

OR CWC

Greetings Mayor's office and councillors

I reside in west London but have worked for many years on edge of downtown and frequently shop at market and visit restaurants, coffee, pubs etc. Hence downtown development is meaningful to me both as resident and regular user.

I was pleased to see news about strategic planning of future major initiatives.

Today my wife and i walked around downtown, which prompts me to send this note. Sadly the Dundas street portion of downtown appears to be deteriorating and more and more store front closures.

I support many and offer following input:

a) Bike routes: I have biked to work and to downtown recreation for many years and fully support improved bike route access.

b) Blackfriars bridge: Altho not living in this area I have biked thru this area many many days on way to and from work or downtown. I support a simple pedestrian/bike bridge but I believe that expense for a car bridge is not necessary. Traffic has adjusted after the closure and I don't see this as value added.

c) Forks of Thames: PLEASE PLEASE do not divert out precious funding into the forks again. The recent splash pad is well used and pleasant. Harris park could use some minor upgrading and funds to clean up the side walk from the chronic goose poop would greatly improve use, but additional big spending is not going to encourage more citizens to head downtown.

d) Spring bank dam: PLEASE PLEASE do not divery precious funds into this project. It has failed before. And I agree with naturalists who recommend water levels to drain naturally. We already have a terrible problem with geese waste every where and we don't need more artificial locales for them to multiply. I don't see the higher water level and a major draw for citizens to head downtown.

To me, aside from essential infrastructure, all initiatives should focus on strategies to get citizens either residing in downtown, or regularly going into downtown. A few festivals a year at the forks or other such are not the solution. Initiatives such as the kingsmill fanshawe are what is needed. Free parking or lowered parking rates should be trialed outside Christmas to assess if traffic is increased. I believe that I used to see more police walking the beat than i have seen recently. Community policing and sense of safety would also help for dundas street area.

Thank you for considering my citizen input.

Sincerely,

Mark Hantiuk
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