



Policy Recommendation from the Burlington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Subject: City Infrastructure Budget Policy

Recommendation:

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce believes that the City of Burlington should have rigorous and robust measurement guidelines and rationale in the selection process for capital projects to address infrastructure that is aging and inadequate and is an impediment in supporting future economic growth. This project selection process is an integral part of the City's strategic planning process, currently under way.

The Chamber therefore urges the City of Burlington to ensure that:

1. Funding for infrastructure replacement and for new and expanded infrastructure projects be subject to rigorous criteria to ensure that the priority list reflects fundamental infrastructure requirements basic to the needs of the community; and
2. Ongoing funding is established to maintain infrastructure assets over the projected asset life.

Executive Summary:

The capital project expenditures over the past three years have been the highest in Burlington's history. Tentative priorities have been established to 2018.

Two recent surveys shed some light on infrastructure needs in Burlington. In the Chamber's January 2008 *Survey of Advocacy Issues* municipally and regionally, traffic and roads ranked highest. At the provincial level, health care services ranked highest, closely followed by highways and transportation. An August 2010 survey of Chamber members showed that capital spending should be the top priority of the new council. It is clear that infrastructure is a high priority for Burlington businesses.

A separate survey was done by IPSOS Reid commissioned by the City of Burlington, *The Quality of Service Survey 2008*. The issues of most importance to residents regarding city services are snow clearing from roads and road maintenance. Topping the list of capital projects is increased emphasis on infrastructure renewal with a priority on traffic and transportation. The most pressing need on potential capital projects is the expansion and renewal of Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital and the McMaster University school and health clinic.

Dissemination:

Mayor, City of Burlington
Councillors, City of Burlington
City Manager
General Manager, Development & Infrastructure
General Manager, Corporate Services
General Manager, Community Services
Executive Director, Corporate Strategic Services

Date: Passed by the Board of Directors March 23, 2011