Whereas, the Federal Gas Tax fund has never been used for transit improvements in Hamilton, despite the federal governments’ direction that municipalities with a population of larger than 500,000 must spend the funds entirely on transit (note that Hamilton’s population was just below half a million as per the Census figures when the Federal Gas tax fund rules were established), and;

Whereas, $3M of the Provincial Gas Tax funding has been allocated to capital expenditures (versus operating funding), despite this source of funding being the only source of operating funding available for transit service level improvements, and;

Whereas, HSR does not currently have any funding for new transit service, and;

Whereas, $3M in operational funding to facilitate new transit service (throughout the City as per the Transit Steering Committee’s list of priority locations such as Rymal Road, Heritage Green etc.) could be identified by back-filling the Provincial Gas tax capital expenditures with Federal Gas tax capital funding.

Therefore be it resolved,

That staff be directed to report back on:

(a) Transit service level improvements that would be prioritized with the transfer of $3M (or a lesser amount) in funds from the Federal Gas Tax to the Provincial Gas Tax fund, and

(b) An implementation strategy for carrying out this transfer, including an understanding on the impact of current Federal Gas Tax priority allocations