

From: "van Holst, Michael" <mvanholst@london.ca>
Date: April 15, 2018 at 11:38:51 PM EDT
To: "Saunders, Cathy" <csaunder@london.ca>
Subject: SPPC motion on BRT

Cathy,
Please also include this at the next SPPC meeting.
Thanks

Dear Colleagues,

With respect to BRT, I wish to move the following:

That staff assist in clarifying Council's priorities with respect to the rapid transit project.

The reason for my request is to provide clarity for council and for the citizens that I see a forming two factions:

Those hoping we gain anticipated benefits;
Those hoping we avoid anticipated costs and inconvenience.

Few understand precisely what we want to achieve with BRT and the uncertainty is magnified because many do not feel that a full-blown rapid transit is something we need to solve today's problems, nor do they expect that the BRT we envision now is what we will really want 20 years from now. More clarity on our part will reduce this divide.

Numerous reasons have been presented for implementing BRT but we have never taken the opportunity to prioritize these sometimes competing interests. Here is a partial list that I wish to see prioritized and applied consistently to the project:

- Improving bus transit
- Improving transportation as a whole
- Improving our city image
- Expanding roads
- Repairing old infrastructure
- Securing RT transportation corridors
- Guiding development along certain corridors
- Youth retention
- Getting our fair share from higher levels of government
- Social justice concerns
- Minimizing property impacts
- Minimizing Heritage impacts
- Minimizing tree canopy loss
- Minimizing greenhouse gas emissions
- Transitioning from individual to mass transit
- Preparing for population growth
- Implementing the London Plan

Once we have clarity on what we hope to achieve, we will be able to evaluate and refine our plan effectively. If these priorities remain a shifting cloud of desire we will only be able to say yes or no to whatever final plan lands in front of us. Should we find ourselves needing to contain costs, a clear set of priorities will be invaluable. Having these set will help us determine what future RT projects we may wish to pursue.

I appreciate your consideration,

Michael van Holst