

July 15th, 2014

The Honourable Steven Del Duca  
Ministry of Transportation  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ferguson Block  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Del Duca:

I would like to first congratulate you on your recent appointment as the Minister of Transportation. This community looks forward to working with you in your new capacity.

As you know, rapid transit has been one of the major issues Hamilton has been grappling with (for what is now many years). Last year, I assumed the chairmanship of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's LRT Task Force, which has been providing leadership on this matter since its inception.

In this capacity, I feel that it is incumbent upon me to provide you with some background information and apprise you of our stance on light rail transit in Hamilton.

Comprising volunteers from among its membership, the Chamber established its LRT Task Force in early 2012 to:

- provide a business assessment of the B-Line LRT project that the City has been advancing;
- provide input and perspective on funding options for the project; and,
- develop and execute a government relations and community engagement plan in support of the project.

Three Hamilton City Councillors and the Mayor formally joined the task force on October 17, 2012, by motion of Council. The terms of reference agreed to by the task force members and Council are attached for your reference.

The LRT Task Force has comprehensively evaluated available academic and government research. Two documents in particular – the City of Hamilton's *Rapid Ready Report* and *The North American Light Rail Experience: Insights for Hamilton* study from the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics (MITL) – have greatly informed the LRT Task Force's ultimate determination that there is a strong business case for the B-Line LRT project.

The B-Line LRT project is highly likely to accelerate the encouraging economic growth that Hamilton has experienced in recent years, and help fulfill the realization of other quality of life and city-building goals.

The LRT Task Force last convened on April 23<sup>th</sup>, in advance of the provincial budget, to act on its mandate and ensure that an assertive communication was initiated to your predecessor prior to the introduction of the provincial budget on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors overwhelmingly ratified the actions of the LRT Task Force.

Accordingly, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, I submitted a letter informing your predecessor that the LRT Task Force directed:

- a) The President & CEO of the Hamilton Chamber to write the Transport Minister to reconfirm the LRT Task Force's support for the B-Line LRT and to request that transit funding for Hamilton be included in the 2015 Provincial Budget;
- b) The President & CEO of the Hamilton Chamber to encourage the Transport Minister to meet with the City of Hamilton to discuss Hamilton's request for LRT and the associated funding; and,
- c) Should the Province require a municipal financial contribution towards the capital cost of the B-Line, notwithstanding Hamilton City Council's position of 100 percent capital funding, that the Province be requested to permit the exercise of alternative funding strategies.

We were pleased to see a commitment in the budget and during the election for 100 per cent capital funding for a Rapid Transit project in Hamilton. We are also encouraged to hear about your imminent trip to Hamilton to discuss the future of this project.

While you are here, I would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss this matter and reaffirm our commitment to LRT and to fulfilling the mandate of the task force.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to play a leadership role in facilitating a constructive dialogue on opportunities to advance this critically important issue. I welcome the chance to work with you directly on next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Loomis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keanin Loomis  
President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce