



Hamilton

Chris Murray, City Manager

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March 16, 2015

Bruce McCuaig  
President & CEO, Metrolinx  
97 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON M5J 1E6

Dear Mr. McCuaig:

As per City of Hamilton, City Council direction, I wanted to share with you the City's updated transit plans. As you are aware, on February 27, 2013 *Rapid Ready Expanding Mobility Choices in Hamilton* was approved by Council.

At that time, Rapid Ready was submitted to Metrolinx as Hamilton's funding requirement, seeking:

- (i) 100% capital and any upset net operating levy impact for Light Rail Transit;
- (ii) Growth funding for the overall public transportation program, as summarized on Pages 43 and 44 of Appendix A to Report PW03014 (refer to Investment Plan Tab), necessary to support a successful Light Rail Transit system.

As you will recall, the Rapid Ready report addressed all modes of public transportation from pedestrians to cycling to buses (accessible and conventional) and rapid transit and lays out, at a high level, the necessary infrastructure investments and changes that need to be made to support and align with higher order transit, including Light Rail Transit (LRT).

You are no doubt aware that investments in transit in Hamilton will lead to healthier communities, economic development and environmental benefits and position Hamilton as a transit-oriented city.

At its meeting of March 11, 2015, City Council approved the City's Ten Year Local Transit Strategy, as outlined in the March 11, 2015 Council Motion and report PW14015a, both attached for your reference. Item d) of the Council motion authorized this correspondence and said:

*(d) That the City Manager be directed to develop an updated submission to Metrolinx further to what has already been submitted to the Province of Ontario in the Rapid Ready report for the unfunded capital requirements contained in the Ten Year Local Transit Strategy;*

The updated submission includes an investment of \$302M in growth funding for the overall enhanced public transportation program in Hamilton. The \$302M is comprised of two significant pieces which includes express bus service as part of the BLAST network (5 lines/corridors) and a maintenance and storage facility.

This express service is planned to be implemented consistent with our nodes and corridors strategy, concentrating service and growth in key areas, in turn supporting development in our Downtown Urban Growth Centre, Sub-Regional nodes, community nodes and employment areas, as well as along major intensification corridors. It will also connect interregional transportation hubs within the City. This implementation of the BLAST network will also see improved transit priority measures, such as transit signal prioritization and queue jump lanes and improvements to customer service and amenities are also planned, such as new or enhanced terminals and customer information systems. Another component of the Strategy is to implement separate and distinct branding of the express bus network.

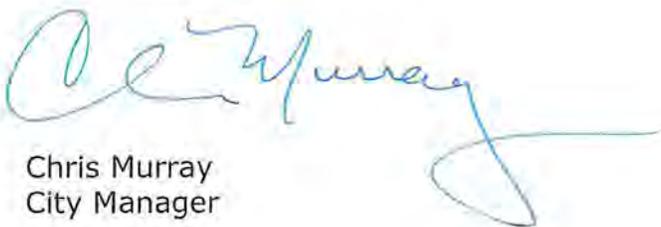
We are aware of the Province's ambitious ten year Moving Ontario Forward infrastructure plan for transit; and we believe this updated request continues to align with those plans which, among other things, call for improving mobility in our region.

When approving the City's Ten Year Transit Strategy, City Council made the determination that the City also needed to make investments of its own. Report PW14015a sets out that the operating costs (approximately \$50M increase over 10 years) to support this strategy are reasonably within the City's ability to fund through equitable increases in fares and the levy. In addition, the City would invest approximately \$30M in capital, for the purchase of buses to support our local conventional service and feed the BLAST network.

We continue to appreciate all the efforts of Metrolinx over the years in supporting Hamilton's transit needs.

We look forward to continuing to work with Metrolinx as we implement Rapid Ready. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything further.

Sincerely,



Chris Murray  
City Manager