May 30th, 2008

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and
Members of Council
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Fred and Members of Council:

RE: Pedestrianization of Downtown Hamilton

Through the current review of the City of Hamilton’s Downtown Transportation Plan, the possible implementation of two-way traffic on parts of King Street East between Wellington and Queens streets is addressed.

Originally, the plan was to convert King Street from one-way to two-way with a single traffic lane in each direction, flanked by parallel parking where feasible.

Now, there are a wide range of potential scenarios for the ‘Pedestrianization’ of King Street East ...

Of the various scenarios ... the only one that International Village BIA approves of is ...

. That ONLY the south leg of King Street be closed to traffic (with restricted access for service and supply vehicles).

. We do NOT agree with the complete closure of King Street on the North Side.

. We do agree with the temporary closure of King Street on the North Side for times of public celebration and/or community events as agreed to by the City of Hamilton and the respective business organizations and/or communities that would be directly or indirectly affected.
. That the 8 bus stops on the south leg of King be relocated to a seamless transit center on MacNab Street.

. That Hughson Street remain open to northbound traffic.

. We agree with the recommendations of Downtown Hamilton BIA, that Gore Park and the south leg of King Street be redeveloped with streetscape improvements and more landscape changes necessary to ensure the reforestation and replanting of the park for more pedestrian use.

With regards to the Rapid Transit Proposals for Hamilton, International Village BIA supports...

. Complete Conversion to a LRT (Streetcar) transit system. We prefer the system used in Portland, Oregon.

. The recommended LRT route, East/West, be Main Street NOT King Street

. The recommended LRT route, North/South, be James and John Streets.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the various proposals being made in presentations to members of Council and the citizens of the City of Hamilton on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Quaglia
Past Chair, Board of Management

Cc: N. D'Souza, Project Manager, Downtown Transportation Master Plan;
D. Hull, General Manager, HSR
Jill Stephen, Manager, Strategic Planning, Rapid Transit Feasibility Study