His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Members of Council
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3

June 17, 2008

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

On behalf of the McMaster Students Union (MSU), we are writing to express our full support for the development of a light rail transit system (LRT) in Hamilton. We understand that some in our community have voiced concern about the light rail transit option, however, we know that an LRT system would be beneficial to the students of our university, the McMaster community, and more generally, the city of Hamilton as a whole.

This goal of bringing an LRT system to Hamilton will work to facilitate the growth of our city. It will allow students easier accessibility of the downtown core, as well as help rejuvenate this area with more business and life. It will also help students who live off campus. An efficient LRT design will create an environment wherein McMaster students will choose to live, rent and buy property in more diverse areas of the city. In turn, the diversification of student living areas will help alleviate some of the town and gown issues currently facing the high-density student housing surrounding the McMaster campus. As a result, Hamilton will experience an increase in property values in the Westdale area, as well as throughout the city and downtown core.

We hope that to begin this project, one of the main goals will be to construct the McMaster University to Gore Park stretch of the LRT track as quickly as possible. This will help with some of the current transit issues on this stretch, and it will serve as a good example to demonstrate the benefits of the LRT to the Hamilton community.

We urge you to move forward with the decision to develop light rail transit in Hamilton as the best option for students, and the future of this city. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

McMaster Students Union

Azim Kasmani
President

Michael Pett
House Leader