

To London City Council:

As a long time resident of London, I urge you to consider the rapid transit option which was originally considered by Council--LRT/BRT hybrid.

LRT is essential to get people using the service. It will be faster. Currently, I can ride my bike across the city faster than taking a bus with London City Transit. I suggest that is the reason the ridership on our current bus system is low. By the time we can actually use the system, we will all be older, and will want to get across the city faster on rapid transit.

LRT is a more ecologically friendly alternative. It will be a fast, quiet, and a system which does not require diesel gas that our current system requires.

LRT will get people out of their cars. People will want to take a system which is convenient, fast, economical and more enjoyable than getting through traffic.

I urge council to take a more forward thinking approach to this issue. We will need the service for London to grow in the way people envision in the Imagine London document. Let's build on this path. We need to ask both the Province and the Federal governments to put their share into this service. We will not know how much funding we will receive until we ask. I urge you to ask for the funding. In the long run, the amount of money we have to put into this system will help Londoners have a cleaner city which is a more friendly, positive place to raise a family and to get to work. This is a crucial decision and we need to be proactive and think outside of the box.

I have lived in London for 35 years. I have raised my children to take the bus, walk, and bicycle to their destinations. The reason we currently do not take the bus very often is that we can all cycle faster to our destinations than using our current bus system. Some people are also taking their cars because the bus system is so slow. I believe that is one of the reasons you don't have the numbers on your current ridership. People are not using the system now because it is too slow and not efficient. If you use a visionary approach and decide on the LRT/BRT option, I believe we will all be better off in London. Just imagine life here with this new wonderful transit system.

I would like to address council at the Participatory Meeting on Thursday, May 26th.

Sincerely,
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