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November 14, 2006

Mayor L. DiIanni and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
71 Main St. W.
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3T4

Dear Mayor DiIanni & Members of Council:

Re: Task Force on the Removal of Buses from S. Leg of King and the potential pedestrianization of the area

The Downtown Hamilton BIA has consulted with the Hamilton Coalition on several occasions regarding the permanent removal of buses from the south leg of King Street and their plan to redistribute the bus stops to James Street South on a temporary basis. The Downtown BIA's position has not changed and would bring your attention to the following:

- The City should stay focused on the removal of buses to the preferred MacNab Street facility sometime in 2008 as scheduled
- No manpower, money or resources should be diverted to assessing and/or implementing alternative temporary interim solutions in such a short time frame
- Solutions proposed by the Coalition appear to take into consideration only transit passengers and not include realistically the analysis of operational impacts on bus services themselves nor on traffic and pedestrian flows in the area surrounding the Gore between Hunter and King. There may be additional impacts on other secondary streets such as King William and Rebecca as well.

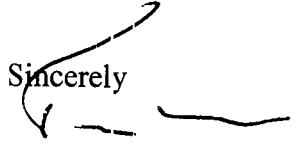
For the above reasons the BIA considers its current position of support for a single initiative to relocate the buses to the new facility on MacNab Street by the target date.

The BIA also wishes to clarify its position regarding the permanent closure of the south leg of King Street. Our members have clearly voiced their opposition to such an initiative rather they would prefer to see the south leg as an eastward flowing street for vehicular traffic, properly reconnected to the north leg of King Street at or near John Street. We also feel there is a need for additional on street parking. The south leg of King lends itself to angular parking.

We are aware that the City has established a Task Force to explore the removal of buses from the Gore Park area and the potential pedestrianization of the area. The BIA and its members constitute a key stakeholder in any initiative impacting on the downtown core. Therefore we respectfully request representation on such a Task Force.

We would be pleased to provide input to your deliberations at your convenience.

Sincerely



Tim Bullock
Chairman