




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	January 14, 2026
SUBJECT:	Update on Expiry of GO Transit Development Charges Authority (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Kirk Weaver, Acting Director Financial Planning, Administration & Policy Corporate Services
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council that, beginning January 1, 2026, GO Transit DCs are no longer payable.

GO Transit Development Charges (“GO DCs”) are a provincially authorized charge collected by municipalities on behalf of Metrolinx to help fund the cost of GO Transit growth and expansion. GO DCs are only applicable to residential developments. These charges are fully remitted to Metrolinx and are not retained by the City of Hamilton (“the City”) for local infrastructure or capital projects. The latest GO DC rate for a single-detached dwelling was \$386.

The City’s GO Transit Development Charges By-law, 2011 (By-Law 11-174, as amended) (“GO DC By-Law”) took effect on July 4, 2011 and was originally scheduled to expire on December 31, 2019. On December 19, 2019, the Province extended the authority to collect GO DCs through to December 31, 2022, which also extended all active GO DC By-laws. A second extension was granted on November 25, 2022, shifting the expiry date of the GO DC By-Law to December 31, 2025. The Province has not provided a further extension beyond this date. Therefore, the City’s GO DC By-law (and any other active GO DC By-law across the Province) expired on December 31, 2025.

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Finance and Building Staff are collaborating to discontinue the collection of GO DCs and to refund any GO DC paid prior to January 1, 2026 for which a permit has not been issued. Staff is updating all associated communication materials to reflect these changes.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Communication Update – January 6, 2026 Email from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

**Appendix "A" to Communication Update
January 6, 2026 Email from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.**

From: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. <info@watsonecon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 2:41 PM
Subject: Expiration of GO Transit DC By-laws

To our Municipal Clients,

In our continued efforts to keep you informed about legislative changes impacting municipalities, we are writing to inform you that GO Transit Development Charge by-laws expired on December 31, 2025.

Under section 30.1 of the *Metrolinx Act, 2006*, transitional provisions were included to continue the imposition of development charges for GO Transit until the prescribed date. Through various amendments to Ontario Regulation 528/06, the date was extended to continue the imposition of these charges since 2006. It has been confirmed through correspondence with the Province, however, that the expiry date of December 31, 2025 continues to apply and the Province does not plan to extend this further.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

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