



RAPID Transit
moving HAMILTON forward

Speakers Corner

The Rapid Transit Team wants to continue to work together with the community to ensure the success of Rapid Transit in Hamilton. Throughout the project, we will be hosting interactive workshops, public information centres, producing a monthly newsletter and regularly updating our website to encourage a two-way, open and proactive consultation program. Please share your comments anytime or if you are interested in meeting with us please contact the Rapid Transit Team at: rapidtransit@hamilton.ca, 905-546-2424, ext. 2553.



Hamilton
Public Works

Let it snow!

We've had some questions about winter reliability of LRT and are happy to report that it's well proven that LRT systems can operate quite well in a winter climate. Snow is easily dealt with by ploughing the tracks and any ice on overhead wires will be scraped off by the train as it moves along.

Cities with comparable winter conditions where LRT is deployed such as Calgary, Edmonton, and Salt Lake City (Utah) use a variety of techniques to ensure continuity of service with snow conditions. These are specific to a type of vehicle and will definitely be considered as we determine what vehicle will be chosen for Hamilton.

Seattle recently had their first large snow storm of the year and they were proud to report that while cars and buses were delayed, their new light rail system ran smoothly. Seattle's line, which opened last year, uses heaters

on the switches - an electric current warms the rails, like a defroster wire thaws your car's rear window.

Only this month in London, UK despite winter conditions that led to severe disruption on the roads for cars and buses and canceled rail services, Croydon LRT continued to run.



LRT in London, UK

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twitter

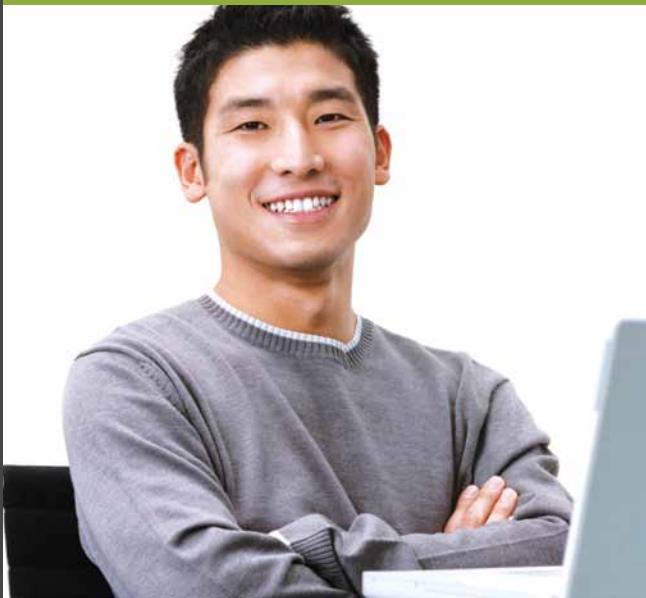
You can now follow us on Twitter @HamiltonRT. Giving you news, updates, and the latest project information as we move Hamilton forward.

B-Line Land Use Visioning Workshop

Please plan to attend the January 11, 2011 B-Line Land Use Visioning Workshop to be held at the Hamilton Convention Centre, Albion Room, at 6:00 p.m. For more information on the B-Line Nodes and Corridors Land Use Study visit our web site: www.hamilton.ca/nodesandcorridors.

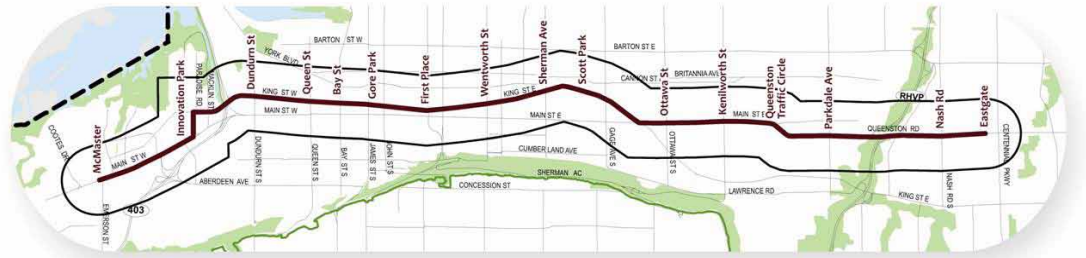
A-Line Kick-off meeting a great success

Thank you to all who attended the A-Line Kick-off on December 9, your comments and ideas are much appreciated and we look forward to working together as we move Hamilton forward!



How Do You Imagine Neighbourhoods Along the Corridor?

In our last newsletter you heard how both the A and B-Line Rapid Transit corridors are an integral part of an overall planning structure for the City referred to as a “nodes and corridors structure” and that a land use study to detail how development and change will happen along the B-Line corridor is underway.



Throughout the autumn, the City has been holding focus group meetings with small groups of residents and business owners from along the corridor. We have asked people to imagine that the rapid transit line has been completed for several years and to envision what their neighborhood might be like: what kind of buildings they would like to see (e.g. size, height and relationship to the street); what the streets might look like (e.g. character, walking, driving, biking, parking); what people are doing in their communities (e.g. living, working, playing, learning). Some of the common themes that focus groups have expressed in visioning sessions include:

- Complete corridors including diversity (people, design, affordability) and mixed uses
- Economic uplift along the corridor and viable small businesses
- High quality urban design and architecture
- Pedestrian friendly streets and gathering places that are vibrant, green and human scale
- Seamless connectivity between transportation modes

The results of these visioning exercises will help build the principles for land use change along the corridor. We need your help in creating the vision, goals and development principles for the B-Line Corridor.



The Big Picture - Rapid Transit's B-L-A-S-T Network

What is LRT? Light Rail Transit (LRT) is:

- Electrically powered – clean and green, no emissions at street level
- Bi-directional
- Predictable journey times
- Designated lanes
- Smooth, comfortable and quiet
- Fully accessible – level boarding with easy access for everyone
- High capacity
- Affordable
- Reliable – can keep going when snow or ice defeats road vehicles
- Integrated into streetscape

In Your Words

Thank you for all of the fantastic responses to our November question of the month, here are some comments we received...

Rapid Transit is good for Hamilton because...

"...with light rail transit, job creation and investment happen along the line, benefiting all Hamiltonians."

"...quality of life will be improved due to greater access to all the wonderful things this city has to offer."

"...it will help move our City to new heights"

"...it will make our City more vibrant".

"...it will deliver the future to us."

"...it will bring us to the future... rapidly."

"...our future is riding on it."

"...it makes the city look attractive on the national level and gives it a dimension of sophistication."

"...Hamilton is such a big city that needs a good and reliable transit system to connect all its surrounding areas and Rapid Transit is the ultimate solution for that."

"...we need to start to look at what do we want in 50 years. Let's create jobs that will get our youth a start in life and build a future that is a future."

Question of the Month:

“What do you feel are the most important design elements for rapid transit stations?” Please send your response by January 14 to rapidtransit@hamilton.ca – all participants will be entered into a draw for a great prize pack.



Happy Holidays!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday and all the best for 2011!

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in January.

Interest in LRT routing builds...

There has been a lot of discussion recently in the media and online of King vs Main and two-way conversion which has generated a lot of discussion in the community. We have received many emails and telephone calls on this subject and have prepared a detailed document that will hopefully clarify the current proposal. For this detailed response please visit www.hamilton.ca/rapid-transit.



Get Involved

Land Use Public Workshop (B-Line)

- January 11, 2011 – Hamilton Convention Centre, 6-9pm

Open Houses to review the draft design of the B-Line (McMaster to Eastgate) & Land Use Study for both A & B-Lines

- January 19, 2011 - Downtown - Scottish Rite (4 Queen St S), 6-8pm
- January 20, 2011 - West end - Westdale Secondary School (700 Main St W), 6-8pm
- January 25, 2011 - East end - Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School (1715 Main St E), 6-8pm
- January 27, 2011 - Mountain - Courtyard Marriott (1224 Upper James St), 6-8pm

Don't forget to visit your local library, community centre or Municipal Service Centre for project information.

Carpool to Win!

Sign up on CarpoolZone.ca and you have five ways to win!

- The first 50 new registrants who join a carpool by Feb. 7, 2011 get a \$20 Tims Card
- All active carpools as of Feb. 11, 2011 will enter a draw for half price parking for the year
- All active carpoolers receive a monthly 3-click survey; take the survey to enter monthly prize draws
- Refer a friend to CarpoolZone.ca and we'll say thank you with a \$5 Tims Card
- Everyone who likes us on Facebook (Smart Commute Hamilton) or follows us on Twitter (smartcommuteham) as of Feb. 11, 2011 will enter a draw for three \$100 Milestones gift cards



Register Online, Find your Match, Save Money and Win Prizes - all at CarpoolZone.ca, brought to you by Smart Commute Hamilton!