
In support of Burlington Transit's 2024 budget and the Integrated Mobility Plan

**SUBMISSION TO BURLINGTON CTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER, 2023**



BURLINGTON FOR ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT

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IN SUPPORT OF BURLINGTON TRANSIT'S 2024 BUDGET AND THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY PLAN:

Submission to Burlington City Council
November, 2023

Burlington for Accessible Sustainable Transit (BFAST) is in full support of Burlington Transit's budget submissions for 2024.

In order for Burlington to achieve its goal to become net-zero in greenhouse emissions, and in keeping with the City of Burlington's own Climate Action Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan, it is important to encourage the modal shift from private vehicle transportation to publicly supported transit.

The request from Burlington Transit for funding for 2 FTE supervisory positions is essential for the safety of residents riding on buses and the maintenance of the current fleet. It is alarming that BT's ratio of supervisors to operators is much lower than the industry standard. Maintenance of all buses, for an operation that is almost 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, must be pro-active to help avoid the infrastructure deficit that municipalities now face.

BFAST also wishes to applaud, and thank again, the Council's decision to extend free transit to seniors and youth. The proposed feasibility study to offer free transit to all residents is also encouraging. We realize that free transit for all may be challenging for some, however at our

recent Transit Forum we heard compelling evidence to support such an endeavour, for economic, climatic and social reasons.

Council's responsibility to ensure that taxpayer's money is well spent is appreciated as we move into a new year. The many demands that the City faces for quality of life choices make for challenging decisions. We believe that a safe, sustainable and improving transit system benefits the entire community in many ways, not just for those who depend on reliable and continuous bus service.

BFAST wholeheartedly supports Burlington Transit and its 5-year plan to improve and expand its service.

Another Council initiative that BFAST continues to support is the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP). We see the IMP as essential in preparing our community for the economic and climate changes that are heading our way. Some planning now could save a lot down the proverbial road, and we applaud the IMP for its recognition that transit is an important part of the future.

Like our colleagues at Safe Streets Halton, who will make this point in more detail during their own delegation, we believe that the work of the IMP should continue. To that end, we would oppose any cuts to its funding; in fact, we believe Council could show more support for the project.

All of which is submitted with respect,

Burlington for Accessible, Sustainable Transit (BFAST)