



Hamilton
Public Works

City of Hamilton - Rapid Transit Initiative

320 - 77 James Street North

Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 2K3

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Rapid Transit
MOVING HAMILTON FORWARD

Ms. Andrea Kita
c/o Hamilton Cycling Committee
50 Main St Suite 401
Dundas ON, L9H 6P8

April 8, 2009

RE: Rapid Transit Cycling Infrastructure Recommendations

Dear Ms. Kita,

Thank you for your letter. We appreciate both your interest in the Rapid Transit initiative and your helpful suggestions. You will be pleased to know that the integration of transportation demand management practices and policies are an integral part of our Rapid Transit planning process.

Please note that although to date, the ultimate mode for rapid transit in Hamilton has yet to be confirmed, as a result of a Council direction, the Rapid Transit Team has been focusing on Light Rail Transit (LRT) in our studies. One of our recent studies included an LRT technology analysis that investigated specific challenges that the city of Hamilton may face in its Rapid Transit planning. It is anticipated that this research along with other key considerations and studies, will result in the development of accessible vehicle standards that would meet many of your recommendations. Some key features we imagine a City of Hamilton LRT vehicle and system will encompass include:

- The use of 100% low floor LRT vehicles that allow "roll on and roll off" capabilities for bicycles and passengers with special needs.
- Bicycle hanging racks at the front, back or mid-cab depending on the train type chosen.
- Station accessibility will be a key consideration for both cyclists and passengers with special needs. These stations should link to the cycling network in the city and at major station nodes/hubs, include secure bike parking facilities. Plans are currently underway to construct new secure bike parking facilities at major transit nodes in the city, with the first project already complete.
- The cycling masterplan currently being developed will help clarify how bike boxes and other bicycle-friendly signage or markings can be integrated into the transit and road network. The rapid transit team is a part of this process and is in a position to address these concerns.
- Unfortunately at this stage, although desirable, we are unable to confirm that there will not be any restrictions on bringing bikes onto the trains during all service periods.

Cycling is an integral part of Hamilton's future transportation plans. As set out in the Transportation Master Plan (2007), the City's goal is to increase the modal split in favour of alternative forms of transportation.

The Rapid Transit Team believes that transportation demand management and transit oriented design, which favour walking and cycling, will be a key part of the city's future rapid transit plans. Rapid transit may



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be the catalyst for downtown revitalization, increased economic development and efficient movement of citizens, but it also has the potential to encourage urban designs that alter the way citizens travel in the city. As a team, we acknowledge the positive impact that cycling considerations can have on citizen movements and will work to ensure that those considerations are an integral part of transit and streetscape designs throughout the stages of the Rapid Transit project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further comments or suggestions.

Best Regards,



Lisa Zinkewich, B.E.S
Senior Project Manager, Rapid Transit
Capital Planning & Implementation
Public Works, City of Hamilton

- C. Jill Stephen, Director, Strategic & Environmental Planning (Temporary)
Darryl Bender, Project Manager, Alternative Transportation
Peter Topalovic, Project Manager, Transportation Demand Management