

**City of Mississauga Letter to Premier Ford Regarding LRT Operations and Maintenance Costs
for the Hazel McCallion LRT**

Carolyn Parrish
Mayor, City of Mississauga
T 905-896-5555 F 905-896-5879
mayor@mississauga.ca



Office of the Mayor

City of Mississauga
300 City Centre Drive
MISSISSAUGA ON L5B 3C1
carolynparrish.ca

November 13, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier
RM 285, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A7

RE: Operating Costs for Hurontario LRT

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of Mississauga City Council, I request that your government cover the operating costs for the Hazel McCallion LRT (HMLRT) for at least the first three years of its operation, and perhaps longer, in the same way that you are covering the operating costs for transit projects in Toronto and Ottawa through recently announced new deal agreements. You and I have spoken about this request and it was raised with your Cabinet colleagues at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meetings in August.

When the HMLRT opens, the operating costs will be approximately \$65 million per year. This will be a substantial increase to our City's operating budget, equating to approximately 3.6% on the property tax bill. While we are thankful that the province has invested in this critical piece of regional transit infrastructure that will serve Mississauga, Brampton, and beyond, we struggle with the significant impact to property taxpayers for its operations.

Earlier this year, your government struck new funding deals with Toronto and Ottawa, providing each city with funding for transit projects. In Toronto, you have provided \$1.2 billion to the city over three years to operate the Eglinton Crosstown and Finch West LRTs. In Ottawa, you committed over \$197 million for operating costs, including \$48 million for increased safety on public transit. In both cases, your government recognized the significant operating pressures faced by these cities and determined that provincial support was needed. I am asking you to do the same for Mississauga.

In the Province's recent Fall Economic Statement, the new deals with Ottawa and Toronto were justified because these cities are "unique economic engines in the provincial and national economies that face pressures and challenges that require additional support from all levels of government." As the province's second largest urban economy, Mississauga is also a unique economic engine for the province and the country, home to over 100,000 businesses, over 1,400 multi-national companies, and 77 Fortune 500 and 60 Fortune Global companies. Our City also boasts a GDP of \$55 billion annually for the provincial and national economies. As a net

Carolyn Parrish

Mayor, City of Mississauga
 T 905-896-5555 F 905-896-5879
 mayor@mississauga.ca

**Office of the Mayor****City of Mississauga**

300 City Centre Drive
 MISSISSAUGA ON L5B 3C1
 carolynparrish.ca

importer of jobs, we are an economic powerhouse in our own right and should be afforded the same considerations as Toronto and Ottawa. In fact, one of the many reasons the HMLRT is being built is to facilitate economic growth and investment in Mississauga and the GTHA.

At the same time as we are facing the costs of operating a new LRT, we are also being asked to contribute \$450 million to the local share of the rebuilt Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital. As we have discussed, Mississauga does not have the financial capacity to pay this share for provincial infrastructure, as well as continue to bear the financial burden of building, maintaining and operating new infrastructure. Mississauga, as member of the Region of Peel, is underfunded by the provincial government. As we have discussed, according to the Metamorphosis Network, Peel is short \$868 million or \$575 per person, per year compared to other regions in the province. These cost pressures and chronic underfunding are making it difficult for Mississauga to meet its financial obligations, without over-burdening property taxpayers.

Premier, I am asking you to do what you have done for Toronto and Ottawa and deliver a new deal for Mississauga that includes funding for the operating costs of the Hazel McCallion LRT for the first three years, at least. As always, I would be happy to speak with you further and I make available my staff to answer questions or have further discussions. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Carolyn Parrish
 Mayor

Cc., Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
 Hon. Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business
 Hon. Natalia Kusendova, Minister of Long-Term Care
 Sheref Sabawy, MPP
 Rudy Cuzzetto, MPP
 Deepak Anand, MPP
 Mississauga City Council