Jan. 15 /13

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Subject: Correspondence for Jan. 23 /13 Council Meeting
Regarding: Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act (AODA)
          Part IV – Transportation Standards

I am pleased that during the council meeting of Dec. 12 /12 a motion was carried to defer
the previous decision to eliminate the current “voluntary pay” policy of the Hamilton
Street Railway (HSR).

As council is now aware, Item 46. (1) of the AODA states that “no conventional service
provider shall charge a higher fare to a person with a disability than the fare that is
charged to a person without a disability where the person with a disability uses
conventional transportation services, but a conventional transportation service provider
may charge a lesser fare for a person with a disability”.

For many disabled persons living in Hamilton their sole means of support is through the
Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The proposed elimination of the “voluntary
pay” policy of the HSR means that for a person on ODSP, the cost to ride the HSR over
the course of a year, if they are unable to afford all or part of the fare, can exceed a single
month’s income. This added financial stress means that many disabled persons living in
Hamilton will be further marginalized by their inability to be part of their community
whether it be vocationally, socially, or recreationally. Furthermore, in the Recreational
Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities prepared in Oct. /12, more accessible and
affordable transportation was identified as a strategy or solution to mitigate gaps and
barriers in the participation in recreational programs and activities for persons with
disabilities.

Moving forward, I ask that Council seriously consider the effect that the elimination of
the “voluntary pay” policy on the HSR would have on its disabled persons living in
Hamilton.

Respectfully,

Cathy Ivanski