

Ensuring a best in class experience

RAPID TRANSIT FOR LONDON

On behalf of the board and management team of Downtown London, we are pleased to submit our position on rapid transit.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A best-in-class city requires - and deserves - a best-in-class transit system. Whether on wheels or on rails, Downtown London is advocating for a modern rapid transit system, **which above all, focuses on a high quality experience**, and:

1. Is operationally efficient and arrives with frequency and speed
2. Effectively supports both daytime commuters and the nighttime economy
3. Is attractive, flexible and adaptable as ridership increases
4. Can be supported by a comprehensive business case

When we talk about experience, efficiency and effectiveness, we are unequivocally focused on a solution of stellar quality. This includes routes that make sense for downtown, high quality vehicles and stations, and a high quality operational partner. For any rapid transit solution to be successful, there must be a high degree of alignment, in both vision and operational planning, between the City of London and the operator.

A MADE IN LONDON, FOR LONDON, SOLUTION

It is no secret that London is far behind in our transit offerings. It's time to catch up and to plan for the future. In some ways, our community has history of settling for the "Chevy that works" instead of shooting for an attractive, future-forward model.

With the most transformative infrastructure project in London's history, we cannot let that be the case. Similarly, we should not let ourselves be seduced by the strategies of other communities or by what we perceive is the "sexiest" technology. This has to be a solution that is uniquely designed for London, one that meets our current needs, builds for the future by considering other major infrastructure investments already underway, and can be completed in a timely and budget-wise way.

Our board has examined the business case for BRT/LRT which is limited to capital expenditures. It represents a significant step forward, in particular if it allows for flexibility and adaptability as ridership increases.

HOW WE'LL SUPPORT THIS WORK

Downtown London is connector and catalyst between partners and projects in the region to ensure progressive policies, bold investments and smart growth, which benefit our members and the downtown, and through them, London's economy.

As a key economic partner, representing 1000 downtown merchants and ratepayers, over \$1 billion of taxable assessment and as home to over 30,000 employees, we will actively participate in detailed decisions being made throughout the process, in particular surrounding downtown routes.

In this project, as in all major infrastructure investments in and around the downtown, we commit to being a key partner in helping manage communications, minimize disruption and ensure business retention.

We appreciate the opportunity to share this position and the thoughtful process with which the City is approaching this important decision.

Respectfully submitted,

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