

To members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee,

In regards to rapid transit on King Street, I support the couplet option where RT vehicles would run east on King and west on Queens. It is a great solution that is in the best interests of London and has actual legitimate tradeoffs.

As for the north corridor, well I can tell you this much. How do you not put it on Richmond? You have the core, Richmond Row, Victoria Park, Old North, Gibbons Park, St. Joseph's Hospital, King's University College, and a big portion of Western's community. These are among the places that matter in London. And this system should connect London's most important places. As far as I'm concerned, my London includes Western University and Richmond Row.

Moving the north corridor to Wharncliffe Road North and Western Road would make no sense at all. It would be like if Toronto's Yonge Street subway bypassed Yonge and went through the Rosedale Valley. Less people, less places, and less things. Less important stuff.

City Hall has never talked about a grade separation of some kind on Richmond at the tracks, so I was skeptical of the entire plan on day one. Then, I went to the 2nd public information centre two years ago this month, and saw the idea for a tunnel on Richmond on a large display board. From there, I was all in on this project. It is literally the only reason I support the entire thing.

An underpass, as we know from the technical memo would see one side of Richmond to John to Oxford destroyed to make room for a full-fledged underpass. That's not a good thing, is it?

At-grade RT lanes? What would be the point of this system if trains can jam it up for minutes at a time, sometimes even an hour?

As a transit rider, I know I will objectively benefit from this when it is built. And so will many other people like me. Yes, believe it or not, we exist. The notion that this plan is deeply flawed is a red herring.

Now, about the role of city council and city staff in this plan. Over the next decade, you're going to run into problems and controversies, like every major thing this city has undertaken, like every other citybuilding project all over the world. We can't be under the delusion that this will be easy. For each legitimate concern about this project, on the other side, there is a manufactured controversy that will surface somewhere else. People are going to try and scrape the barrel where there is no scandal. The onus is on you guys to rise above that. The thought of reconsidering this project every time controversy pops up is the abdication of leadership. But it doesn't have to be that way. You guys have the option of spending however many hours in a day making this city-building project the best it can be, as opposed to the worst.

In the local media, they like to use metaphors with VCR buttons and car parts. Well I'd like to say, I am ready to push fast forward and step on the gas pedal, and hopefully you are too.

- Cedric Richards