

From: bill brock
Date: May 23, 2016 at 9:21:22 PM EDT
To: Cathy Saunders <csaunder@london.ca>
Cc: Bill Brock
Subject: Rapid Transit Decision Time
Reply-To: bill brock
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee,
May 26, 2016.

Brief and recommendations for consideration:

This Council is at the point of making a major decision impacting the future of 381,000 Londoners and all those to follow! The question that needs to be addressed does this multi million dollar expenditure have a negative impact on the majority of Londoners such as seniors; low income and those in poverty having a better life today?

A current Councillor indicated those who talked about yesterday were nostalgic and not living for today. This Councillor and all those like him need to be reminded that our parents and grandparents didn't go through a depression, several wars and a financial disaster that wiped out a large retirement savings so today's youth could have whatever they wanted as long as somebody else pays! The reminder is that all of us were to share in the wealth and safety of universal London family! London has lost sight of this!

The current Council and senior staff blame yesterdays "Experts" for all the failures left for them today! Really though one could argue that today's Council is no different and prone to same mistakes. A former Mayor in 1988 claimed that mall wars had no impact on downtown and London was a classy city! Another Mayor in last Council declared (supported by most of Council) there would be no money for industrial bus service and the province and feds should pay for it if people want it! This Council is no different asking other levels of government to pay the piper!

Last fall the current Mayor and Deputy led the indoctrination of the new Councillors to making London the greatest city in the world. Like a fraternity; you all joined together to go after big transportation dollars because

the Feds. and Province indicated same. London is not familiar with the "Golden Horseshoe" just east of us!

Your unanimous support for strategy failed and there seems to be a perception because you are a Council you have the right to demand whatever you want and other levels can't say no? You took the approach to favor rail for the special interest groups of Western, Downtown and Fanshawe which literally leaves the others to enjoy greater disparity for the haves and the have nots!

Bus transportation is the only way to go! You can't design something that may make it better in 15-20 years.

The most flexibility is a bus system that is flexible by time of day, day of week, month of year, winter, summer, emergencies, change routes and most importantly expands by ridership growth. Note no growth service reduced! London now has 43 neighbourhood communities; each with a heart and ability to make their place of living, working and playing better by choice. This is opposite to the social engineering you are trying to force on all of us to protect downtown. Remember when street cars went to east London, downtown and Springbank Park; well that was because that's all there was! Before it is too late London should review the CALGARY CTRAIN success story! This started in 1968 with "Blue" express buses like London started 2 years ago! Their success was first they crawl, then they walked, then they ran and today they celebrate success! This not nostalgia; it is a lesson for London to learn!

London should consider ring Transit roads running north / south and east west. Keep downtown inner ring road for transit which gives the greatest flexibility. Link in with CN tracks using both sides of Yorke and Horton. At some time the 401 Windsor to Montreal rapid will go!

Part 2 with recommendations to follow; if not please submit what is here as " FUEL FOR THOUGHT"

Bill Brock