



# Hamilton Bike Share Referendum

McMaster Student Pass for Hamilton Bike Share  
(formerly “SoBi”)

## Key highlights

- **~90% discount: \$24.50** annual pass (current annual cost: **\$192 + HST**)
- **Opt-out-able**
- **90 mins** of daily access (rate without pass: \$0.15/min)
- The **most affordable** bicycle-sharing pricing option in all of Canada

## VOTE HERE:

[mcmaster.simplyvoting.com](https://mcmaster.simplyvoting.com)



McMaster Students for Bike Share is a group that is of, by, and for McMaster students. We are advocating for the implementation of a heavily discounted, opt-out-able student pass for Hamilton Bike Share (formerly “SoBi”) for all full-time undergraduate McMaster students. This pass will allow students to access an extensive network of publicly shared bicycles across Hamilton, at a cost of **\$24.50 annually**, as an addition to MSU student fees, with the option to opt-out. The pass currently costs **\$192 + HST annually** (\$16 + HST monthly) for McMaster students<sup>1</sup>, meaning our proposed pass would offer a staggering **88.7% discount**.

Given the climate threats we are facing, Hamilton Bike Share student pass represents a means of leading more sustainable ways of urban living that will make our communities more bikeable, and by extension, more walkable. If such a pass were to be implemented, we have the potential to introduce the **most affordable bicycle-sharing pricing option in all of Canada**<sup>2</sup>. This pass offering is grounded in our belief that **sustainability should be affordable**.

We are holding a referendum alongside the SRA General Election on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2024, in time for the rollout of the pass in the **2024-25 academic year**. By including this referendum item on the upcoming election ballot, students will have the ability to vote either “yes” or “no” to the implementation of such a pass. By voting “yes” and having the pass implemented, students will still have the availability to opt out of such a fee.

While we need a simple majority for this pass to be implemented, we will also require 10% of the eligible MSU electors to cast a ballot in this election in order for the vote to be valid.

Hamilton Bike Share and MSU already have in place a tentative agreement in writing as of January 2024, which has been many months in the making. Our student group specifically has been at this initiative since as early as December 2022 where we have facilitated discussions between Hamilton Bike Share and the MSU. This Hamilton Bike Share Student Pass is the result of an extensively negotiated process.

1. <https://hamilton.socialbicycles.com/>

2. <https://cyclingmagazine.ca/sections/gear-reviews/bikesframes/bike-share-canadian-cities/>