

April 25, 2014

The Honorable Glen Murray, MPP
Minister's Office
Ministry of Transportation/Ministry of Infrastructure
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister,

I have been authorized by my board of directors to apprise you of the recent proceedings of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) Light Rail Transit (LRT) Task Force.

Comprised of 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.

Until recently, the LRT Task Force had been awaiting clarity from the Government of Ontario on the funding options being contemplated to fund the next phase of The Big Move. Additionally, the impending release of the 2015 Provincial budget has raised considerable speculation about whether and how your government will support Hamilton's B-Line project financially.

As such, the LRT Task Force was reconvened on April 23th to act on its mandate and ensure that an assertive communication was initiated to you prior to the introduction of the Provincial budget on May 1st.

At the meeting, the LRT Task Force passed the attached resolutions containing the directives outlined below. The meeting minutes are included as an appendix to this letter to provide you with a clear indication of participation at the meeting, as well as votes for and against the motion.

The resolutions direct that:

- a) The President & CEO of the Hamilton Chamber 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 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.

The Chamber Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the resolutions and this letter is being sent to deliver on the directives outlined above.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to play a leadership role facilitating a constructive dialogue on opportunities to advance this critically important issue.

I welcome your response and the chance to work with you directly on next steps.

Sincerely,



Keanin Loomis
President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Mayor Bob Bratina
City of Hamilton General Issues Committee
City of Hamilton City Manager's Office
LRT Task Force Members
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
The Honourable Ted McMeekin