

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 21 2015**

Hamiltonians are not keen on spending \$100,000 to remove the Transit Only Lane on King St., not when there is an option to fix the lane, first.

A crowdsourced poll of 322 Hamiltonians held in advance of Wednesday's city council meeting shows 53% support maintaining the Transit Only Lane. When asked if the Transit Only Lane were modified to address some of the concerns of road users and businesses along the route, support for the lane jumps to 67%.

"These results show that a lot of the frustration directed towards the transit priority lane could be handled through some modest tweaks that have been discussed for a while now," said Mike Borrelli, a downtown resident who helped coordinate the poll with other community members.

The poll also showed high awareness of the Hamilton's Transit Only Lane pilot project with almost three quarters of respondents indicating they had heard of the project.

"This poll definitely confirms what we're hearing downtown," said Matt Thompson, president of the Beasley Neighbourhood Association, "There is room for compromise, and ways to make the lane work better for everyone." Beasley is the part of the lower city where the lane begins, at Mary St.. The BNA is one of the groups who have contributed to the crowdsourced poll.

The short interactive voice response (IVR) poll was conceived as a way to provide more information and context to the heated transit-lane debate, said Borrelli, a McMaster sociology graduate with a background in social research. "We were concerned that existing public opinion information didn't capture the true, nuanced views of Hamiltonians. So a few of us decided we just needed raise money and ask different questions."

The Interactive Voice Response poll was conducted by Grand River Research on the evening of Jan. 21, 2015. The survey's 322 participants were randomly selected using landlines and cell phones. This sample size yields results accurate within +/-5.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Margins are higher for questions with fewer valid responses. Results are weighted by age and gender to reflect the population of Hamilton. Questions about the survey can be directed to community contact Mike Borrelli ([mcborrelli@gmail.com](mailto:mcborrelli@gmail.com) or [289-244-6378](tel:289-244-6378)), or to Grand River Research ([info@grandriverresearch.com](mailto:info@grandriverresearch.com) or [1-888-962-4896](tel:1-888-962-4896)).

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**TOP LINE FINDINGS**

How often do you currently use public transit?

[1] use public transit daily, or almost daily;	30%
[2] use public transit no more than once or twice a week;	10%
[3] use public transit occasionally, such as once or twice a month;	15%
[4] use public transit rarely, such as a couple of times a year; or never use public transit.	45%

Are you aware of Hamilton's Transit Only Lane pilot project, running along King St. from Mary St. to Dundurn St.?

[1] are aware of the Transit Only Lane pilot project	74%
[2] are not aware of the Transit Only Lane pilot project	26%

Do you currently travel along King St. during rush-hour, using any form of transportation?

[1] travel along King St. during rush hour in an automobile	37%
[2] travel along King St. during rush hour using public transit	11%
[3] travel along King St. during rush hour using another mode of transportation, such as a bike or scooter	2%
[4] do not travel along King St. during rush hour	50%

Do you support the ongoing operation of the Transit Only Lane, or the cancellation of the pilot project at a cost of \$100,000 to remove the lane?

[1] support the ongoing operation of the lane	53%
[2] would like to see the Transit Only Lane removed	47%

If the Transit Only Lane were modified to address some of the concerns of road users and businesses along the route, would you support the ongoing operation of the Transit Only Lane?

[1] support modifications to the Transit Only Lane	67%
[2] do not support a modified Transit Only Lane	33%