To: Chair and Members  
    Public Works Committee

From: Bryan Shynal  
    Acting General Manager  
    Public Works Department

| Telephone: 905 546-2424, Ext. 4622 |
| Facsimile: 905 546-3972 |
| E-mail: bshynal@hamilton.ca |

Date: December 19, 2007

Re: Metrolinx to Provide Support to the Smart Commute Association (PW08011) - (City Wide)

**Council Direction:**

N/A

**Information:**

The Smart Commute Steering Committee has recently been informed that Metrolinx (formerly known as the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority) is committed to supporting the Smart Commute Initiative, as noted in the attached letter dated November 22, 2007. This funding will enable all partner regions and municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area to continue providing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs and services.

**Assumptions and current situation**

Further to Report PW04006a, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Smart Commute Association among municipalities/regions in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton is ending in December 31, 2007. Therefore we will now be required to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Metrolinx with council’s approval. Funding arrangements have not been finalised between the Regional and Municipal partners and Metrolinx.

At the present time we are unable to determine the amount of funding required to sustain the Smart Commute Initiative. In order to assist Metrolinx in estimating the budget requirement to support the Smart Commute Initiative, the GTA and Hamilton Smart Commute Steering Committee were asked to prepare a concise proposal to estimate the budget need for the Smart Commute Initiative.

The City of Hamilton has contributed $60,000 per year towards the Smart Commute Initiative during its three-year showcase period; the same amount has been requested for the 2008 Capital Budget submission for the continued involvement in the initiative.
Metrolinx intends to maintain a close relationship with municipalities sponsoring the Smart Commute Initiative. As all involved partners work together towards establishing a future work plan along with funding arrangements. We expect more information will be received from Metrolinx early in 2008 and staff will keep council informed of any progress updates.

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Bryan Shynal  
Acting General Manager  
Public Works Department
November 22, 2007

Mr. Nino Spoleti
Project Manager, Transportation Demand Management
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Spoleti:

The Greater Toronto Transportation Authority is pleased to inform you that our Board has committed to undertaking a partnership with the Smart Commute Initiative (SCI) by filling the gap left by the conclusion of federal funding from Transport Canada.

As of January 1, 2008, the GTTA will assume the operation of the Smart Commute Association (SCA), including its three full-time staff and operating budget. This will ensure continued financial support for the Carpool Zone on-line ride-matching website, the smartcommute.ca information hub, and other centralized services, such as the implementation of region wide marketing campaigns and research.

In an effort to make this transition as smooth as possible, Smart Commute staff will physically relocate to the GTTA offices on the ninth floor, 20 Bay Street, Toronto, as of December 3, 2007. From that date onward, Smart Commute staff can be contacted by phoning the GTTA at 416-874-5900.

As per the GTTA's budget for fiscal year 2007/08, which ends on March 31, 2008, we have provided for Smart Commute Association operating costs and to match funding provided by municipalities for local transportation management associations (TMAs).
The GTTA wants to develop a close relationship with municipalities sponsoring the Smart Commute Initiative. We must work together to establish a workplan, and to make the case for continued provincial funding in 2008/09 to support the Smart Commute central function and to match funding provided by municipalities for the TMAs.

We look forward to a strong partnership with Smart Commute as we work together to build an integrated, sustainable transportation system for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

W. Michael Fenn
Chief Executive Officer

c: Smart Commute Initiative Steering Committee
   Ryan Lanyon, Project Director, Smart Commute Association
   Rita Scagnetti, Director, Communications