May 30, 2008

Mayor F. Eisenberger and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario  L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

After reviewing the public display documents at the Public Information Centre held at the Hamilton Convention Centre on May 29th, 2008 the Downtown Hamilton BIA has the following comments:

- The BIA supports the movement of the 8 bus stops from the south leg of King Street East to a seamless bus transportation hub at MacNab Street as our first choice. The proposed design of the MacNab Street terminal with weather protection, accessibility, public washrooms, a full-time security on site, and passenger amenities will go a long way to improving the bus service in the Downtown area.

- We agree with the closure of MacNab Street to all but bus vehicles and those needing access to the CIBC tower parking lot and Hamilton Place.

- It is unfortunate that the MacNab Street Hybrid Option will not accommodate the number of buses being removed from Gore Park however we believe that the Long Term MacNab Street Model will provide the necessary incentive to integrate the bus system with a possible LRT system on the East-West B Line with this site.

- We would like to see in the long term options for MacNab Street some opportunity to utilize the lot between the Pigott Building and the CIBC towers in a more commercial use than a paved parking lot with buses. We use the St. Catharines Downtown Bus Terminal as an example of what could be done to put a commercial development over top of the bus terminal. This would allow for more development to occur in a very key location in the core as well as provide cover for passengers and noise mitigation for the residential developments within the area. It would also provide a continual street façade along James Street South to connect the two buildings together with perhaps a pedestrian and tiered parking lot entrance to the terminal from James Street South.
• Requests for Proposals should be sought to utilize a private-public partnership in the development of this site.
• The BIA supports the use of available space at the back of the Go Centre on Hunter Street as opposed to reconfiguring the front of the building and Hunter Street particularly to accommodate loading platforms.
• We also support the efforts of the design staff in creating an urban pedestrian corridor from the MacNab Street Terminal to Gore Park in an effort to link the downtown business community if only on a temporary basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to a very important piece of Downtown Hamilton’s transformation in the months and years to come.

Sincerely

Tim Bullock
Chairman

c.c. L. Skrypniak, Senior Project Manager, Public Works
D. Hull, General Manager, HSR
J. Dolbec, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce