

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Ferguson, 3^e étage
77, rue Wellesley ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
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April 26, 2017

His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2017, regarding the upcoming decision by Hamilton City Council related to rapid transit in Hamilton. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

In light of recent deliberations by City Council with respect to the approval of the Environmental Assessment Addendum for the Hamilton light rail transit (LRT) project, I am writing to you today to provide further confirmation of the province's continued commitment to working collaboratively with the City of Hamilton to advance the LRT project as a priority regional transit initiative under our Moving Ontario Forward plan.

As you are aware, in May 2015, the province committed a \$1 billion (2014\$) capital investment through the Moving Ontario Forward plan to build a new LRT line in the City of Hamilton. The announced LRT project proposed new, modern light rail vehicles on tracks separated from regular traffic from McMaster University through downtown Hamilton to Queenston Circle, and a spur connecting directly to the new West Harbour GO Station. At that time, the extension of the LRT to Eastgate Square was envisioned as a second phase of the LRT project. Subsequently, in February 2017, the province announced planning for a proposed 16 km bus rapid transit (BRT) line that would connect the Hamilton waterfront to Hamilton International Airport, thereby replacing the previously announced LRT spur to the West Harbour GO Station.

Given the funds made available from the removal of the LRT spur, I can confirm that the Province will work to add the Eastgate extension to the current project scope and procurement. This would be contingent upon Hamilton City Council support as well as the consideration of available funding to address any additional cost requirements, if necessary. The Province will work with the City to explore ways to reduce costs to accommodate the extension within the original project budget.

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The province respects the importance of municipal decision-making to support our transit investments. The Hamilton LRT project – one of the largest infrastructure investments in the City’s history – will help grow the economy, manage congestion, reduce travel times, and connect people to jobs and to other transit systems. Investments like these brings us one step closer to laying the foundation for an integrated regional transit network, which will provide additional mobility options and make travel easier and more seamless for people throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

We look forward to continuing to work with the City to build transit that is in the best interest of the people of Hamilton and the broader region.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca
Minister

- c. Ted McMeekin, M.P.P
John Jensen, President & CEO, Metrolinx
Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation