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**From:** Michael Desnoyers [mailto:mdesnoyers@etrattech.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008 6:03 PM

**To:** Eisenberger, Fred; McHattie, Brian; Bratina, Bob; Morelli, Bernie; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Duvall, Scott; Whitehead, Terry; Clark, Brad; Pearson, Maria; Mitchell, Dave; Ferguson, Lloyd; Powers, Russ; Pasuta, Robert; McCarthy, Margaret

**Subject:** AEGD - CLC

March 25, 2008

Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

In your preparation for the scheduled council meeting tomorrow evening I would like to provide comment to the content of report PED08057 contained within the Economic Development and Planning Committee report 08-005 listed on the agenda.

The above noted PED is regarding the Airport Employment Growth District Community Liaison Committee's Terms of Reference and composition.

In regards to the composition of the CLC we would like to reiterate our concerns regarding the lack of Council representation from the city core. The supposed need for the AEGD is directly connected to the population growth projections of the Places to Grow document and the subsequent need for additional employment related lands. Places to Grow very clearly identifies Hamilton as an Urban Growth Center (UGC) and more specifically identifies **Downtown Hamilton** as the UGC. Given this vital identification and planned growth for the UGC and the potential impacts the AEGD will have on downtown intensification and revitalization we feel that there is a lack of political representation for this crucial growth area on the CLC.

Further to the question of composition, at the February 20 meeting of the CLC, various presentations were given on existing conditions within the proposed AEGD area and specifically identified significant natural obstacles and sensitive areas. Section 4 of the Places to Grow legislation identifies the need to protect the natural heritage features and areas of the Greater Golden Horseshoe for the long term economic prosperity, quality of life and environmental health of the region. The proposed study area for the AEGD contains many natural heritage and environmentally sensitive areas and contains the headwaters of 4 watersheds. We would like to reiterate our recommendation that representation from the local Naturalist society be included on the CLC to speak for these vitally important natural features. Overall, the presentations given at the February 20 meeting overwhelmingly demonstrated the significant issues related to the AEGD study area and we are concerned the significant costs related to overcoming these issues will not be properly accounted for and reported.

In general, we are concerned with the process used for final approval of the CLC terms of Reference and committee composition. At the May 22<sup>nd</sup> EDPC meeting a motion was tabled by councilor McHattie and seconded by councilor Duvall c) **That staff be authorized and directed to establish a Community Liaison Committee that will provide input to the Airport Employment Growth District Study throughout Phases 1 and 2 and report back to Committee of the Whole for their approval.** This was clearly not the method followed and when we questioned staff we were informed that "The City's Senior Management team has made the decision that the TOR will go to the Economic Development and Planning Committee". This raises the obvious concern that other processes will not be observed and substantially diminishes confidence in what has been communicated. We disagree with comments of staff that the "Committee represents a broad

range of perspectives". The committee in its current suggested composition is so heavily weighted with those in favor of the proposed AEGD that it effectively squelches any objective contrary opinion.

Finally, the City has stated the importance of engaging the community in matters pertaining to planning issues and to that end the CLC meetings are open to the public. Unfortunately, these meetings are held in a remote location not accessible by public transit and are therefore poorly attended. We firmly believe that engagement of the community can be accomplished in many ways and although public participation is not permitted public attendance is important. We have recommended and reiterate our suggestion that these meetings be held throughout the city on a rotating basis.

We sincerely hope that you will consider our recommendations during discussion at tomorrow's council meeting and I am fully prepared to answer any questions you might have regarding HPD's involvement in the CLC or our perspective of the process to date. I can be reached by email or at (905) 308-4947.

Sincerely,

Michael Desnoyers  
Co-Chair  
Hamiltonians for Progressive Development .