRT for the future of Hamilton and the revitalization of the downtown core. The LRT initiative should be given top priority for politicians, city planners, and government officials who are interested in propelling Hamilton and her interests forward for generations to come!

Leah Serafini

Let's move forward and embrace sustainability, progress, and innovation as a city. Hamilton has so much potential and our politicians need to act now in order to facilitate sustainable growth for our city.

David Escobedo

I think this would be a great idea!

Stanley Cicci

Hamilton in the past has blown so many opportunities like if you look at B.C. the monorail we turned that down and B.C. got it free not us Hello. Also like turning down putting a Casino downtown they said there would be more crime look what we have now more crooks and panhandlers. Detroit puts a casino downtown and they are able to hire more police so everything is booming in there downtown Hello the bell is ringing again wake up.

Jenny Cho

Hoping for the LRT to get the go ahead-to the people of Hamilton, it is much more important than you think, it's necessary!

The LRT has the potential to not only provide efficient transport services to existing public transport users, especially to the lower income bracket (for which Hamilton is home to many) who do not have cars, but also to get non-pb transport users on board. In the long run, it makes sense in a variety of ways!

Kim Schellingerhoudt

Come on, Hamilton! Let's get this done!

Claude Rocheleau

LRT is important to the city of Hamilton, look around at the US cities that have them, they are moving in the right direction.

Please do not butcher this like the Pan Am stadium. Bob Young said Ivor Wynne would never work as a Tiger Cat Stadium. He told us it was in the wrong location.

Then city council pick that spot!!!

I wish we could have leadership and some vision at City Hall, not just a bunch of followers.

Just my opinion.

Tom Ciancone

Please re-commit to LRT for Hamilton.

Over 25 years ago, as a youth, I travelled in Switzerland where electric trains ran every where - within cities and into the country. I was very impressed. It seemed bicycles and rail transit were the two main modes of travel. Gasoline was three times as expensive as here. So it made sense. Maybe Switzerland's past is our future.

The province will pay the capitals costs, so this is a win-win.

Frances Neufeld

As part of greater Hamilton I believe that excellent Light Rail Transit will improve our City in many ways:

- it will invite closer connections between City Centre and surrounding hubs, like Ancaster and Dundas;

- it will relieve parking in the City core with more people taking the line;

- it can be seen as a part of other lines such as connecting to GO;

- it puts Hamilton in the 21st Century and shows us as a City that embraces its past as well as moving with the future;

- it adds to the greening of our City's environment;

it will encourage businesses along the route, and challenges as citizens to see more of our City easily. As a person who has commuted to TO from Hamilton to work, because I wanted to live here, I would have loved to have been able to just grab a train from my end of the City!

Let's be a Canadian City that sets examples of urban living.

Michael Hain

Hamilton can be so much more than a bedroom community for Toronto. The city should invest in itself to rebuild a vital downtown. All day GO train service is not a substitute for an LRT.

Maureen Ona Corcoran

Hamilton needs the LRT !!!

Andrea Hill

I support LRT in Hamilton. It's time that Hamilton lived up to its slogan: The Ambitious City!

James Barbu

This has dragged on long enough, the city council needs to do something.

Peter Gnish

The future of our city depends on getting cars off our streets, helping people get across town easily and quickly and providing new businesses with the opportunity to open along the LRT route.

Jordan Kipp

I've been excited for and behind this project since its announcement. This city has to take a look around the continent at the many other LRT success stories of both larger AND smaller cities. Or just look towards Waterloo.

Council has to wake up and realize that one day, the province and the FEDs are going to stop handing out giant wads of cash for our capital projects...

Susan Swayze

I love this city and will show support however I can. But now with this debate...I cannot believe it is even an issue. What happened to election PROMISES. Right, anything to get the votes I guess. It is so frustrating when casting your vote, because you want to believe the PROMISES. Lets get back on track and bring life back to the city, not continue to kill it off slowly.

Wendy Johncox

As a City Planner I believe that local transit improvements are imperative to promote city growth and sustainability. Get on track!!!!

James Fyshe

I commuted to Toronto from Hamilton for many years. I eventually moved my business here because it offered a better opportunity. Local transit options are limited in Hamilton and I know from my experience living in Toronto that expanding effective public transit will greatly encourage local business and community activities.

Expanded Go service to Toronto is only going to increase the focus on that city and impede the efforts to make Hamilton a full community, not just a bedroom community.

The City of Hamilton needs to demonstrate some vision. This opportunity for light rail will not come around again.

Mardi Schwenger

Light rail is cleaner, quieter and better suited to service our downtown and outer laying areas.

Nathan Savelli

Do the right thing, invest our money wisely into LRT!

Stephanie Howells

This would benefit so many people in so many different ways. Not only would it be an asset to those taking this route, but also would encourage more users to take transit as opposed to driving, and would also free up

other buses - such as the bus into Dundas - that B-line users will often take instead of the B-line itself. PLEASE make this happen!

Roland Dube

There are many arguments made against LRT. Mainly the capital cost and the lack of population density to support LRT. That said it seems to be a very short sighted and a selfish position. At some point in the future, population will grow to a density level that will satisfy those opposing LRT today. By that time the capital cost will be even more unattainable placing the burden on our children and grand children.

To be completely cynical, government at all levels waste 100's of millions and billions of tax dollars on a regular basis with little accountability and nothing tangible to show for the waste. I would prefer government waste our tax dollars on tangible assets like infrastructure and LRT so at least we can see our tax dollars carrying tax payers down the road.

Basically government screws up all the time but to the benefit of a very elite few. I am perfectly ok with government screwing up in favour of the everyday citizen. Besides the elite will get there money from building and consulting so everyone will win with this LRT screw up!

It would be nice to be able to point at something and say "Hey there goes my taxes"

Randell Neudorf

Ever since I first heard about LRT at a meeting hosted by Mr. Bratina when he was a Ward 2 councillor I was very excited about the idea.

I feel that LRT would really mover our city forward and show that we are committed to investing in the lower city.

The East/West line is especially important to bring focused development into these under resourced neighbourhoods as well as promoting a funnel to bring the children in the lower city to higher education at McMaster.

Charlie Helsdon

To backpeddle on this plan at this stage is par for the course in self-doubting Hamilton. All my life I've watched the city miss opportunities due to its fear of change and underdog attitude.

It's time for Hamiltonians to stand up and start making bold moves to reinvent "Steeltown" into something new and vibrant.

The money is being handed to the city, the plans are pretty well there and ready to go. You don't get many freebies in life. Let's get the shovels in the ground and start developing a new Hamilton for the new century.

Mike Colyer

Okay, let me get this straight. It's "yes" to all day Go service that will whisk people from the bedroom town of Hamilton to work in Toronto? Because, let's face it, it won't happen the other way around. And it's "no" to light rail which, experience shows, produces both commercial and residential development along its path? And am I wrong, or don't I remember someone in our provincial capital saying we could have both? Sigh.....

Catherine Wiebe

Say yes to LRT!

Megan Mathieson

I will 100% use this!

Jason Feth

It is VITAL that we move forward with this initiative in order for Hamilton to be able to fully develop as a place where people want to live and work. We cannot continue with outdated attitudes and thinking!

Joseph McNaughton

This city could be incredible. Build outrageous structures!

Collin Polos

The bus system is far too unreliable and often overcrowded to the point of passing those waiting outside. Our intake of commuters has increased considerably over the last year, including multiple evening busses TOWARDS Union Station. The citizens of this city have waited long enough for a useful transit system, what excuse does city hall have for those finally finding our city useful and full of opportunity when they decide it's not worth the hassle? Every other community in the Golden Horseshoe is much more committed to its future and is already starting to leave us in the dust. We all know Hamilton has the beauty, infrastructure and history to be a world class destination... there is no excuse for us to sit on our hands and act foolish in the face of opportunity.

Dennis Baker

I am a strong supporter of LRT. I have seen it at work in many other cities and it works. Development is encouraged, many more people use public transport and steps are possible to reduce automobile traffic/congestion. In Hamilton we would have more flexibility to build wider sidewalks (to better separate walkers from cars), construct bicycle lanes and generally change from having a motorway through the city.

I often use public transport on the E/W route and know how difficult this makes it as we have a one-way system on much of Main St. and King St. The difficulty to return from a business makes public transport unattractive.

Jeff Mallany

LRT will be the best thing to happen in/to Hamilton in 20 years....It should be supported by all levels of government.

Pat Roberto

I am tired of our elected representatives at all levels playing word games. Do what is the best for the city, otherwise get out of the way!

Ian Dale

LRT is imperative if we are to be a forward looking city. Just look at the major cities of Europe.

Deborah Fusilier

Please don't 'de-rail' the energy and momentum of the downtown revival! We just put our house on the mountain on the market so we can move downtown, partly on the promise of light rail across the lower city.

James Dalgetty

The municipal government of Hamilton has failed the city for approximately 40 years .It has gone from a vibrant city to one that is circling the drain in so many ways.The city has restored an embarrassment of a city hall,spent a vast amount on an art gallery that is hidden away with a sign that makes it look like a no frills store.Many buildings have been torn down or let decay without any repercussions.The city has allowed Bob Young to extort the city regarding the stadium.He was allowed to threaten the city into moving it from the west harbour.Remember the site was no good because there was no easy access ,no visibility for naming rites,inability to have concerts,no parking etc.Out of the blue he likes the old site which would provide none of his criteria.And now he seems to not paying for any of it.After a year or so of playing elsewhere there will be a vastly eroded fan base and Mr Young will have no reason to maintain the team in Hamilton.The Lrt is needed in Hamilton for two reasons.The obvious one is to provide fast,cheap ,ecologically sound transportation.The second is for the psyche of the city.Every city needs infrastructure improvement .That's a given but there's more to a city.Hamilton has such a poor image both internally and externally.The Lrt(as would the velodrome) would be be such a source of pride.

T Michaluk

This is a really important development to improve our city and it will have a really positive impact on Hamilton's reputation - locally, provincially and nationally. We need this!

David Cummins

I believe that LRT is important for the future development of this city. The time is now to move forward with this.

Alan Drummond

I fully support LRT . I am tired of looking on TV at other cities around the world that have electrified and LRT facilities. we are so backward in Canada in this regard.

Tom Ratcliffe

"Honey, when I bent down on one knee on the beach at sunset, slipped that diamond ring on your finger and asked for your hand in marriage, what gave you the idea it was a sincere and heartfelt proposal?"

We're actually lobbying city leadership to support a project they've already publicly endorsed?

What's the negative here? Who loses?

We simply want to take a proven model for urban revitalization, with funding available to boot, and apply it in Hamilton.

The city deserves it.

Dan Charleton

As a new Hamiltonian - since 2009 - I can say that the average person I speak to here is clamoring for an east-west public transit solution.

As a former Calgarian, I can say that the answer is right in front of us. Calgary LRT is a huge success in a much lower-density city.

So, what are we waiting for?

Jeff Stock

Please have the courage to bring this city into the 21st century and implement the LRT program into Hamilton.

Grant Ranalli

I am a huge supporter of LRT in Hamilton. Studies here and in other cities have clearly shown that light rail will alleviate any transit congestion we have now and into the future (read: B Line) and also produce economic spin-offs that will help to revitalize the downtown core and stimulate development along the B and A line routes. How a city could turn its back on a significant chunk of provincial funding is beyond me. All day GO service is long, long overdue but it is independent - or perhaps even an integral part of an overall sustainable transit plan the MUST include LRT. Let's get moving - sooner rather than later - or we will end up in the dust while other municipalities (Kitchener/Waterloo) grab the brass ring while we are left standing at the platform as technology and innovation bypass those who hesitate.

Katherine Crosbie

Please don't waste anymore time and Taxpayers' money on another "feasibility study" when clearly this has already been done and it concluded that LRT was the right way to go. What has changed? We have a new Mayor who is very good at making disparaging remarks about issues which should now be in the "WORKS". Does that mean that everything done before he arrived on the scene has no meaning now?

It's time to move forward.

Council needs to take control of LRT planning and make it a priority again. The Province needs to indicate that they will keep their promise to fund its construction.

It's time for Hamiltonians to remind the City and the Province that we believe - as the City's and the Province's studies have confirmed - that LRT is the right decision.

Now it's time for the City and the Province to finish the job of building LRT.

Phyllis Alfano

I am in support of LRT for Hamilton.

Jennifer Saunders

I think that Hamilton has tremendous possibilities and LRT would enhance all of the areas that could bring growth and development.

Matthew de Zoete

I strongly support building the LRT in Hamilton and believe it will be a positive development for the city and province.

Joshua Smalley

It's time for Hamilton city council to pursue a bigger vision. Light rail transit will go a long way to attracting a younger and more vibrant generation to this city. Light rail and all-day GO transit are synergistic visions. If we need to raise taxes for this we should -because in the end we all benefit.

Ken Burlock

The stadium issue and now the velodrome probably directly benefits 50,000 residents, only 10 percent.

LRT would provide far more benefits to a greater portion of our population, spread throughout our City. That alone should convince our politician to push hard to see it become a reality.

The LRT's presence would drive our economy forward such that "THE FRILLS" would become much more affordable while maintaining a reasonable tax rate.

Can't really see a downside.

Miodrag Matic

As Hamilton grows in population, our public transit must match if we are to keep up with the times. Light rail will be quick, environmentally more friendly and rejuvenate the downtown core. With a dwindling steel industry, reliable Toronto like transit to and from downtown can foster the much needed growth in Hamilton.

Mike Luyk

I think LRT will help make this city great!

Rita Bailey

I grew up in Toronto, near a street car line, and travelled on it regularly. In terms of noise and pollution, they are far superior to buses.

A light rail line for a city like Hamilton is a must, not an option. An east-west line is a priority to connect the many neighbourhoods in the lower city, the university, hospitals and shopping areas.

I grew up in a culture that worshipped the car, but those days are gone. Young graduates today can't afford a car and are increasingly turning to transit. As our population ages, more seniors are giving up their cars. Light rapid transit is the way of the future, and Hamilton can't afford to not make it a priority.

As for the cost, it's like insulating a house. You need to invest the money up front in order to save money and benefit the environment in the long run.

Jason Diller

I really think LRT has the potential to transform and revitalize downtown in a way that nothing else can. I'd love to live in a downtown core where taking the car is optional, yet everything is in reach.

I use GO trains every day, but I'd rather see LRT.

Matthew Klurowicz

A greatest city is one that gives its people the most mobility. Put Hamilton back into motion.

Lauren Webster

I am a Hammer-girl born and raised. I love this city even though careers have led me elsewhere here and there. Everywhere I go, I

brag that I'm from Hamilton - I joke that it infects your very being and you just can't help but love it.

This all being said, I'm becoming less and less hopeful for Hamilton's future. There is so much potential in this city. There's so much pride. But the narrow-minded view to keep sprawling outwards and not protecting our core "because it's already dead" is really getting to me. This past weekend, I went to a garlic festival in Toronto. This was held in a restored Brick Factory. They used the old warehouse as a covered outdoor market, the quarry they have turned into paths, ponds and gardens, and they have built a green conference centre that can house weddings, corporate events, etc. All I kept thinking was "Man I wish Hamilton would get its act in gear". I actually took pictures of all the steps they had posted of how they turned an abandoned and contaminated factory to such a beautiful city site.

All this rambling does have a point. Hamilton needs to get its act in gear. Let's start with a trusted method of transportation and then let's move towards reclaiming our downtown (I'll keep my fingers crossed for micro-breweries and patios).

"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world." - Jack Layton

Let's change the world Hamilton.

Dana Haas

We need a more efficient and modern connection between Hamilton and the GTA. Hamilton is growing and changing and we need to upgrade our transportation system. If we had an efficient system, more businesses and individuals would consider Hamilton.

Rick Beauchamp

I listened with interest to the data and information provided by the delegate from Washington, D.C., concerning the experience in that community and several others who have made an investment in LRT. Based on experiences in several other jurisdictions, it would appear that strong evidence exists to demonstrate the positive economic spin-offs that LRT can initiate.

Clearly, no singular action can be the panacea to resolve the economic travails of this community - but - LRT represents a progressive and dynamic element which could produce substantial benefits to this community.

I urge city Councillors to be thoughtful, strategic, and bold. Surely there are broader advantages to be realized from this initiative in comparison to the narrower benefits that might derive through investment in a velodrome!

If finite dollars dictate the need to prioritize, count me in support of LRT 1st!

Andy Stone

We moved from London, UK because we believe in the potential of Hamilton. Decent public transit HAS to be part of the future of any forward-thinking city. Don't let Hamilton stagnate and get left behind - if it does, we'll move someplace else (along with a good-sized portion of the "knowledge economy" types - and our research income and economic multiplier potential - like us that are globally mobile, and WILL move to where the future is greatest for us

Simon Woodside

Light Rail is key to the city's future. The economic impact in similar cities in north america -- of the same size, character, industry -- has been revolutionary. Can Hamilton afford to miss out? I don't think so.

It seems that the population and the government was all aligned in favour until Mayor Bratina started to bad-mouth the initiative. Is that good leadership?

Dana Haas

We need a more efficient and modern connection between Hamilton and the GTA. Hamilton is growing and changing and we need to upgrade our transportation system. If we had an efficient system, more businesses and individuals would consider Hamilton.

Melissa Loftman

Hamilton is an amazing under valued city. Built the light rail, it would be beneficial for the city, its inhabitants and visitors.

Brad Pidscalny

Hamilton needs this LRT transit system to. It will bring much needed revenue for the city, and will liven it up for the public, bring more investors to the city. Etc...

Martin Eckart

It's time to stop waffling on these large /already committed/ projects that are good for the entire city.

John Reinink

This has been in the works for many, many years and some of you were elected into this position *because* you supported this project. So... where is it? Don't let this be added to your list of broken promises.

And not only this, but the LRT project is a fantastic one for a city that is desperately in need of downtown revitalization. Please make a step of support in this project. Now.

Nikki Li

Please support this opportunity

Jacklyn Campbell

Please proceed with election campaign promises and earlier Council decisions to proceed with the Hamilton LRT. The LRT will facilitate moving people across Hamilton and various points within the city. All day GO service between Hamilton and Toronto will facilitate moving people out of Hamilton to their jobs in Toronto. Fulfil those earlier promises and decisions and built the LRT - stop the back-tracking!!!!

Matt S

Great idea!

Jonathon Valeri

Yes, as a student, a G drivers license holder, and an advocate by taking our transit and differing away from using a vehicle (one in possession but do not use), I believe this city will echo through years with an example of progress a city can make through using LRT and affordable, reliable, and sufficient transportation. No more excuses, look at others that have built. This will revitalize our city in ways never imagined because we cannot know our future, but we can guide ourselves to its success

Sheila Heyes

LRT will be one of the best things Hamilton will see to keep our city moving forward. To decide anything other than "bringing it to Hamilton now" will be a HUGE mistake and will cause our fabulous city to stagnate and perhaps even take steps back.

Please, MAKE THE DECISION to move forward with this amazing opportunity for our great city.

Catherine Taylor

Please make LRT a priority in Hamilton again. It goes hand in hand with all day Go train service. As a taxpayer and a concerned citizen I am paying close attention to the decisions Hamilton councillors, the mayor and provincial leaders are making in regard to LRT. I believe LRT is necessary to the future of Hamilton.

Tim Simmons

It is time we start believing that Hamilton can be a world class city. In the past we have built highways essentially to help people get out of the city. We are now going to increase GO Transit to help people get out of the city. Maybe we should think about transit that keeps people living and working in the city of Hamilton.

Lisa Hodge

This would be a step in the right direction in terms of economical growth for our city.

Margaret O'Grady

The deteriorating core of Hamilton is seriously deminishing our city. Lite rail would make traveling to our centre more convenient, attractive and reliable. The construction of a rail system would also increase the credibility of the city in the world domain. Hamilton has a lot to offer in beauty and culture. Let it grow!

Robert Fedak

Hamilton always seems to find a way to dumb it down, as opposed to raising their game.

To take us to the next level, we need to have strong support from the people who were put in place to do WHAT WE WANTED. Enough of the back door deals- to get to the "next level", we need to "get to the next level". And LRT is, or will be, a key part of the future of this City after decades of being beaten up by City staff who seem incapable of making decisions involving foresight.

David Clarke

Please don't be short-sighted about this! You will be able to attract significantly more investment in real estate projects in Hamilton if City Hall isn't seen as being anti-growth and anti-development.

Sonja De Pauw

The ground work has been done and Hamilton needs light rail transit, on the B line. The mayor may be waffling for some unexplained reason but many citizens, including myself, are not!

James Butchert

Hamilton has all the makings of a world class city including a good sized international airport, a busy sea port and access to major highways to both the USA border and the rest of the province.

Installing an LRT system in the city of Hamilton would be the next logical step in bringing our city into a greater economical and environmentally friendly future.

I am in FULL support of an LRT system for the city.

Hollie Pocsai

Please.

Jeff Chuchman

I am very frustrated by the number of buses that need to fly by the bus stop at Dundurn & King and cannot stop to pick up passengers because there are too many people. I watched 8 go by the other day while I waited.

Meg Coppelino

LRT, please!

Jimmy Bender

The LRT is an important initiative that the city needs to continue to pursue. The LRT is one of the first steps to revitalizing our city core, becoming more green, and becoming more appealing to those living in the city and living outside the city.

Mary Thomas

Light rail transport is the future! Hamilton needs to act on this now!!

This is not the time for local or provincial politicians to play games. The mayor should remember that he was elected to represent this city not his personal whims. He has one vote on council, he is the mayor not a king with veto power. Council endorsed this project last year, so get on with it!! Hamilton keeps losing progressive

opportunities due to petty power playing. Stop this stupidity. Do what is best for this city (what you were elected to do).

We will all benefit with cleaner air, better mobility and opportunities for local development and employment.

Bob Berberick

It makes me feel good to see all of the amazing positive feedback comments about LRT and what it can do for Hamilton in the future.

I'm nearing the golden years, so I probably wouldn't benefit from LRT much but my city surely will.

I've lived in Hamilton all my life and wouldn't consider moving anywhere else, with most of those years being on "the mountain". A few years ago I moved to the lower city just outside of the core in a perceived bad area, so it was not without concern. It has been a very pleasant surprise. The downtown really is quite vibrant; and colourful too :-). Walking the neighbourhoods has allowed me to see some of the hidden beauty of the core; invisible to those who only travel on Main and King Sts. There are many beautiful old homes here.

As a bonus, I was also quite surprised how much less gasoline I use. Walking to the grocery store, market; miscellaneous shopping and entertainment is merely blocks away. My fuel costs are now near half what they used to be; having to hop in the car to get everything. Who needs a hybrid!

Admittedly, there are some things that are not beautiful, but they are not beyond repair. In fact, I see great opportunity here.

I hold the feeling that the downtown revitalization is somewhat like a balloon that is slowly filling with air and is wanting to explode in a blaze of glory. There are lots of good things happening in the core and I have a sense that LRT would be that final burst of air that would pop that bubble. (Doing something with the (currently not so) Royal Connaught building is the other final gust of air needed.)

In conclusion, I'd like to publicly express my thanks to Ryan McGreal.

He is a young man who truly cares about his city's future. His seemingly tireless work on this and other city issues has not gone unnoticed with me and obviously countless others.

Esther Huh

If Hamilton wishes to continue to grow and appeal to the new generation, it needs to invest in an effective public transit system like the LRT.

Lee Dermody

Not building LRT is a missed opportunity for the city to leap into the 21st century

Brian Cumming

All great cities have some form rapid transit. It's time for Hamilton to get on board! I support a LRT system for my city, Hamilton.

Rachel Webb

LRT would make my life easier. Please make it happen.

Connor Prebianca

As an older teenager that grew up in this great city. I would be thoroughly disappointed not to see this plan followed through on. Almost every time we have a proposed plan to optimize transportation in and around the city the plan gets stalled for too long. Then, after the plan gets carried through with, the stats prove that the plan turned out to be successful. Stats don't lie, let's keep the trend going! L

Kevin Wiens

For decades, the Main/King corridor in Hamilton has been the site of a staggering inequity - motorists can race from one side of our city to the other at 60km/h without hitting a light, while transit users cram on to overfilled, slow buses (the ones who can fit on the bus at all). Social divisions such as this are harmful to everyone. LRT would bring some balance and fairness to transportation in Hamilton, one of many reasons to complete this project.

Andy Coltman

Please don't let this opportunity to improve Hamilton's liveability and future fail. The questions have been asked and the options weighed,

and LRT was shown to be a viable and highly desirable initiative to help strengthen our City, its economy and its future. This led to clear support and promises from Council and the Province to pursue its installation --- promises that need to be reiterated and acted upon NOW so we don't squander all the hard work and insight we've gained so far. Please get LRT back on track.

Pauline Taggart

I supported LRT for Hamilton in 2008 and believed the promise made by the Provincial Government to fund the capital costs associated with building the A and B line.

I continue to fully support LRT for Hamilton in 2011 and do expect the Provincial Government to make good on their promise to fund the capital building costs.

Awkward timing and politics aside, this is an election issue for me and a promise I'd like to have reaffirmed before casting my ballot in the upcoming election.

Mark Mundell

LRT will bring in the investors that Hamilton so desperately needs to revitalize the lower city. But a smart investor will not commit their own \$\$\$ until the shovel hits the ground.

In saying that, I have read that some have opined that the big investors aren't building yet, why should we do LRT? The truth is, it is an "if you build it, they will come scenario.". Follow Don R. Campbell of REIN to understand what LRT means to this fine city of ours.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Robert Beck

In my opinion, the LRT is a priority. Failure to implement this would severely hamper the City's future prospects for economic growth.

Thomas Doyle

Dear City Councilors, MPPs, Premier McGuinty, and local provincial candidates,

I moved to Hamilton in 2003 and quickly observed the potential this city possessed. From a proud industrial heritage this city is on the cusp of transforming itself into the innovation center of the golden horse-shoe. The realization of this transformation has far reaching positive effects across this city, this province, and the country. To retain existing talent, to attract the brightest and the best, the city needs to step forward and demand that leaders show their commitment to Hamilton through investment that revitalizes this city that makes it a place where people want to work and live; the type of city where people and families can thrive.

I want political leadership that sees that Hamilton requires... that Hamilton deserves, investment in and of itself for its own sustainability, vitality, and prosperity. There is no other investment at this time that will effect as many, or have as long a lasting impact on the city and it's people than the investment in Light Rapid Transit. While all-day GO is a necessary part of connecting the region, it does very little for the people, like my myself (and my family), that *chose* to live, chose to work in this great city.

My October 6 vote hinges on support for LRT. My future votes will be greatly influenced by where each of you publicly stand on this issue.

There should be no doubt that there is strong support for Light Rapid Transit in Hamilton.

Luke Mattar

Very important to me. Please bring in LRT!!

Mike Renaud

Our city is moving in the right direction and LRT should be a huge priority. If we're truly going to be a first class city then we need to make first class decisions.

Heather

Any improvement/addition to mass transit systems is good for the ecology - give people options other than the their personal automobile (an enormous takes-a-lot of energy and resources pig that usually transports only one person).

Rick Cordeiro

Cheers!

Nina Hladio

It's time we invest in the future of our city. What are we waiting for? Do we want to be an accessible, citizen-friendly city that attracts new young people? Or do we want to remain complacent and inevitably watch people move to other cities where they can get what Hamilton can't offer: the accessibility of light rail transit. Hamilton has everything to gain from the Light Rail Initiative, so let's take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Michael Hampson

Lets get this started...

Melanie Skene

Hamilton is an awesome city, but needs to change the way people can move around it - from a automobile mentality to one that is more human/citizen friendly. Come on Hamilton get your heads out of the 50's and into the 21st century.

Connor Clark

I honestly can not believe that mayor Bratina has said, and i quote "LRT is "not a priority" and wouldn't be unless one million people move to Hamilton in the next five years." That has to be a joke. If we want to build our city, and BRING people to Hamilton, LRT is a great step in that direction. Not only will it bring people, it will lower the amount of gas consuming busses driving around through Hamilton, and in turn, save us all money.

Heather Judson

Dear Sirs and Madams, I am writing to ask that you do not abandon the Hamilton LRT initiative. I am an urban person, living and working in the Hamilton Core. I also attend McMaster university. I currently walk to and from work, and then drive to McMaster. It is not feasible for a night school student to take the bus home from campus because when classes let out, you cannot even get on a bus until three or four have gone by, the need is so great. I do own a car, but would prefer to take LRT or walk, while using my car for longer distances and trips outside the boundaries of Hamilton. I used to live in Calgary, which as you know has the C train.

It's hugely beneficial to students, people who work downtown, or even just people who prefer not to drive in city environments. Hamilton is a big city. Let's act like one, shall we?

Adam Brown

Light Rail Transit has been proven by cities such as Oregon to have a positive not just on transit ridership but municipal beautification as well as had an impact on automobile reliance. Let's put the "R" back into HSR!!

Dianne Mead

It is time that Hamilton actually joined the modern world. We should build the infrastructure to bring people to Hamilton, not infrastructure to leave Hamilton. LRT improves Hamilton, makes it an easier to access the city. Another GO station - we become yet another commuter city without a heart.

Give people a reason to come ride our "rocket" - instead of going to TO to ride theirs.

Nadine Bernacki

Please support the LRT b-line construction as soon as possible. Our citizens in the future will thank you for being so forward thinking and proactive in dealing with coming economic challenges.

Ann Lawton-Barry

I have written to Mr. Bratina regarding my opinion on light rail (it's a "must"), among a couple of other things such as his inaccessibility (he accused the Hamilton Spectator of being a second Rupert Murdoch problem), and his response to me was that I was "impertinent and derisive" to question his decisions regarding the City of Hamilton. And I voted for this man ! How dare he speak to voters like he does.

Please keep up the pressure on the premier and Mr. Bratina to see the future !

Julie Vohra

LRT for Hamilton, great investment.

Amy-Lynn Vautour

As a citizen who believes in doing what is best for our environment, reducing the stress and unsafe conditions for those who must commute during rush hours, and promoting a stronger sense of community through actual human interaction, I strongly support the LRT idea. I have been hoping for something like this for a long time. I am an avid user of public transit, but have found it slow, unreliable, and confusing (at best). Oftentimes it takes me 1 1/2 to 2 hours to get from my home in Dundas to a destination on the East Hamilton Mountain for an appointment. This is unacceptable, as I would be able to drive Oshawa in that amount of time. Please get back on track with this project. The ever-expanding population of Hamilton plus its Never-expanding public transit system are making things very difficult for the commuters in this city.

Katarina Relic

PLEASE make light rail happen. The city needs it!

F. Douglas Elliott

I have found through bitter experience that our Provincial Government cannot be trusted to do anything they promise. Similarly, our beloved city Council is just as untrustworthy. They can't get on the same page with each other and babble about anything just to get their pictures in the Paper or on television. There are but two councillors that are ethical in this city. When we can finally get rid of the idiots that have weazeled their way into city council, I don't see anyway that we can hope for a rapid transit system in Hamilton. GOD only knows we need it badly enough but Dalton Darling and Bratina's brood will screw it up somehow. Just look at the PAN AM Games, Fiasco, for an example.

Dawn McIlmoyle

Stop playing games with the citizenry over this! Hamilton NEEDS a clean, reliable, environmentally sensible public transportation system. And I mean the CITY of Hamilton, not bloody Ancaster. Pouring money into development in Ancaster, Stoney Creek and properties on top of the escarpment is destroying Hamilton. Address the situation by unifying the downtown core, east and west ends with this rail system.

Lee Edward McIlmoyle

I proudly voted for someone OTHER than Bob Bratina. He therefore does not have my consent to derail this project, which may actually be the only good plan put forward for reviving the inner city and our local economy in the last thirty years. If he can't see that, then maybe it's time he stepped aside and let someone with a little more vision do the heavy lifting.

We need the LRT, Bob. Money has already been spent setting this up. Don't be that guy. Build it first, and then you'll get your city growth, not before. All you've done so far is help continue the mass exodus of real development to the outer boroughs. Howzabout giving a little

something to those of us who actually live in the actual city. It's our tax money, too.

Carolyn Lehmann

Please, do not leave Hamilton in the 19th century regarding public transit, especially light rapid transit.

Krystyna DunnBlacklock

The LRT is something that Hamilton requires. I think council needs to make the LRT a priority for the city. Council needs to step and see that this is done. All day GO service will not help the majority of taxpayers living and using transit through out the city. The Mayor and council need to think of our city and the LRT was something Mr. Bratina campaigned on in the past election. I am angry it is not following the original plan and the promises McGuinty made in the past regarding it.

Dawn Danko

With a change in job I went from successfully using Hamilton transit to an unacceptable level of service. After 8 years, we have broken down and bought a second car. If light rail transit was available I absolutely would not need the second car. I fully support LRT, and would suggest that it is critical for maintaining a vibrant downtown in the future.

Suzanna Lusky

We are new to Hamilton -- originally from Toronto. We support the LRT initiative for its environmental and revitalization benefits. This city has great potential.

James Graham

This would be a GREAT success for the city of Hamilton, and for the people in Hamilton. HSR buses are constantly jam-packed at crucial times during the day. HSR's record for performance is among the worst in the province.

Brian Detlor

I encourage Hamilton City Council to make LRT a top priority for completion as soon as possible. The economic and environmental benefits of doing so are just too good to pass up.

Jason Morse

Our investment in LRT will create the foundation for future smart growth, attractiveness, and thus prosperity for generations to come. Now is the time to take this bold step and lead Hamilton from decades of stagnation.

Leslie Szamosvari

Light rail transit, properly designed, has proven to be very successful in many cities. We, in Hamilton, have been blessed with volunteer contributions by interested, activist, citizens who want to see this alternative transit get on the ground. No one is suggesting that it is the one project that will save Hamilton's downtown area. Consultations, meetings, input, designs, recommendations, have had impressive participation by many who care about our city and care about equal access to our neighbourhoods. Why is the mayor not listening?

Let us get to work and move forward to create benefits for all.

Jonathan Fernandez

I feel the LRT is integral for the economic growth of Hamilton. It can transform this city and be a catalyst to bring new businesses to the city.

Paul Barrett

Hourly GO Transit Trains sound great but there is already efficient GO Transit Bus Service Toronto hourly. Hamilton has come to far down the road towards Rapid Transit to back out now. If Hamilton and Ontario want to grow sustainable and economically prosperous cities then efficient transit and high density development are required. Keep your promise pay for Hamilton LRT. Its time to fund the transit needed to bring Hamilton from car culture to culture.

Nicholas Shaw

It's time to plan for a sustainable future. It's time for rapid transit in Hamilton.

Lisa Hind

The LRT is past due and is desperately needed for a growing city. It has been held back because of dawdling and delays. Hamilton City Council .. please listen to the tax payers of this city that the LRT is needed. We are in the 21st Century and Hamilton needs to move forward. As well, I dont need to tell you Hamilton City Council that it will bring jobs to a struggling economy of Hamilton. thank you sincerely,

Rudy Neufeld

It seems we the people have to lead the fight for the LRT with force and vision: two commodities in short supply from our present mayor.

Roger Mann

Mayor Bratina represents only one vote on Council, and in his role as the official spokesman for Hamilton he should be representing Council's decisions, not his own opinions. It is council's duty to make this fact clear to him, and to ensure that any commitments he makes on Hamilton's behalf are transparent and reflect the wishes of council.

S G

This is a critically important time for the city. LRT will ensure a vibrant, integrated and dynamic city, committed to progressive growth for all residents. Please make LRT a priority for the city.

Janis Topp

Sad to see we are being pulled back to square one on the LRT project. It is the key component to the necessary public transit within Hamilton. I agree we must move forward on it.

Matthew Coleman

We have an opportunity and it is time to get it done! Let's push Hamilton forward!

Peter Hutton

It is extremely disappointing that local officials at all levels have not been able to cut through the political and bureaucratic obstacles at the provincial level to getting LRT done. Any project dragged out this long will run into problems and plays into the hands of the nay-sayers.

Clearly we need to invest in all forms of transit as an essential part of our infrastructure to support new and renewed economic development.

Council has it right - we need both expanded Go and we need to begin to build sensible LRT to meet the needs of existing riders as well as those who would make the choice, but can't because the existing HSR is overwhelmed with existing passengers.

Mayor Bratina, you are wrong. Expanded GO alone will not help the economic development of Hamilton as it will take people to the jobs that exist in Toronto, and it will take decades to really reverse that trend. But staged LRT and GO as the money comes available can make that change faster. It doesn't take a million people and honestly I hope that Hamilton never reaches that point.

Joanne Tanner

As a Realtor I believe the promise of light rail will allow me to attract out-of-town buyers to the Hamilton market. They will come with Toronto dollars, and buy large numbers of properties in our city. This will make our city vibrant, cash rich and alive again, and all citizens will benefit from that.

Steve Tanner

Hamilton needs the LRT to promote growth and outside investment in Hamilton.

Barbara Carson

As a senior citizen who is shortly going to be giving up the expense of driving and aggravation and cost of parking in the city centre, LRT would be very welcome - if not necessary.

I have no doubt the majority of Hamilton residents would appreciate their tax dollars supporting LRT over 'all day Go service.' Most of us do not travel to Toronto every day, but do travel around our city and would appreciate anything that makes it easier and more efficient.

Derek Hrynyshyn

Improve Public Transit Now! Citizens deserve efficient, comfortable, convenient and sustainable ways to get where they need to go!

Kevin Browne

I think the LRT is vital to create a link between McMaster University and the downtown. I think the LRT is an incredibly pro-business decision, it's important infrastructure to create the right climate for investment. All day Go to Toronto is great, but LRT also recognizes and that we are a city and not a suburb.

Kevin Thom

I've traveled all over the world, and seen how a healthy, clean and efficient transit system has revived cities everywhere. Hamilton badly needs a boost, and LRT is a great way to do it. I vote in elections based on the candidates' positions on LRT. I will vote for candidates who support it.

Lauren Stephen

The fact that Hamilton has been poorly serviced by GO trains for years can't become an excuse for not investing in local transit. Even a marginal increase in population density along the LRT lines would make a huge difference to the prosperity of our neighbourhoods. Right now downtown businesses are struggling, and there are many empty buildings. Increasing population density (not just increasing population and spreading out) is how cities become prosperous, and great public transportation is the most effective way to do that.

Anton Lodder

We need to make LRT our number-one priority.

Andra Zommers

I support the effort to bring LRT to Hamilton. We are a growing city that needs to embrace a sustainable, efficient and accessible transportation system. An LRT system will allow us to network better as a community and individually to expand our economic impact to farther reaches of our city.

LRT! It's about time!!

Scott Ireland

It's time to build an LRT.

Aaron McCluskey

Hamilton has always been a leader in innovation and technology -- let's not stop now.

Anne Jewer

I am a regular public transit user and want LRT.

Doris Thomsen

Mayor Bob & those opposing LRT. Wake up to 2011. We are not in the dark ages anymore. In order to move ahead to the future we need to update our transportation system. This is the way to go

Amin Ahmadi

This one initiative could above and beyond any other single act push Hamilton forward and make it place to talk about, let's make this a flagship of Hamilton for many years to come, the icon. Likes of Dundurn castle and Jackson square are becoming hard sells to the new generation, this is Hamilton's chance to be the poster-child of advanced transportation in the region.

Sara Mayo

I have 2 kids and no car, and even though I would benefit personally from LRT, I was a skeptic. But then I read the Metrolinx studies and became a fan for numerous reasons, including the economic benefits.

Waterloo is pressing ahead with LRT and we can't let Hamilton fall behind, especially since we have a low growth rate and fewer residents move here than to neighbouring cities like Waterloo.

LRT will make public transit enjoyable, a key feature of public transit competitive with car use. LRT is by far the most effective way to transform our city and show benefits for all segments of our society, even people who continue to use their cars.

Please do your part to make to LRT happen in Hamilton.

Aminu Bello

Hamilton needs an "image" and LRT will definitely contribute towards building a new image and economic catalyst for our downtown Hamilton and the region as a whole. The phrase surrounding Hamilton's "potential" needs to be a precedent thought.

Dave Hauch

I urge you to support Light Rail in Hamilton - it's a service that is essential to growing our city as a stand-alone community, not simply another sleeper-enclave for Toronto.

All day GO Service, while also good for Hamilton, is not a replacement for a modern, light-rail transit system for our city.

Harrison Cruikshank

Light rail transit not only increases the efficiency of our public transportation, it encourages its use. By giving people the choice to use a transit system that provides a fast and efficient method of travel you are truly providing an incentive to leave the car at home. Currently, the choice to commute to the Hamilton mountain from my Dundas home by either a 1-2 hour transit commute or a 20 minute car commute is no choice at all. Light rail can help decrease this travel-time discrepancy and make public transit a true alternative to privately owned vehicle use.

Bruce Mowat

Get a commitment in writing with a start date for construction..... before the election. Otherwise all your tax money goes to Toronto's transit system.

Derek Sahota

Hamilton is a city of half a million people with the ideal pre-existing corridors for light rail transit. On top of that our bus ridership on the route is already extremely high (as evidenced by the many packed buses which pass me by in the morning). Its time that we as a city band together and get the transit system we need and deserve.

As a property owner who moved to Hamilton from the Metro Vancouver area, I've witnessed how a well planned transit system can transform a region. 15 years ago Vancouver also wallowed in the shadows of supposedly better cities, always unsure of itself. Hamilton also clearly has a self image problem, but there's really no justification for it. Its time we stop being a city of "can't be done" and start being a city of "Yes we can!"

Let's not pass up an opportunity to build our city for another generation. Instead let's work together and build a Hamilton that attracts people from across Canada. Together, we can. .

Jim Quinn

Establishing light rail is critical to the restoration of the downtown core and the light rail corridor and to growth of alternative transportation. As transportation needs shift as a function of increasing fuel costs, Hamilton will be ahead of the game if we move on this initiative.

Christopher Wilson

I grew up in Hamilton and moved away for nearly 6 years for school and work. I've recently moved back to Hamilton and i am in awe of some of the wonderful changed in development and restoration that have taken place. the lightrail system would be exactly what the city needs for encouraged enthusiasm to development within the cities core. its a step in the right direction to a bright future for hamiltonians and Im excited Im back living in Hamilton to be a part of it!!!

Michael Wright

Hamilton needs light rail transit. In a city that is so spread out we must be able to rely on more than buses for public transportation.

This is an important step for Hamilton and Canada, as infrastructure like this must be implemented in ALL major cities for both the environment and economic development. Hold the Liberals to their promises. If you care about the future of your city - Demand light rail transit.

Carly Mary McLeod

My name is Carly Mary McLeod. I am McMaster University undergrad student, born and raised in Hamilton. Contrary to popular belief, especially around McMaster, I love Hamilton and have loved this city my entire life. I have history here, and so does my family. I see the potential in the city and wish that others would just do the same.

Light Rail or Rapid Transit would change this city forever. It would be environmentally sustainable for the generations and it would be an investment that would unite this city.

From someone who cares about this city and who wants to continue to be a part of it in the future, LR would make my life and the lives of community members across this city so much better! Please consider strengthening our community and ensuring we continue to be a sustainable city.

Peter Hill

Politicians need to be visionary and decisive in their actions. Too often they follow loud-mouthed and uninformed fools to the detriment of their constituents and communities. They need to be brave and do what's right, not what's expedient.

The LRT in Hamilton is visionary. A decisive action in needed. Poorly informed people are out there making noise and should not be listened to. Community improvement will occur and personal success for politicians will follow if they do the right thing.

Maurice LaBorde

This opportunity will change not only the perceptions of the residents of Hamilton, but Ontario's perception of Hamilton. Its time to make a broad statement to the growth of Hamilton.

Erika Shaker

Please take this opportunity to recognize Hamilton's potential as a sustainable, innovative, world class city that prioritizes responsible, effective and efficient transportation. Support LRT!

Richard Pascoe

I'm a former Hamiltonian now living in Waterloo. Waterloo Region recently agreed to proceed with light rail transit in K-W. Most here think this is very progressive thinking on the part of our elected Regional council.

Hamilton must do the same. As I see it, knowing both cities (K-W & Hamilton) if LRT is good for us here in Waterloo, it will be even more beneficial for Hamilton.

Elaine McSevney

We need to be a progressive city! In order to be the best city we can the LRT is a necessity!

Christine Roarke

Hamilton needs a LRT system. With the demise of manufacturing jobs in this city, Hamilton needs some innovation in order to attract and retain people, especially young people. Time to start thinking about our new reality, one that doesn't revolve around a car.

Conrad Daigle

Im showing my suport for the LTR cuz it will show something that this city needs big time ... and show some of Hamiltonians what a rising city should look like :)

Steve Scott

We need a LRT east west line in Hamilton.

Claudia Leduc

LRT for the city of Hamilton is necessary in the pursuit of revitalizing the downtown core. The viability studies have been done and the citizens of Hamilton support this please restate your commitment to this important project. I have traveled extensively in cities with LRT, where it has proven to revitalize the core while providing clean, efficient, safe, affordable, mass transit. It is the future of our city!!

Matej Glavac

Hamilton is on the move - ranked the top city in Ontario for real estate investment, second in corporate investment. The construction of an LTR system in Hamilton will only bring more investment and put Hamilton on the map as THE city in Ontario to live and invest in!

Darren Widenmaier

Please proceed with LRT plans in Hamilton. The province and the city should both be moving forward with LRT. LRT would be transformative for Hamilton--an excellent economic stimulus with high long-term ROI. I shouldn't have to rehash all the well-documented arguments, this project should simply proceed.

I realize the timeline for ROI is beyond that of a typical political cycle, and the electorate is often short-sighted. Use your position to explain and promote the project.

Make a bold move, leaders are supposed to lead.

David Ramon

Dear Mayor Bob and Council,

Please renew our city's commitment for Light Rail Transit, This is Hamilton's opportunity and will make a positive and bold statement in the direction we would like to take. The benefits are endless. Let's go forward with the initiative that was put in motion and not doubt the promises that our elected politicians have made,

Grethe Johnson

The LRT will improve the economy of Hamilton drastically by allowing people more accessibility to potential employers in the areas. Hamilton has so much potential and I look forward to the day that the province commits to improving the lives of Hamiltonians.

Peter Karrys

Please move forward with the LRT & help Hamilton grow to its deserved potential.

Anita Kuehn

I'd like to endorse my support for the Hamilton LRT -- it will do great things for the City of Hamilton, & the sooner things get moving on this, the better for Hamilton

Stephen Martin

As a former Torontonionian who loves living in Hamilton, I believe that an LRT would revitalize the downtown. It would give people an excuse to get out of their cars, and to go downtown more often for shopping and entertainment.

Stephanie Ross

Hamilton must make the kind of investments now that will make for a sustainable city in the future. We must find ways to have effective transit that reduces dependence on individual cars. We must have ways to connect parts of Hamilton to each other, and not just Hamilton to the Greater Toronto Area: we are more than a bedroom community. I strongly believe that politicians must have the courage to make these forward-thinking investments now.

Ross Englefield

Light rail would be a boon to our city with the potential to create immediate jobs in construction, maintenance, operation and other capacities. It is also very likely to boost business opportunities along the serviced route through direct contact with transit riders as well as increasing the attractiveness of Hamilton as a business destination.

Kelly Foyle

Hamilton is in desperate need of improvements in its public transportation. As a person who semi-regularly takes the bus, the LRT would be a huge improvement to this city. Many cities of Hamilton's size have greatly profited from an LRT. Not only the users of the LRT, but also businesses along the route would profit.

It is very sad that our Mayor as not been fully on board with this project. Hamilton needs an LRT and I sincerely hope that the province will stick to the promise for funding.

Larry Berberick

I am a property owner in Hamilton and have fully supported Light RAIL Transit from day one and attended several public meetings. PLEASE get on with building the B-Line. I look forward to the future transition it will bring to our great city of Hamilton!

Ron Blenkhorn

This city needs to show progress in order to become a more attractive place to live for people who are running out of affordable housing in nearby cities.

We somehow stopped progressing many years ago. Copps Coliseum was the last true example of Hamilton's ambition. An ambition that we used to display to show hope for our future. Sometimes, like Copps your plans don't work out quite as well as you had hoped, but that's not reason to stop looking ahead. You don't stop trying to make a better place for your kids, and their kids.

Dina D'Ermo

I have been involved in community workshops and City of Hamilton planning presentations and have offered individual comments about the advantages of Light Rail Transit for Hamilton. Hamilton councillors, the Mayor and senior bureaucrats must make this a priority for those of all of us and our children. This might be the way for our youth to remain in Hamilton, with an opportunity for the City to become more vibrant, attracting developers to continue to grow this City into what it can become in the future.

Robert Veldhuis

The LRT will bring a renewal to the Hamilton core. I cannot believe our leaders have so little vision to the benefits this system will bring to our community.

Stan Vichniakov

I'll support the idea of LRT if I know that it will not affect my taxes. Right now, most of supporters of LRT drive their own cars. For them, it's a game, either political or financial. As for the rest... Example: Torontonians are sooo proud of their public transport, especially when the City raises their taxes every single year to support it.

Larry Sicinski

I'm 65 years old. I may never get to use this marvelous facility that brings Hamilton into the 21st century, but I'm excited about the fact my children, grandchildren and those that follow will have that option.

I'm also tired of Mayor Bob Bratina's antics with the Liberals. Seems like he's just the mayor for a good time, not a long time, and his longterm interest is in getting the nomination to run for the Liberals in the province or country.

Harriet Sloan

Hamilton is ripe and ready. Let's continue to move forward toward building and implementing an LRT system that will benefit our community and the entire Greater Golden Horseshoe. Metrolinx has stated publicly that it is "bullish" on the Hamilton LRT project. Our

elected and non-elected community leaders (at all levels!) must get behind this project to make it a reality. We're in a good position. Let's not squander this opportunity!

Wayne Elshaw

LRT is a great idea! It will improve the public transit option, cut down on use of cars, improve the environment, link the city, promote development and create employment. Don't let this opportunity pass us by.

Bryce Anderson

I believe that the LRT is the right way to go, As mayor and our prime minister, neither of them sit on a bus for 2 hrs a day, fully loaded most of the time. The LRT would make commuting from one side of the city to the next probably much quicker, hopefully with more space than a less than 50 seater bus. I AGREE TO BUILD IT. PLEASE

Anna Davey

Hamilton is a big, vibrant city with a big, vibrant future. We need to plan for that future, not maintain the status quo of today.

The province has committed to two light rail lines in Hamilton. Two rails that will attract investment, new riders, reduce pollution and thereby improve Hamilton's infamous air quality and grow with Hamilton as we continue to develop as a world-class city.

LRT is a priority. It is a priority for our future.

Jennifer Roberts

If we as a community, city and region want to make a name for ourselves globally, a step towards the future of transit is imperative. We are already so behind many other regions worldwide. LRT for Hamilton is a way for us to change our image, change how we attract business to our economy, and promote us as a tourist destination. Time for us to step up and set the standard. You want to revitalize the downtown core? Dusting off old buildings isn't the only way to do it.

Shwaan Hutton

The studies have been done and public opinion is in....LRT just makes sense for Hamilton. It would be short sighted and irresponsible, at all levels of government, to not capitalize on this opportunity. With rising fuel prices, environmental degradation and a downtown on the rise, Hamilton's economy, reputation, citizens and generations to come have the potential to thrive as a result of such an investment. The benefits will pay for the initial cost several times over and a healthier, happier community is priceless. Let's make this happen!

Nick Hutton

My family has lived in the Hamilton area since the first Loyalist settlers arrived over 200 years ago. The decline of our once great city core is painful to experience. I strongly believe that no single act could more positively affect Hamilton more than light rail. It is therefore the clear duty of any elected official to strongly and effectively champion a Hamilton Light Rail line. Any elected official that chooses not to does not deserve to be considered for re- election.

Catherine Roberts

Public Transit is the glue for a successful Hamilton. Perhaps this is the incentive needed to start improving the downtown core! And, new small businesses might be encouraged to invest where there are major stops.

Troy Bush

I think this will be of great benefit to the city.

Maya March

Adding light rail transit will greatly reduce the disparity between economic classes within this city. I strongly support the project and know it will contribute to the vision that forward thinking Hamiltonians have for our city in the coming generations.

Ania Ksiazek

LRT and the GO Service at James Street North are both important developments in aiding the gentrification and growth of Hamilton to

its full potential. Accessibility is the key. I work in Toronto but love living in Hamilton. The GO needs to provide fast service to Toronto- otherwise, people will just continue to commute.

Rebecca Hammond

As a young professional who has chosen to make Hamilton my home, one of the deciding factors in choosing to buy a house in Hamilton last year were plans for an ambitious and necessary Light Rail system. This investment is essential in raising the national and international profile of the city to make it competitive in the emerging economies of the 21st century. Please do not turn your backs on taking this bold step to realize our bright, creative, future. The expenses are significant, no doubt, but the benefits will be reaped ten-fold in the coming years as we see this city as the true hub of the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Eric Gillis

The need for LRT in Hamilton is undeniable. Buses alone are consistently proving themselves incapable of providing the population of Hamilton with fast & reliable service-- which is something Hamilton desperately needs as our city grows and develops. Full-day GO train service is a step in the right direction. But that's it, just a step, we've many more to take after that.

Shawn Boecker

Let's look and build for the future. The key is to build strong dense cities, not sprawl. Less worrying about commuting to Toronto, and more about keeping our residents in our city

Lia Bronsard

Light rail is fast, does not pollute and is silent. It is technically advanced and will create jobs. It will make Hamilton more advanced than other cities.

Yvonne Alama

Buses are noisy, ugly, impatient, and polluting. While Tram's are fast, requires more educated people, and chic!

MARNIE(MARGERIE) MUNN

I AM DEFINITELY IN FAVOUR OF HAMILTON PURSUING LRT IT WOULD BE REFRESHING TO SEE THE CITY COUNCIL TAKE UP A PROJECT THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY--UNITING THE OUTSKIRTS WITH THE CENTER AND WITH OPPOSITE ENDS--SO RESIDENTS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH WORKING, GOING TO SCHOOL AND SHOPPING WITH EASE AS THIS WOULD MAKE US MORE OF A COHESIVE UNIT. OUR PRESENT ARRANGEMENT SEEMS TO FRAGMENT US INTO OUR VARIOUS OLD COMMUNITIES OF DUNDAS, STONEY CREEK --THE MOUNTAIN ETC--
-LET'S SHOW SOME INITIATIVE--AND LIVE UP TO OUR 'AMBITIOUS' CITY SLOGAN--

Fraser Pollock

I am a Transportation Planning Consultant living in Ottawa, originally from Toronto. I have always firmly believed in the transformative power of transit including, rail based transit.

Paul Terpstra

People living in Hamilton know it is a great place to live. People that don't live here need to see positive things, like LRT happening in order to convince them Hamilton is a great place to live. People in the city also need to see decisive action and see things get done to spur on more development and investment.

The ball is rolling. Please let it gain momentum rather than stop it. Getting the ball started after it has stopped is an unnecessary delay that wastes time and money. Decisive action can get this project moving through to completion so that you can spend your valuable time working on the next set of challenges you face.

Andy Wong

It may not be evident just by performing a feasibility study whether the LRT would bring in significant business and have sufficient ridership. A previous study already showed the ridership projections in Hamilton.

What is more important is the fact that many individuals like myself are choosing cities further away from Toronto as a primary residence because of the high cost of living in Toronto. Hamilton presents as an excellent alternative but is deterrent to some because of its dismal downtown core and lack of transit options and inaccessibility to key areas of town - McMaster, Westdale, Dundas, St. Joe's, General Hospital. What you need to realize is that the LRT system will bring in more business to the Hamilton core and change the current downtown scene. There have been some new developments in Hamilton - investment by New Horizon Homes, the construction of the McMaster health facility downtown, renewal of the HPL and St Lawrence Market, a number of Chinese restaurants, Mexican grocery stores, Korean institutions - but the process is still a very slow one. The LRT has excellent potential to be catalytic to this process. A number of foreign investors, new immigrants with graduate degrees have built new families here, beginning a wealth of culture manifested in restaurants, retail stores and community services. There is sufficient evidence from these developments to indicate that Hamilton is in a position to begin very rapid growth. At a time of such escalating potential, there is hope for an increasing rate of immigration. You really need to be in the centre of the city to realize this. Because the jurisdiction lacks the ability to track migration statistics, particularly with the lack of response in a large number of those who do immigrate, the best way to assess this situation is by surveying the immediate communities around us. Many of those who move here live in apartments. Most of the time, the registered occupant by the city of Hamilton to these apartments remains some previous owner many years back. There has not been any formal process for many apartments to require re-registration of new occupants. In fact, I have been living in Hamilton for the last 8 years and it has only been this year that the City has acknowledged my presence - and it was only because I went to vote here and registered my name (though by doing so I'm still not sure if you know I exist). My point is, many of us are here and are interested in the idea of the LRT since it carries with it a lot of hope and potential prosperity. I urge you to carefully consider its importance and priority in light of additional opportunities such as the Pan Am games that can leverage from this business-building strategy.

Daniella Cisternino

DO IT

Dustin William

It's time we evolve from the bus. This in my opinion will change the city for the good.

Jonathan Therien

A durable, cost efficient, and attractive public transit system is a necessity to all cities. LRT is a chance to achieve these goals

Matt Holmes

Build the LRT! Hamilton is 8th largest metro areas in Canada and does not have a subway/lrt? Let's not cheap out and do this right. Make it part of the greater transit system connecting all of the Golden Horseshoe. If you could add high speed rail to Toronto too that would be great.

Vladimir Smiljanic

I have lived in Hamilton since I was I was 6 years. My parents decided to pick up everything and leave from Europe and come to Canada. They left everything to start over here in Hamilton. Hamilton provided them with jobs and tools to give us the life we have today and for that I am forever grateful. Though I don't live in the city anymore (my parents are still there...my dad works in East Hamilton) I still care what happens to my hometown.

Being a recent graduate from University of Waterloo Planning program I know the unbelievable benefits Light Rail Transit provides a community and a city. The initial investment is tremendous but the future economic gains are exponential. You don't have to leave the continent to see it's success. Just look at a city like Portland, Oregon which has embraced light rail transit and has used it as the main transportation infrastructure in it's city.

I care about Hamilton and want it to prosper. The cities location in this part of the continent gives it enormous potential for economic

success. The city needs to start taking hold of these opportunities to give future families the same opportunities my family was lucky to receive.

Andreas Link

The province needs a strong urban centre in Hamilton. It is a no brainer that an LRT would be transformative for a city with the heritage and building stock as Hamilton. It will drive investment back into the core and re-create another great city in Ontario. This is not a conflicted transit choice like many in other parts of the GTA, the City, the businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Unions, NGOs, residents are all on side. The decision will be a golden legacy for all who work to move it forward. It would not be an overstatement to say it would change people's lives. The large immigrant community, the under-employed community, the seniors would all benefit greatly. It would re-build a transit culture in Hamilton, a city slowly taking back its identity. I appreciate your time, but look forward to this moving ahead. Sincerely, Andreas

Richard Shin

We absolutely need LRT for the future of this city.

Connor Allaby

Most major cities have some type of rapid transit system, be it subways or LRT. An investment in LRT shows that we are committed to maximizing public benefit and reducing our environmental impact. Also, we should operate our public transit for free, but one step at a time I guess.

Laura Cattari

We have done the studies. We have the Hamilton Real Estate Board supporting this, awaiting confirmation. Not only is this a long term investment in economic growth in Hamilton but it provides a viable way to traverse our city. I have waited close to an hour as 3, filled, B Line route buses passed me by on a cold Sunday afternoon. Please stop dithering and send a clear message to our provincial government that this is what we want.

Robert Connolly

There is no valid reason why LRT should not be a priority. All studies have said that it is the right thing to do. Not to do this is to condemn Hamilton to the status of second class city for the foreseeable future because we see ourselves as incapable of thinking big. Isn't this supposed to be the "Ambitious City"?

Jane Slote

Much needed.

Stephen R

My Dad's company was going make investments in Hamilton - they're OFF THE TABLE as long as there's no stable future plan.

STOP THE FLIP FLOP MAYOR! Listen to the people.

Jeremy Parsons

Please consider this for the future of our city!

Alexis Nizzero

As a student at McMaster, I depend on public transit to get me to and from school, as well as various volunteering positions around the city. Having an LRT system would make getting around immeasurably easier.

Megan Wood

the buses are always late and i can never go anywhere fun in hamilton other than main street! this will get me to encourage people to come to mcmaster or mohawk and enjoy hamilton!

Chris Cotoi

I really believe that LRT will help the renaissance of the down town Hamilton. LRT will also decrease the pollution.

Evelyn DiFrancesco

I believe that light rail transit will do wonders to revitalize the downtown core, and to bring business back to the community. It will

increase pedestrian traffic, and attract people who want to live in urban centres without having to have a car. People who live in Hamilton, will be able to move across the city with greater ease, and it will give those people that do drive a car another option to leave their cars at home, reducing car congestion on streets and reducing carbon pollution. There is already the population and ridership to support LRT. By having LRT in Hamilton this will put Hamilton on a competitive playing field with regards to other developing and growing cities and communities.

For Hamilton to lose this opportunity would be regressive and make people think twice about Hamilton.

I am hopeful for this opportunity and I hope you will partner with us to make this a reality.

Raymond Lawlor

Honoured government representatives - Hamilton, Ontario has been starved of infrastructure for too long and it is time to push hard for the introduction of a modern light rail transit system to this city. I support the introduction of higher-order transit in Hamilton as a key component of the urban renewal process. For too long, there has been precious little initiative, funding or vision for the city of Hamilton and a light rail transit system is a good example of a project that could be a lynchpin to turning this around. Please show your support for this process by advocating for funding for light rail in Hamilton!

Doug Farraway

Council needs to move on this whether the Mayor wants to be a champion of this initiative or not. this is big time money for a city that does not get it's fair share of big time money from Ottawa or Toronto. Do it!!!!

Conrad Daigle

LRT is the ONE thing that Hamilton is missing. Please don't lose this chance to make a difference in the Hammer!

Steve St. Jean

Hamilton needs the LRT. Give us something.

Jeffrey Wong

As a McMaster student, I understand Hamilton's need for a light rail system in order to better the transportation of both students and Hamiltonians.

Dillon Donison

I very much support the idea of light rail service in Hamilton

Mirian Cisneros

I personally believe that introducing a LRT to the city of Hamilton would be absolutely amazing. Don't get me wrong, the HSR is great but it takes so long in the morning and it isn't very reliable at times. Especially for a student like myself. If there is one thing I could ask for in the building of the LRT is to make it run later times and on weekends. It's very difficult to find transportation on weekends- that is if you don't drive.

Shawn McGuire

Get LRT in Hamilton. It will benefit our city greatly and will help make our city a better and greener place.

Kelly Kotulak

The LRT would greatly benefit the city of Hamilton. This is an opportunity to make the city more accessible and reduce the amount of buses (and cars) we have on the roads. Not only would it make the city more eco-friendly, but it would give the city a positive image instead of the steel city image it has today. The LRT is definitely the next step in the right direction.

EDSON TIBURCIO

HI I LIVE IN MISSISSAUGA AND FOR A FEW YEARS NOW I'VE BEEN LOOKING TO MOVE TO HAMILTON. I SUPPORT THE LRT IN HAMILTON.

Diwakar Sharma

LRT is a must for bringing back the lost glory of Hamilton.

Rick Zingel

Dear City Council

Please provide the reason council has not moved forward with this plan.

This is your opportunity to set the record straight.

Hugh Lindsay

It's time for Hamilton to ride shotgun, we have been taking the back seat for too long. Do something for Hamilton, make this project a priority, and give the people of Hamilton this valuable tool. It will help to bring people to the city, and help the city to continue to prosper.

Kim Haworth

As a disabled person I would really welcome transit that travels on rails. I get tired of being jostled around on those buses and I feel pretty unsafe!

G H

Hamilton NEEDS LRT. How can Bratina say that he will push for LRT if 1 Million people move to Hamilton in the next 5 years? They need a reason to come. People need to see that Hamilton is a city worth living in AND that these world class services such as LRT for rapid transit are already implemented. Years of hard work on LRT is going into the trash if LRT is not implemented. Hamilton had a terrible city council for a long time that only chased businesses and people out of the city. Hamilton is a city with a tone of potential. Hamilton NEEDS LRT!

Megan Rausch

Great idea! the buses need their own lane, some of the drivers drive crazy on the roads! speeding and slamming on the breaks; almost hitting other cars...i think it would make a big difference.

Sameera Prematilake

I had to move from the Hamilton mountain (my parent's house) to a place close to McMaster University because the travel time was too long for University student like me.

Evan Neal

I live on the mountain and work downtown. The buses are great but it would help me get places that I would otherwise not have time to get to in the a day. Such as grocery stores or my parents. It will also open up more realistic job opportunities for me.

Lianne MacIntosh

I believe that the city should step forward and give the residents of Hamilton what they were promised, and what is needed. There is no sense in continuing to waste money on more studies when the work and research has already been done. Increasing public transit is an essential thing which need to be occur in the city to improve the quality of life and environment. Spending money on vital transportation needs will help achieve the city's goal.

Daniel Evans

The time for modern transit is now and light rail is the best option for our city. It is vital that we act now to keep the momentum of the renewal going.

Amber Miller

Citizens of Hamilton and across the GTA should be encouraged to forego fossil-fuel burning vehicles in favour of a less expensive, more environmenally friendly mode of transporation. LRT is the perfect way to do this!

Rich Zuc

Build the LRT in Hamilton.

John Wilbur

Building the B-Line LRT is essential to the future of Hamilton, poverty reduction, social justice and fighting Code Red.

Aleksa Cenic

Just moved from Calgary. The LRT in Calgary is a superb transportation system. Let's make Hamilton superb too!

David Wootton

As an Ontario taxpayer, I'm tired of all my tax money going to support Toronto. Now they want my money to build a casino in Toronto which will further destroy the economy of the Niagara region. It is long past due that this government spent some money in the rest of Ontario. I had to leave Ontario twice in my life to find employment and my son had to emigrate to New Zealand four years ago for the same reason. We need a government that will stimulate Hamilton's economy and I can't think of a better way than improving our transportation system by building LRT in Hamilton. Simultaneously, the government should be connecting all of our metropolitan areas with GO transit. It is absolutely ridiculous that the center of a metropolitan area of nearly 800 000 is no longer connected to the outside world by rail. 60 years ago as a child, I remember taking the train out of Hamilton. The McGuinty government does not have my vote until investments are made in Hamilton.

Dean McMahan

I think this is a brilliant idea, however the only concern I have is how will this affect traffic already congested on Main St. E./King St. E.?

It's time to get East Hamilton moving!

James Michener

An LRT system will help revitalize the downtown!

Kevin Harper

I think that Hamilton would benefit greatly from an LRT system and that it would be urban renewal and economic growth to the region.

Stephen Woodruff

Light Rail in Hamilton would bring great benefits to a forgotten urban gem including greatly increasing worker portability, slashed transit trip times, greater system simplicity and more urban density along it's route. These are all issues that I constantly hear politicians of all levels talking about. How about some concrete action in an area that is almost perfectly suited to reap the benefits of Light Rail Transit? It is time now to build this for the future of Hamilton.

Dave Minard

All the bickering needs to be set aside and all involved need to get this done ASAP for the sake of Hamilton and its people.

Kim Haworth

As a person with disabilities I can tell you how wonderful it would be to have a train ride on smooth rails instead of being thrown back and forth on a bus. The slippery seats on the bus certainly don't make things any easier.

Russell Ibbotson

I travel for work and pleasure and have seen succesful LRT from Edinburgh to Calgary. I live in Hamilton and love the potential of our downtown. LRT is a key peice of the puzzle to revitalize and realize the potential of our beautiful city. Give Hamilton the opportunity to shine!

Joe Magueta

In every city I've ever been to the light rail, street cars, etc are the life of the city. We would hit the population of 1.5 million the mayor thinks is necessary much faster. If people thought like the mayor, there would never be any growth.

Eric Qiu

I believe That The Light Rail Transit System for Hamilton Would Be Extremely Beneficial for The City downtown, mountain, and other

areas and i think it will be much more efficient than the hamilton street railways' current operating of the A and B Lines

Erich Bertussi

Streetcars are key to the abolishment of one way streets stopping urban sprawl and the renaissance of downtown Hamilton...

Tony Hill

I really think LRT is needed in this city,sooner than later.In 1992,the HSR discontinued trolley bus service,and they had diesel motors installed in the 7800's,so they were really the first hybrids before the current crop of them.These are a good step in the right direction,but would be even better if through a deal with the city's eating establishments,biodiesel,100%,could be obtained.It would be great to see pure electric vehicles return to the city.

Michael Attard

Light rail is a sustainable, efficient and responsible solution that will allow a large number of people to effectively move through the city in a practical manner. It will reduce traffic and increase the overall quality of living in Hamilton. It will allow greater access to shopping areas which I feel is one of the key components to rejuvenating the downtown area. It can also potentially allow people from outlying areas (i.e. Binbrook) a practical option to use public transit and travel into the core of the city in a reasonable timeframe .. this is valuable since this area has no public transit service currently.

David Linton

Cautiously optimistic about the recent progress. LRT is an all-around winner for Hamilton. Make it happen!

Anthony van Osch

We are considering moving back to Hamilton after nearly 20 years in B.C. and a light rail system would make the decision easier. I heard it would be designed from a European point of view rather than the standard, one-size-fits-all North American mindset. This is very encouraging. I lived in Hamilton during the debates on whether to eliminate or expand the trolley bus network. Unfortunately, the trolleys were abandoned largely for political reasons despite Hamiltonians' desire to keep and even extend the system. Hamilton was diminished as a result. The building of a light rail line in Hamilton would be a wonderful step toward redeeming some of the mistakes of the past.

Curtis Thompson

If Hamilton moves forward and builds this LRT network it will strengthen and improve the quality of life for Hamiltonian's and improve the economic stability of the city. Not to mention, it is way more cost effective than bus rapid transit. It is also a much more luxurious form of transportation. My point: Ask anybody if they are embarrassed or feel awkward to stand at a bus stop on a busy intersection and mostly everyone will say "yes". however the TRAM system is much more comfortable of an environment to be in. With fewer stops with more riders at each respective stop in more manicured stopping junctions. The ridership will speak for itself in a couple of years unlike the bus system.

Adrian Solyom

LRT can be a game changer when it comes to economic growth and the increase in transit use. Having used light rail in Helsinki, the capital of Finland and a city of similar size to Hamilton, I can say that it is both far more convenient and comfortable than bus transit.

Implementing LRT has consistently shown not only to be feasible, but also more efficient and cost effective than the current solution. It is the single biggest factor that can jump start the growth and development of Hamilton.

JB Wiebe

I agree..LRT is one of the most cost effective solutions for most public transit issues in North America and certainly for Hamilton.The important distinctive is that the LRT needs to have its own allocated Right of WAY.

Christine Kinahan

My name is Christine Kinahan, and in September I will be entering into my second year of studies transportation engineering technology at Mohawk College. I'm originally from Toronto, but I've lived in 6 different cities in southern Ontario over the past 9 years. I can honestly say I've seen amazing and I've seen terrible examples of public transportation, and it really baffles me. Bringing this line to Hamilton would be a major boost for the city. We'd be a leader for rail in Canada, it would be quite the learning opportunity for us students, and it would be exceptionally functional. Please help us out!

Jason Barr

Anyone who will turn down funding for LRT anywhere in Ontario obviously does not have the best interests for Ontario in mind. LRT will allow for communities to be connected in the future, promoting economic growth and reduced carbon emissions from vehicles. My plea to the Liberal government: do something right for the first time since you have been in office; fund this project!

Orazio Caltagirone

Let will benefit cummuters to and within Hamilton.

Neil Gowan

PLEASE go forward with LRT. Hamilton deserves it. I am a young professional that would love to make downtown Hamilton home, as I see it has a lot of potential. Investments like LRT will encourage more people like myself to live and invest downtown. Hamilton needs to help place people like myself in the core, LRT is a great step.

Pheroze Jeejeebhoy

I moved to Hamilton 5 years ago from Toronto. I have always valued walking in the city that I live in. But, in that time I have become very aware that Hamilton does not perceive its transit as accessible. The Ti-Cats slogan for the new stadium of a "driveway to driveway experience" reflected the lack of effective public transit in Hamilton. Sadly, the lack of convenient transit prevents people from experiencing their neighbourhoods. Hamilton has so many gems but they are isolated by expanses of one way streets that whisk people through neighbourhoods. The result is a lifestyle that exists in two pockets: home and work. A more convenient transit system would knit the various neighbourhoods together. Prosperity would develop along the lines and not just in isolated pockets. The city should work hard to make public transit the rope that binds the city together, making the whole city a better place to live.

Jeff Smith

Without the addition of the LRT, Hamilton will remain in the shadow of too many other cities - Hamilton needs this to come to pass in order to fully step forward into the future suit it is destined to wear as well as to revitalize the magnificent splendour it once had in the downtown through a renaissance. Hamilton's rebirth needs this, the people need this, and investors need this to bring property values to where they need to be.

Put Hamilton where it deserves to be - at the forefront!

Spencer Fredson

I think that bringing LRT to Hamilton is an incredible idea!

Ryan Janssen

I believe that LRT in Hamilton will contribute to the growth of the city. It is a development that has many advantages for all populations within the city.

Abbey Le

Do what you said! Go Hamilton

Andy Fok

Please built an LRT. There is just simply too much pollution from the factories and vehicles.

Ben Heikoop

I believe the city of Hamilton transit LRT plan is a very important part of the Hamilton's goal to become a sustainable city. We have had a very difficult few decades but if you believe we have a future as a great modern city please show us that by funding the LRT. It is an important step to getting Hamilton back on track.

Amir Shafi

LRT, should become part of Hamilton, so it can grow , prosper like many other US cities and european cities.

Current bus system is not up the mark as far as the transit times are concerned.

Sean Kirk

Hamilton is waiting for a catalyst like LRT. Studies show LRT can work, and we've seen success in other cities. Imagine the impact this has not only on Hamilton but the whole surrounding region

Thomas Eagles

I fully support this idea and am excited to hear the final proposal. As a lifetime citizen of Hamilton I have always said we need better transit for the city to thrive and this is the first step in the right direction.

Doug Robbins

Hamilton's city council in the mid 1980's missed the opportunity to have a high speed monorail installed from the CNR station in Hamilton's north end to the Mountain and ultimately to the airport generated a lot on nonsense reasons like it will cast a shadow,

The city needs light rail, not just east west but north south as well.

Laure Ampilhac

I am in favour of the Light Rail. Great idea.

Stavros Rougas

To invest in Hamilton long term investment is needed. While I will use LRT as public transit for me it is a project that will allow me and other to invest our cash as it displays long term planning and investment.

Pete Harding

I support light rail transit for Hamilton because I believe in a livable lower city. The city needs efficient, economical public transit. Buses and other automobiles clog the main east/west arteries, threaten pedestrians and other drivers, and create a great deal of pollution. If the light rail system were in place I would utilize public transit more often and leave my truck at home. New to Hamilton and loving it.

Amber Edgar

The bus system doesn't cut it - Hamilton deserves LRT funding NOW!

Jason Raynor

Please make Light Rail Transit a priority in Hamilton. I see it as a significant factor in renewing the prosperity of Main St. between the downtown core and Stoney Creek. This entire stretch of Hamilton will benefit substantially from the business it will bring back to this corridor and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Jake Clark

It would be a shame if this never gets put in place, Hamilton needs an LRT system along with many other projects, but this can revitalize many existing infrastructures.

Gabriela Vasileva

Light Rail Transit will not only revitalize Hamilton's economy by creating new jobs; but it will also encourage more urban development, and contribute to a more sustainable environment. LRT is the right choice.

Paul Raun

The proposed LRT line is a much needed baby step to address the issue of Peak Oil, i.e. the end of cheap energy. The fact that we are tapping into the Tar Sands and Oil Shale in the Prairies, forms of Extreme Oil(Oil that involves much higher extraction and production costs, as well as yielding a markedly lower level of net energy than once abundant and now increasingly scarce sweet light crude)gives a clear indicator of facing Peak Oil.

Building an extensive network of light rail across cities in Southern Ontario will help to reduce our dependence on oil, along with encouraging the development of a more compact yet aesthetically interesting and liveable urban form.

As a longer term move, it is crucial to build a branch line for light rail out from the centre of Hamilton along York and Plains Road into Burlington, perhaps to the Appleby GO Station.

Malcolm Campbell

It will help with the pan am games

Stephen Hayes

Time to move forward and invest in public transit. We are decades behind countries in Europe and Asia. Waterloo, Toronto, and Mississauga are getting funding-we should too:)

Michael Brigham

Light Rail is not only a green solution because of its electric use, but it will also move more people in a single moment than a bus will. It will help Hamilton grow as a city, and will encourage more people to take public transit.

Michelle Pagliaro

It's Hamilton's time! Keep your promise.

Hernan Ugalde

The most liveable cities in the world share one thing in common: walking friendly neighbourhoods that can be easily accessed via efficient transit.

Unfortunately in Canada (with the exception of possibly Ottawa) we have been quite dormant in respect to efficient transit systems. We only need to look at the dismal state of transit of Toronto, where 6M people have 2 subway lines and an insanely old streetcar fleet, while the city is busy playing political games and there is no real plan ahead.

Here in Hamilton we have everything we need to build an even better city: liveable neighbourhoods, a good size city (not too large, not too small), but we really need a more efficient transit system. Having Light Rail would definitely improve the quality of life and would set an example for the rest of Canada and North America.

Jesse Newton

Hello. I am a civil engineering graduate about to complete my Master of Applied Science degree at McMaster University. I am a regular commuter, traveling by both the HSR and my bicycle.

I am a Hamiltonian, and I support the Light Rail Transit initiative in Hamilton.

Lachlan Holmes

Ever since the first time I heard about LRT coming to Hamilton, I was a supporter. Now seeing it's success in other cities around the globe I am rooting for Hamilton to get it.

Arlene Charters

It is time to become a world class city with less cars in the city because there exists a fast efficient alternative to driving. It is an environmentally sound idea that needs to be implemented ASAP.

Brent Ross

I support this 110%

Matthew Madigan

Please consider this question and answer truthfully: would you choose to live, work, shop, dine, walk, or spend any significant amount of time alongside a highway? That is how it feels to do any of these day to day things along Main Street in Hamilton. It's fast, it's dangerous, and it's not a place that Hamiltonians like to linger. Light Rail Transit could change the way our Main Street works for the city.

Along with generous sidewalks, bicycle lanes, street trees and reducing the driving speed limit, the addition of LRT refocusses Main Street back to the pedestrian realm, putting people first, not cars. LRT would facilitate a more livable space, one that citizens and visitors alike would want to spend time in and enjoy. This would encourage economic development making restaurants, stores, offices and housing initiatives viable options.

Let's take back our Main Street and create an alternative to the current highway that slices through the heart of our community. Light Rail Transit is that alternative. Help us make Main Street work for the city of Hamilton again.

Harley Mount

I fully support this initiative it will give Hamilton a boost in many ways.

Madelin Blacha

As Hamilton is an evolving urban and economic centre, it is important that we invest in the transportation infrastructure now to accommodate future growth.

Azher Siddiqui

Don't break your promises. You are answerable to the people, and the people want LRT!!!

S Matthews

It's time to start investing in this city instead of letting it go to the wayside.

Steve A

I support LRT in Hamilton. I think that the initial system should not go to Eastgate. Instead, it should go from Mac, to the downtown where it will branch off into a loop, then head up the mountain. The LRT needs to go by the current population centres on the Mountain to work. Additionally, people need to demand the Province fund this, and not put it on Hamilton's shoulders. The province funded all of Toronto's transit initiatives in the last few years, now they want a city less capable of affording it, to pay for LRT ourselves. That's ridiculous.

John Thompson

I support LRT for the McMaster - Eastgate Square Corridor, provided potential patronage justifies the undertaking. The actual cost should be kept as low as possible and should not include the total cost of utilities relocation as this is work that would have to be done ultimately in any case. If a decision is made in the next few months, millions could be saved by adding the vehicle order onto that of Toronto and Kitchener with the supplier, Bombardier. Since the city already owns the land where the yard/shop would be built, that land cost need not be included. Although it would cost significantly more, the line should be tunnelled into the middle of the McMaster campus, rather than simply terminating in the middle of Main Street. Also, the eastbound and westbound tracks should be split between King and Main Streets in the downtown; King is too narrow at this point for double track, given that the tracks will be off limits to auto traffic, unlike the former streetcar line.

Marcia Armstrong

I live in Ancaster and need to get to Oakville every day for my job. I would love to leave my car at home and take public transit - but it would take forever to take the few buses available in Ancaster to the GO train in Hamilton, so this is not an option. I am forced to drive to Oakville, or drive to the Aldershot station where I can leave my car (but this defeats the purpose of taking public transit if you still have to drive to get the GO train. The transit system definitely needs immediate attention in the Ancaster/Hamilton area. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone in Ancaster prefers to drive. Hwy 403 is becoming more and more congested every day, and in an aging population, the thought of

enduring an hour of steady traffic on the 403 every morning and night is a nightmare.

Jamie Brow

I am looking to invest in real estate in Hamilton; improved public transportation will make Hamilton look even more attractive as an investment.

Robyn Sifton

As I have lived in Hamilton all my life, I have a respectful amount of experience with our current public transportation. Not only do I support the LRT concept socially but financially and mentally as well.

Kyle Place

As a University student, I know how much public transportation is an asset. Being a regular passenger of the HSR, I constantly see the bus drive by people due to the capacity limit and for the lucky ones that get on, it is packed. Implementing a LRT would un-congest the streets and be a more efficient for getting from point A to B across our wonderful city of Hamilton

Conrad Daigle

I support LRT and if the City can put up 100 or 200 million of 3 to 5 years sounds good .. please council don't forget election in 2014 , this is way bigger then the Casino thing thats going on now

Marcello Perri

We are looking forward to this transportation becoming a reality in the near future. It would be good for the city and the economy of Hamilton.

Nader Anis

Plan to relocate to Hamilton would give our family fast transportation access.

Timothy Cushnie

Lets get this done asap.

Sarah T

Say yes to light rail and no to casinos!

Taien Ng-Chan

We currently live in Montreal but we are planning to move to Hamilton this summer, the city where my husband grew up. We are both in the arts, and we believe in the future of Hamilton as a creative, sustainable, walkable, lively city, and the LRT is definitely a part of that vision. Please stick to your promised plans and make it happen!

Renato Radjenovic

I SUPPORT THIS CAUSE. I believe this will be extremely beneficial to the city. tsl Consulting & Design Group LTD. supports the LRT.

Jason Yang

Hey, keep your promise, that what makes this city more attractive and more sustainable.

Mark Robbins

As a proud Hamiltonian, it makes me sad to see the city falling behind in adopting a modern and attractive transportation option. LRT may not be Hamilton's silver bullet, but it is certainly an important step in attaining a transit system appropriate to the size and aspirations of the city.

Greg Borys

I support this project.

Azher Siddiqui

LRT would do wonders for economic development and subsequent alleviation of poverty and social problems in Hamilton. Please fulfill your commitment by making this project a reality.

