



May 25, 2016

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

The outcome of the current debate regarding London's future transit routes and mode of transport will have a direct impact on London's citizens and future. The choice made in 2016 will influence development and growth and set the course for our environmental footprint.

On May 18th, 2016, the Old East Village Improvement Area Board of Directors endorsed the hybrid light rail/bus light rapid transit system as originally proposed by staff and endorsed by Council as the preferred option in November 2015.

The Board understands that the LRT portion of the hybrid SHIFT choice may mean that the construction time required to complete the project will be 20% longer than the bus only option and the BIA will take steps to minimize any inconvenience to our businesses. The Board believes this transit model is warranted and required to advance our transit system in a way that delivers the best long term strategy to increase ridership and decrease our reliance on single occupancy vehicles. Additionally, the ultimate outcome will have a major effect on the ongoing economic recovery of the Old East Village and East London. Investment is required to implement the McCormicks area and Secondary Plan, the redevelopment of the Kellogg's lands and the continued renewal of The Old East Village commercial. As well as achieving efficient transportation outcomes, the Hybrid model will secure significant permanent infrastructure that will encourage equally significant investment in the area.

Our position is based on the work we are undertaking and confirmed by the Kitchener-Waterloo experience as outlined in the 2015 Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Baseline Monitoring Report.

The choice London makes now regarding our transportation future may very well be a once in a lifetime decision. The choice will drive investment and how Londoners move, live and locate their work places for the next fifty years and beyond. Federal and Provincial funds are available now and it is imperative we, as a community, seize this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Drangova".

Maria Drangova
Old East Village Board Chair