



Architectural Conservancy Ontario – London Region Branch
Grosvenor Lodge
1017 Western Road
London, ON N6G 1G5

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Members of City Council:

Matt Brown (Mayor) – mayor@london.ca
Bill Armstrong – barmstro@london.ca
Maureen Cassidy – mcassidy@london.ca
Jesse Helmer – jhelmer@london.ca
Anna Hopkins – ahopkins@london.ca
Paul Hubert - phubert@london.ca
Josh Morgan – joshmorgan@london.ca
Tanya Park – tpark@london.ca
Virginia Ridley – vridley@london.ca
Mohamed Salih – msalih@london.ca
Phil Squire – psquire@london.ca
Stephen Turner – sturner@london.ca
Harold Usher – husher@london.ca
Michael Van Holst – mvanholst@london.ca
Jared Zaifman – jzaifman@london.ca

Members of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH)
through the LACH Committee Secretary

**Re: SHIFT LONDON
(BUS RAPID TRANSIT)**

Dear Councillors and Members of LACH,

As the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project moves forward, there will be development pressure along the proposed BRT corridors. Sections of the BRT route, particularly along Richmond Street but also on Wharncliffe Road, Wellington Street, and elsewhere, are flanked by many properties that are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and/or listed in the city's Heritage Inventory. The Richmond Street and Wellington Road streetscapes in particular, as noted in the London Plan, "serve a gateway function that provides a sense of place and image for London".

The London Region Branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) wishes to respectfully remind City Council and LACH members of the importance of adhering to the key principles of the London Plan that pertain to culturally significant sections of the BRT corridors as follows:

1. The Main Street Policies in Sections 870 to 874 of the London Plan (Dundas Street in Old East Village, Wellington Street in SoHo, Richmond Row south of Oxford Street):



“Heritage buildings will be preserved, in accordance with the Cultural Heritage policies of this Plan.”

“The design and building materials of new structures will be in keeping with, and supportive of, the form and character of the Main Street segment.”

2. The Preservation Policies in Sections 875 to 878 of the London Plan (Richmond Street from Oxford Street to Huron Street, Wellington Road from Alexandra Street to Weston Street):

“The Preservation segments are areas that have mature landscapes and streetscapes that merit preservation, re-purposing of the existing building stock and potentially new small-scale development in appropriate locations only.”

“They contain mature trees and intact streetscapes... It is a goal of this Plan to preserve this character...”

“The retention of existing buildings will be encouraged to maintain the character of the streetscape.”

“Heritage buildings will be preserved, in accordance with the Cultural Heritage policies of this Plan.”

“Mature trees will be preserved and new trees will be planted along streetscapes wherever possible and appropriate to support the long-term sustainability of a mature tree-lined streetscape.”

In our view, it is critical that the principles of the London Plan outlined above not be forgotten as the BRT project progresses over the next many years. With regards to the stretch of the transit-way on Richmond Street between Oxford Street and University Drive, it is our preference to see “Option 1” proceed as it will have the least impact on heritage properties and streetscape.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grainger
President, London Region Branch
Architectural Conservancy Ontario

CC:

Cathy Saunders, City Clerk – csaunders@london.ca
Heather Lysynski, PEC Committee Secretary – hlysynsk@london.ca