

September 6, 2016

Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

Re: Relocation of Bus Routes off Dundas Street

The move to create a flexible, pedestrian friendly space on Dundas Street is a key visionary component in several of our most significant planning documents. Our Downtown Master Plan calls for the creation of a flex street on Dundas as one of the top priorities for our downtown, creating an exceptional public amenity for those who live, work and play in the downtown. The London Plan calls for Dundas Street to become “the most exciting street in the city”, and the SHIFT Rapid Transit Plan envisions an interconnected transit hub on King Street that will service both rapid transit and local transit.

Relocating the existing bus routes off of Dundas Street represents an important step in this plan, and there is good reason to move forward on this step expeditiously. Applications are now open for Phase 1 of the federal Infrastructure Plan, and we've received good signals that projects like this may qualify under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund. While the City is seeking funding for the SHIFT plan under Phase 1 and 2, we have an opportunity now to bolster our transit system in preparation for rapid transit.

We have the plans, and the conditions are right. We would therefore respectfully request that the following motion be supported:

“That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to work with the London Transit Commission to move the existing bus routes on the downtown core section of Dundas Street by spring 2017; and

That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to explore the opportunity for including the capital costs of the additional buses as a Project Funding Request to the Phase 1 intake of the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.”

Sincerely,

Matt Brown
Mayor

Tanya Park
Councillor, Ward 13