

London Development Institute

May 3, 2016

By Email

City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Attn.: Chair and Members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

Re: SHIFT Rapid Transit Business Case

Chair and Members of the Committee,

The LDI supports the Staff recommendation in the Business Case (BC) for the full Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) as the preferred option for Rapid Transit (RT) in the City of London. The full BRT alternative provides the most economical solution based on a phased approach to meet ridership needs today and well into the future as demand increases.

The BC provides a detailed analysis of the four RT alternatives and compares them to the four guiding principles of the City's Strategic Plan. A detailed analysis of current/future ridership and system capacity are key elements to determining the type of system best suited for London.

The BC takes into consideration the Intensification policies of the draft London Plan and the move to grow inwards and upwards which will further support the proposed RT system.

The phased approach recommended in the Staff report meets the demands of the system today and into the future to implement the possibility of a full LRT system when warranted. It makes no sense to buy a Cadillac today if you can't afford the insurance or gas to run it.

The LDI has stated in the past that the industry is in support of rapid transit in the city but we have had concerns with the Capital and operating costs on Development Charges (DCs) and taxes for Londoners. One of the biggest advantages London has to attract new jobs and residents to the city is the affordability of housing. The phased approach for BRT recommended in the report provides the right balance to keep costs in check by providing the needed level of service as required.

..... developing and planning for a strong London

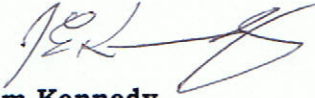
562 Wellington Street
Suite 2003
London, ON N6A 3R5

Phone: (519) 642-4331
Fax: (519) 642-7203
e-mail: kennedy@londondev.ca

The LDI has been an active participant as a stakeholder in the Transportation Master Plan, the Draft London Plan and the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment (EA) to date. We look forward to continuing to provide comments on the next phase of the EA process and to build the city of the future.

Sincerely,

London Development Institute



Jim Kennedy
President, LDI

cc LDI Members
cc Martin Hayward, City Treasurer
cc Edward Soldo, Transportation Manager
cc John Braam, City Engineer
cc John Fleming, City Planner
cc Art Zuidema, CAO