

From: Cheryl T
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 10:30 PM
To: Shift <Shift@london.ca>; SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Subject: London RT

The reason I support the development of rapid transit in London is that it plans for the future. London continues to grow and the infrastructure of the city hasn't expanded to keep up. Opponents of rapid transit say it benefits primarily students - well, yes it does. That isn't a terrible thing, though - the university & college contribute a lot to this city and its economy. However, many permanent residents of the city will benefit as well. Those of us who do not own cars, require a robust and reliable transit system in order to access areas of the city in which we do not live.

If you feel this is unnecessary, consider this - the traffic problem is already difficult. The core is congested and the level rail crossings have significant impacts on North/South travel. But aside from that, there are limited routes to any of the four quadrants of the city, causing congestion as well. Won't be using transit, ok - but think of those who do. Those who have no other method of transport. Or, for the moment, consider why you don't use transit.

Night life? Access to Budweiser Gardens, the Grand Theatre, Covent Garden Market, Centennial Hall - parking will be less of an issue (except for lot owners) if people could rely on transit to get them to and from the core for activities at these venues. The Aeolian Hall, Palace Theatre and Western Fair Market, plus the burgeoning Old East neighbourhood - not a fun place to travel in the evening in terms of transit. It could be made safer and more rider-friendly.

Right now, people are looking for jobs. Most of them look for jobs nearby. However, there are those who would have access to at least apply to jobs in the outlying eastern industrial area if transit were more reliable. Currently, it takes over an hour to get from the airport region to Old South. I know - I ride the bus every day. That is my choice because of where I work and where I choose to live. Some people do not have those choices. How many of the jobless, who may not have their own vehicles for whatever reason - do not apply for jobs in the outlying areas of the city because they are not accessible? Or, the access is limited and/or unreliable?

In addition to improving access across the city, London should be investing in reducing its carbon footprint. Allowing people to leave their cars at home more often, would be a great step towards reducing the city's carbon footprint. A great deal more effective than turning off the lights for one night on Earth Day. London wants to be world-class. World-class cities have effective, reliable transit systems. They also acknowledge that just because a service does not directly affect or improve one's own life, improving that service is still necessary. Think bigger and broader, Londoners.

regards,

Cheryl Takaoka