McMaster Students Union will present to Hamilton City Council on February 24th

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAMILTON - At the January 25th, 2015 meeting of the Student Representative Assembly – the McMaster Students Union’s governing body - a motioned came forward asking the MSU to formally register its concern to City Council, in regards to the closure of the downtown rapid bus lane, and simultaneously reaffirm the MSU’s commitment to Light Rail Transit. The motion passed and the MSU’s Board of Directors, via Vice President (Education) Rodrigo Narro Perez, contacted City Hall asking for the ability to speak to Council at the next available agenda date, formally requesting February 6th. Working with City staff, several dates were offered as February 6th was slated as a budget submission day, intended for City staff (and only City staff) to make presentations to Council. Therefore, the MSU’s request for the February 6th date would likely not be granted by Council. The MSU and City staff had several conversations about potential future dates, though nothing was formalized as of February 3rd.

City staff, working to assist the MSU, altered the original submission to reflect the next potential date, February 18th. Though the MSU did not have prior knowledge to the change or that the request was going before Council on February 4th, the edit was made in good faith in an attempt to expedite the approval process on the MSU’s behalf. The MSU thanks the City for its help in securing a date to speak. In no way does the MSU believe that there was any intent to mislead, deter or otherwise interfere with the ability of student government to speak publicly with City Council.

Currently, each full-time undergraduate student of McMaster University holds a Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) bus pass, by virtue of an MSU-negotiated annual fee of $138.65. As such, McMaster students comprise a considerable client base of the HSR, with total revenues well in excess of $3 million per year. Transit is an extremely important issue to Hamilton, an issue that students in particular take very seriously. The MSU looks forward to its City Council presentation, scheduled for February 24th.

For more information, please contact:

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