

## University Students' Council 2014 City of London Budget Submission

First of all I would like to thank all of the city staff for their hard work on compiling this draft budget, Now for all of you on council comes the fun part of debating what should and should not make it in the final City of London 2014 Budget, we hope our presentation today will help you in your deliberations.

- The USC wants to provide some higher level guiding principles for all of you to consider as you deliberate over this budget. We do realize at this point in the budget process we are not in the middle of debates, but at the beginning of the deliberation process.
- We would like to focus on 3 different areas of interest for students: Providing Transportation Choices, Building a Mixed-Use, Compact City, and Building Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods.
- **Providing Transportation**
  - Students use public transit as their main means of movement throughout our city. Much of the time the transit system they are comparing ours will be far superior. Fast, reliable, and consistent transit must be a priority to the city, and strategic investment must be made to improve London's system.
  - **Investment in the Transportation Master Plan and a compact urban form must occur to allow for the future movement of our city to be both multi-model and efficient.**
- **Building a Mixed-Use, Compact City**
  - By providing a compact city that focuses on having a good mix of services, stores, and restaurants within neighbourhoods students will feel more connected to a community rather than a big box store or a shopping mall. Connecting to community is important when attempting to create a lasting relationship between our city and its student population.
  - A compact city will also provide a better connection to the London community if the city provides a greater mix of housing types within our communities. Providing students the option to live in the housing type they desire is important, as we have students coming from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Some may have never lived in any but an apartment or home making the transition into another housing type difficult.
  - Of approximately 6000 incoming students to the University 2400 come from the GTA where the average population density is **945.4** people per square kilometre compared to The London region where our population density is **178.1**. The students from the GTA are used to a different city experience than what we can currently provide.

- Most of all a compact city allows for the development and expansion of rapid transit, which is a priority of students.
  - **City council must make urban density a priority by investing in projects like, infill development, the downtown master plan, and the development of mixed use centres and corridors linked by rapid transit to accomplish the goal of a compact city.**
- **Building Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods**
    - With the development of the Great Near Campus Neighbourhoods Strategy of 2008 there was great promise for changes to areas surrounding our post-secondary campuses.
    - With the amendments presented in 2009 and 2012 there has been work done on this strategy, but mostly in the law enforcement and by-law areas. There is an opportunity to do more!
    - Included in the original Great Near Campus Neighbourhoods Strategy was specific mention towards “Explore opportunities for ‘blurring the line’ between campus and the community. Create special spaces on campus that are for the joint use of the neighbourhood and students”
    - Also mentioned in this report is “Continue to research and better understand student demand for housing. Identify opportunities for medium and high density development at strategic locations” which relates to our compact urban form recommendation.
    - **The USC would ask that investment in the Great Near Campus Neighbourhoods Strategy be continued as outlined in the report, specifically focusing on blurring the lines between campus and the community, from provision of services to integration between students and neighbours, as well as in law-enforcement. As this type of community development allows for greater integration into the London community.**