

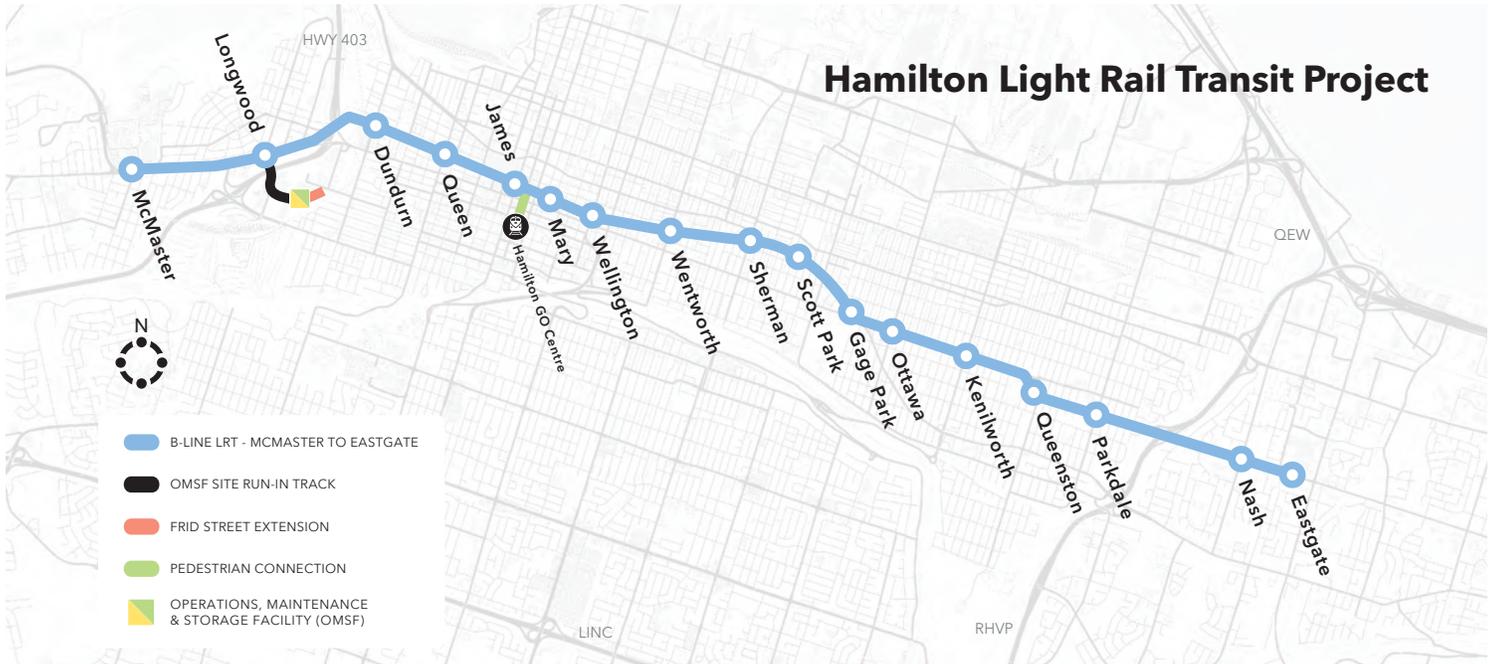
HAMILTON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

October 2018
Trees and the
Hamilton B-Line LRT Project

What is the Hamilton B-Line LRT Project?

The Hamilton B-Line LRT is a city building project focused on improving access to transit and supporting the continued growth and revitalization of the city. It is the first piece of a broader rapid transit strategy for Hamilton, referred to as the BLAST Network, as well as a priority project in Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan.

New, modern light rail vehicles on tracks separated from regular traffic will offer rapid, reliable and safe service from McMaster University in the west, through downtown Hamilton to Eastgate Square in Stoney Creek. The B-Line LRT will also connect to the Hamilton GO Centre through a pedestrian connection via Hughson Street. This 14 km corridor will include 17 stops.



Construction is expected to begin in late 2019 with service starting in 2024. Beyond being a key piece of the City's overall growth and transportation management strategy, the B-Line LRT project will serve as a catalyst for economic development, infrastructure renewal, job creation and healthier communities.



CLEAN AND GREEN

The LRT trains are clean and "green" with no emissions from the vehicle. Enhanced transit reduces air pollution from vehicle emissions and greenhouse gases which can contribute to cleaner air.

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How many trees will the Hamilton B-Line LRT impact?

At this point, the actual number of trees that will be affected by the project is unknown and will be determined once a final design has been submitted and approved. With this said, given the tight confines of the LRT corridor and the need for watermain, sewer and private utility relocations, it's safe to assume that a significant number of street trees will be impacted by construction. Based on conceptual designs and assumptions, the project team estimates that approximately 600 trees of varying size, type and health may be impacted.

Although we estimate that a significant number of trees may be impacted by the project, it's important to note that the location of these trees is generally spread across the full 14 kilometres of the corridor. Apart from a few areas, such as downtown and around McMaster University where density is greater, groupings of trees throughout the corridor are relatively small (5 or less) and many trees stand on their own.

Will trees be replaced? How?

Yes. First and foremost, through the design and construction process, the LRT Project Team will strive to save as many trees as possible and look to maximize opportunities for replanting. Where trees must be removed, the contractor responsible for the construction of the LRT will be subject to the City's tree removal by-law and policy. Before any tree on City-owned property can be removed, the contractor must receive permission from the City. As a general rule, all trees removed from City-owned property along the LRT corridor must be replaced within the LRT corridor. Where the replacement of a tree on the corridor is not possible (due to space limitations), appropriate compensation must be paid to the City that will be used to plant new trees off of the corridor. In short, the City will be approving, documenting and tracking the removal and replacement of all City-owned trees as part of the project.

For every tree that is removed along the LRT corridor, how many trees will be replanted?

In general, every tree that's removed from City-owned property along the corridor will be replaced by one or more trees whose collective size or massing is equal to that of the tree being removed. The replacement value is not a simple one for one ratio. For example, small trees are easier to transport and plant and therefore the removal of a small tree may only result in the planting of a single tree of similar size. In contrast, the removal of a larger tree that can't easily be replaced by a tree of similar size may be replaced by multiple smaller trees. As such, a tree with a 5 cm trunk can easily be replaced by a tree with a 5 cm trunk (1:1). In contrast, a tree with a 30 cm trunk may need to be replaced with six smaller trees with a 5 cm trunk (6:1) or two trees with a 15 cm trunk (2:1).

Who is responsible for tree replacement?

Within the LRT corridor, all tree replacements will be coordinated through the LRT Project Team and will either be planted by the contractor or the City. All tree replacements off the corridor will be planted by the City.

Where will trees be replanted?

All efforts will be made to replace trees in the same general area they were removed from. Where this is not possible due to space constraints, trees will be replaced in an area on or adjacent to the corridor, as close as possible to the removal site.

