

Why Everyone Should Support Light Rail

Investment in Light Rail Transit (LRT) will:

Reduce operating costs per passenger compared to buses.

- 3x as many passengers per operator
- Ridership gains almost always exceed projections
- Cheaper to power
- Electric vehicles need less maintenance, last 30 years

Alleviate congestion by taking up to 300 people out of their cars and into one vehicle.

- Attracts riders far more effectively than buses / BRT
- LRT in other cities has not made congestion worse
- LRT is popular, even among drivers



Increase municipal tax assessments due to transit oriented economic development.

- Developers love permanence of LRT, plus its attractiveness to affluent riders.
- Each dollar spent on LRT produces \$6 in new private investment. For example:
 - LRT in Portland, OR has attracted \$2.3 billion in new private development since 2001.
 - LRT in Charlotte NC has attracted \$1.8 billion in planned development since 2007.
 - LRT in Norfolk, VA has already attracted \$220 million in development - and they haven't started building yet!
- \$300 million LRT in Hamilton could attract \$1.8 billion in new private development and \$50 million in new tax assessments.

Reduce pressure to intensify suburban neighbourhoods.

- Hamilton must meet provincial intensification targets.
- Higher density along transit corridors boost city average and helps city to meet provincial mandate.

No tunnels required.

- LRT can ride the gentle grade of the Claremont Access or the Jolley Cut instead of James Mountain Rd.
- Without the tunnels, the capital cost for LRT is much lower.
- New models can run without overhead wires.

Provincial/Federal funding for LRT capital costs!

References

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