JAN 16 2007

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

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Your predecessor, Larry Di Ianni, wrote to me and the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, on October 26, 2006. The former mayor forwarded Hamilton City Council’s funding request for the development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Hamilton. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Our government believes that public transit is essential to reducing congestion, improving the environment and promoting sustainable growth. Provincial funding for municipal transit systems is intended to help increase ridership, in part by making public transit a more attractive, convenient and reliable alternative to the private automobile.

The City of Hamilton will be receiving $11,373,784 from the provincial gas tax funding program between October 2006 and September 2007. This source of funding could be used towards the implementation of Hamilton’s proposed BRT system. Any decision on provincial funding beyond this would require a thorough evaluation of a business case supporting the BRT project.

In addition, the recently established Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA) is mandated to develop an integrated transportation plan for the GTA and Hamilton. I encourage you to forward a copy of your proposal to the GTTA for consideration in the development of their plan.

I appreciate Hamilton City Council’s input. It is encouraging that transit is being recognized for its long-term benefits.

Sincerely,

Donna Cansfield
Minister

C: The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities