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Media Release

New traffic signals have environmental and economic advantages

HAMILTON, ON – March 31, 2008 – An energy conservation project of the City of Hamilton's Public Works department that involved the conversion of traffic signals is resulting in both environmental and economic advantages for the City. Traffic signals at 441 intersections across Hamilton have been converted to much more efficient light-emitting diode (LED) signals. At today's Public Works Committee meeting, the City of Hamilton received an \$85,000 rebate cheque from Horizon Utilities to mark the completion of the project that will reduce traffic signal energy consumption by 70 percent.

"When staff proposed this traffic signal LED conversion program in June of 2006, Council saw that it made sense financially as well as for the environment," said Bryan Shynal, Director of Operations and Maintenance for Hamilton's Public Works Department. "This is a \$2.2 million project but with reduced traffic signal maintenance and 70 percent less energy costs, we predict the break even point will come in the next six to seven years." The project involved the replacement of more than 12,000 traffic signal elements and was completed three months ahead of schedule last December.

The \$85,000 cheque presented to the City today was part of Horizon Utilities' Energy Conservation Fund grant program announced in 2005. "We are very pleased to have supported the City's traffic signal conversion program," said Brian Smith, Manager of Conservation and Demand Management for Horizon Utilities. "The conversion of Hamilton's traffic signals to LEDs will certainly help reduce demand on this area's electrical grid."

The project also involves both good environmental management and a goodwill component. Rather than disposing in landfill some of the traffic signal components that were replaced, reusable components have been donated to the Lights for Life project for use in N'Djamena, the capital city of the central South African republic of Tchad. In addition, any recycling materials such as wiring and glass from the used hardware and cardboard packaging from the new hardware were sent to local recycling facilities.

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