



June 2, 2008

Scott Stewart
General Manager, Public Works
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Stewart:

RE: Rapid Transit Feasibility Study

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Durand Neighbourhood Association with our support for the light-rail rapid transit system.

As you know, the Durand neighbourhood is the inner-city district bound by Main Street West, James Street South, the Escarpment and Queen Street South. The Durand Neighbourhood Association ("DNA") was established in 1972 as a politically independent community organization and chartered as a not-for-profit provincial corporation. It is the DNA's vision to be an active, resident-based voice that successfully addresses priority issues affecting the neighbourhood to nurture a vibrant downtown community.

Consistent with our vision and the objectives of the Transportation Master Plan, we believe that the light-rail system would better help Hamilton achieve the following goals:

- ◆ Reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles;
- ◆ Increase the use of public transit; and
- ◆ Create a catalyst to economic development and growth.

Light rail has a proven record of increasing ridership, averages more passengers per vehicle than a bus, is more handicapped accessible, and offers a quieter, smoother ride. Light-rail transit would benefit the Durand neighbourhood and Hamilton by replacing polluting, noisy buses that crowd our streets, help to concentrate economic development downtown, increase business assessments to help reduce the residential tax-burden, and speed up travel to downtown and other areas of the city.

Thank you for your diligence in this initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns.

Yours very truly,

Sarah Matthews, President
Durand Neighbourhood Association

cc: Jill Stewart, Strategic Planning
Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council