

DEC 21 2006

Minister of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,  
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

5.6

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

DEC 18 2006

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

On October 26, 2006, your predecessor Larry Di Ianni wrote me and the Honourable Donna Cansfield, regarding Hamilton City Council's request for federal funding assistance to introduce a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

As you may know, Canada's new government is taking a strong and dedicated approach to the development of Canadian infrastructure, including public transit. In Budget 2006, our government committed to \$16.5 billion in support for infrastructure over the next four years, which is an unprecedented level of support for infrastructure.

The Budget includes \$400 million through the Public Transit Transfer to municipal governments under which Hamilton will receive almost \$5 million in direct support for public transit. Additionally, \$900 million in support for public transit is being delivered through the Public Transit Capital Trust, and this funding has been transferred to the Government of Ontario for allocation. In addition, Hamilton will receive more than \$79 million through the Gas Tax Fund, all of which can be allocated to public transit.

Over the summer months, we held consultations on the federal role in infrastructure with a view to putting federal funding on a predictable, long-term track and to ensuring accountability to Canadians for infrastructure investments by all governments. We met with the provincial and territorial governments, representatives of municipalities and a number of infrastructure stakeholders. I am pleased to hear that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities reported back to its members on the outcome of our meeting and that they have encouraged members to share their views with their local Members of Parliament. I am always interested to hear municipal views on the infrastructure challenges facing our communities.

...2

Canada

The \$16.5 billion identified in Budget 2006 also includes \$6.6 billion to support various infrastructure programming initiatives, including strategic investment in infrastructure funding. Before we are able to commit funding to specific projects out of these funds, I will need to obtain formal Cabinet approval regarding the Terms and Conditions of these programs. Once this is done, we will be in a position to commit specific funding from the new funding against particular projects.

In the interim, it would be beneficial to obtain further information regarding Hamilton's proposed BRT project. Accordingly, I would invite you to forward this proposal and supporting documentation, such as the Ridership Growth Plan, to Mr. John Forster, Senior ADM Policy and Communities, at Infrastructure Canada, so that my officials have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with your project. Once the new parameters for the funding programs are finalized and announced, you will be in a position to make a formal request for funding assistance.

Mr. Forster's address is as follows:

Infrastructure Canada  
90 Sparks Street, Suite 606  
Ottawa ON K1P 5B4

I look forward to receiving your formal submission after the infrastructure funding programs are announced in 2007.

In closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your recent election as Mayor of Hamilton and wish you a most successful tenure.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.