THE PROVINCIAL GAS TAX TRANSIT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
PRESENTS REPORT 07-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (Item 1)
   
   (a) That Councillor B. McHattie be appointed as Chair of the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee;

   (b) That Daniel Rodrigues be appointed Vice Chair of the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee.

Public Works Committee – June 18, 2007
2. **Resignations of Marsha Duncan and Paul Shaker from the Steering Committee**

That the resignations of Marsha Duncan and Paul Shaker from the Steering Committee be accepted with regrets.

3. **Area Rating Sub-Committee**

That the Area Rating Policy for Transit be phased out over several years, in concert with the enhancement of HSR service, especially in the former suburban municipalities, under the guidance of a Master Transit Plan.

**OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

1) The transit levy is gradually equalized on all properties within the designated urban transit area at a level equal to the current levy in the former City of Hamilton. This would result in a revenue increase of approximately $7.7 million per year to be utilized for HSR improvements:

   a. A five year phase out would result in levy increases of $19 to $26 a year per average home
   
   b. A seven year phase out would result in levy increases of $14 to $19 a year per average home

2) The transit levy is gradually equalized on all properties within the designated urban transit area by lowering the levy in the former City of Hamilton and concurrently raising the levy in the other former municipalities. This would be revenue neutral and would not provide any additional funding to allow for improved HSR services;

3) The transit levy is gradually equalized within the designated urban transit area, and a lower levy charge is introduced and applied to properties outside that area. This is similar to Ottawa and Sudbury;

4) The transit levy is gradually equalized on all Hamilton properties, urban and rural. This is similar to Durham Region.

Implementation of all options would be in concert with the enhancement of HSR service, especially in the former suburban municipalities, guided by a transit master plan.
FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) Declarations of Interest

None.

(b) Approval of Previous Minutes – December 11, 2006 meeting

On a motion, the Minutes of the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee meeting held on December 11, 2006, were adopted and received as presented.

(c) Staff Presentations

(i) Transit Ridership Growth Plan ) Review for new members
(ii) Transit Asset Management Plan ) Review for new members

Andy McLaughlin, Supervisor of Planning and Marketing, gave a brief overview of the Transit Ridership Growth Plan and the Transit Asset Management Plan, which are plans required for funding from the Provincial gas tax program.

The Transit Ridership Growth Plan ties in with the City-wide Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The guiding principles and objectives of the TMP are reflected in the Ridership Growth Plan, which can be modified and updated from time to time as conditions change.

The Transit Asset Management Plan identifies and contains major initiatives and priority areas e.g., accelerated areas of bus fleet, expanding accessible transit fleet, considering expanding bus storage and maintenance facilities, expanding or upgrading terminals. Expansion of bus rapid transit system is key to managing assets.

The Committee requested that an update be provided at a future meeting with respect to McNab Street and the possibility of that area becoming a terminal.

Don Hull, Director of Transit, also gave an update on the status of discussions with the Province respecting the Smart Card program.

On a motion, the information presented with respect to the Transit Ridership Growth Plan and Transit Asset Management Plan, be received.

(iii) Review of Terms of Reference

On a motion, the Terms of Reference of the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee, as approved by Council on November 23, 2005, were received.

Public Works Committee – June 18, 2007
(iv) Review/Re-establishment of Sub-Committees and Membership

On a motion, the following sub-committees were re-established, with the following membership:

(aa) Bus Rapid Transit Promotion/Marketing and Communications Sub-Committee

   Kevin Hunt, Roger Letourneau, Brendan Simons

(bb) Value Added Transit Pass Sub-Committee

   Daryl Bender, Heather Donison, Daniel Rodrigues,

(cc) Area Rating Sub-Committee

   Don McLean, Daniel Rodrigues, Ron Smithson, Brendan Simons

Peter Hutton indicated that once T.U.G. (Transit Users’ Group) designates a permanent individual to sit on this Steering Committee, he/she may wish to participate in the sub-committees.

(d) Verbal Updates

(i) Sub-Committees:

(aa) Bus Rapid Transit Promotion/Marketing and Communications Sub-Committee – Brendan Simons

   With the focus on the bus rapid transit system and the new buses, Councillor McHattie reported that the new buses are attracting attention and comments from the community. The official launch of the new Beeline service will be held in September. In the interim, the Sub-Committee is looking at some different signage to identify the Beeline stops on Main and King Streets, promotional literature, possibly different bus shelters at Beeline stops, etc.

   Councillor Whitehead requested a route map of where Beeline service is currently provided, and what type of Beeline service is provided in the upper part of the City. Staff advised that the Beeline service is available in the lower City at present; however, it will be incorporated on the Mountain in the future. There was also discussion with respect to Beeline vs B-line. Suggested to look at Vancouver model for discussion at a future Marketing Sub-Committee meeting.
(bb) Value Added Transit Pass Sub-Committee – Daryl Bender

Daryl Bender gave a brief power point presentation outlining discussions to date by the Sub-Committee and showing various options, methods and fee structure with respect to the marketing and offering of monthly bus passes for employers to pass on to their employees. He also cited other Canadian cities that have existing programs in place.

(cc) Area Rating Sub-Committee – Don McLean

Don McLean noted that there was a dramatic difference in the tax levy, depending on where one resides in the City. The driving force behind the Area Rating Sub-Committee was the need to have more revenue generated into the HSR to expand and to provide increased services to the municipalities.

(ii) 2007 Budget Update – Transit Service Enhancements – Andy McLaughlin

The Steering Committee was distributed with a one-page handout outlining some of the programs which were initially considered, and what was approved by Council.

On a motion, the following staff direction was approved:

(i) That staff be directed to schedule a workshop for the Steering Committee for the purpose of reviewing and prioritizing service level enhancements for inclusion and discussion during the 2008 budget process;

(ii) That staff prepare a best practices guide which could be used as a criteria to assist with prioritizing service level increases;

(iii) That staff be requested to report back at the workshop meeting on the funding of enhancements i.e., that a portion come from revenue from new service, but that the cost of adding new service be equally divided between the tax tax funds and increases in the transit levy.

(iii) DRAFT Job Description – Senior Project Manager, Transit

Staff advised that the job description for the Senior Project Manager, Transit, is in the early stages of the process, and is included in this agenda for information purposes only.
(iv) Hamilton Health Sciences Bus Pass Pilot Program Status  
– Andy McLaughlin

Andy McLaughlin advised the Steering Committee that the draft agreement with Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) is 90 per cent complete, and will be reviewed by HHSC in early May. The target date to begin the pilot program is September 1, 2007, which will allow time for internal changes at HHSC and to have marketing programs in place. The pilot program is being funded from the Provincial Gas Tax ($50,000), as well as contributions from HHSC.

(e) Discussion Items

(i) Request for Information from Alan Walker respecting HSR Revenues

Alan Walker requested information with respect to HSR revenues, specifically a break down of customers, who is purchasing bus passes in bulk, who is spending money with the HSR on a regular basis and purchasing passes and tickets. This information would allow him to better understand who the customers are, and a way of figuring out possible areas of investment or areas that don’t require investment. Scott Stewart indicated that Mr. Walker’s questions would be addressed in an “off-line” conversation directly with him.

The Steering Committee requested the following information for discussion at the Workshop:

(i) Division/impact of revenue between bus fares, passes and tickets
(ii) Street map of Hamilton, showing where trips are being taken in the City, to get a sense of how the network is being used.

Don McLean indicated that the Transportation Tomorrow Survey which is done every 5 years, gives a good breakdown of travel characteristics, broken down by transit, walking, driver, passenger.

He also cited a survey done by Environment Hamilton which is confined to the area north of Cannon Street, but which also provides some information.

Copies of both of these documents will be circulated to the Steering Committee members.

It was suggested that Environment Hamilton be invited to a future meeting of the Steering Committee to make a presentation on their findings.
(f) **Information Only Items**

On a motion, the following items were received for information:

(a) List of Service Requests

(b) Correspondence dated December 18, 2006 from the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, M.P., Minister of Transport, respecting request for federal funding assistance to introduce a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System

(c) Correspondence dated February 28, 2007 from John Dolbec, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, respecting Expanded HSR Service to Areas of Employment

(d) Media Release from Office of the Mayor respecting Global Warming Go to the following site to view the National Transit Strategy as submitted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Big City Mayors’ Caucus:


(e) Canadian Urban Transit Association – Issue Papers 20 and 21

(f) Added Item: Update on Gore to Shore Shuttle – Committee advised of renaming to Waterfront Shuttle; hope to receive delivery of 2 vehicles and start service at the end of June, through the summer from the Art Gallery of Hamilton to the Marine Discovery Centre – service is free.

(g) **Proposed Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday, June 7, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor B. McHattie
Chair
Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan
Steering Committee

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
April 26, 2007