

BUS RAPID TRANSIT : Let's Build a Green City with Bus Rapid Transit

Submission by Helen Riordon, 95 Jacqueline St.

I live in Ward 1 and also own property on Piccadilly St. in Ward 13

Councillors and Mayor:

I urge you to consider the Bus Rapid Transit System in order to develop a sustainable and liveable city. I wish to remind you that The London Plan outlines a plan for denser growth, or sustainable growth in the City of London which would include a rapid transit corridor.

As a resident of London living in Ward 1, also owning property on Piccadilly St. in Ward 13, I will outline the reasons I feel the Bus Rapid Transit System with the two rapid transit corridors is the best system for London.

In my travels to Winnipeg, Manitoba, I encountered a great Bus Rapid Transit System which helped me travel where I needed to go in that city. I was staying out at the University of Manitoba and I took their bus rapid transit to their Forks of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, downtown. It took me about 15 minutes to arrive at a beautiful forks of their rivers, which uses the natural features of their forks to create a beautiful and useful space. Then I took a bus from the Forks to Portage and Main (about 3 min.). I also took a bus out to their airport when I needed to go home. While in Winnipeg last year, I did not need a car or a taxi. I got around very easily totally on the bus. We need to look at Winnipeg to see how they have integrated the bus system into the life of the people there.

Last year, I also traveled to Ottawa by train from London. I stayed at my sister's place out on the west end. I found it easy to get around on their bus rapid transit to get downtown (about 10 min.) from my sister's condo on the west end. I took my skates on the bus and went skating on the Rideau Canal. I had no need for a car or a taxi in Ottawa during my stay for the Winterlude event. We need to look at how Ottawa's system is working.

In London, I take the bus or ride my bicycle everywhere I go. I do not own a car. From where I live, I find it fairly convenient to get around. But it could be so much better. We need to follow the London Plan. It calls for an input of 10,000 people and a great intensification with a target of 45% to curb urban sprawl. If we continue to eat up agricultural land through urban sprawl, this is costing taxpayers money through servicing land and expanding city services. Urban sprawl is not sustainable. We need a high intensity rapid transit system for development along the rapid transit corridors and rapid transit stations. We need high density corridors serving UWO, Fanshawe College and hospitals where parking is limited.

"If we build it, they will come". I really believe this statement. For those who complain that we don't have a high enough ridership to make this possible, I say that the system we have right now needs this work to gain the ridership. Most of the money will be coming from the Federal and Provincial governments. We need to make use of this money to also fix our infrastructure and to build the BRT.

"If we build it, they will come."

Submitted by Helen Riordon