

GOOD NEWS



Christian Reformed Church 476 Clarke Road, London, Ontario N5V 2C7 Tel: 519-659-8278

To the City Councillors and Mayor of London,

March 10, 2019

I am writing on behalf of Good News Christian Reformed Church located in the Argyle community. We want to communicate our apprehension regarding the future plans for public transportation within London. More specifically, as a faith based community located and invested in Argyle, we have concerns regarding the proposed eastern route. As it stands, it fails to address the needs of Argyle residents, businesses or the industrial companies along the Veterans Memorial Parkway.

We know that there have been repeated objections to the current BRT plan by our Ward 2 City Councillor, Shawn Lewis. He has highlighted this detrimental oversight. We agree with his proposal that the eastern route shouldn't merely focus on the needs of Fanshawe College students. Yes, we realize that effective public transit is an attractive feature for potential students, and do agree with that value. However, the route desperately needs to be extended to the airport, via Oxford St, along Veterans Memorial and then back west on Dundas St. to Argyle Mall. This will connect with the bus hub at the mall for easy accessibility to other parts of the city. By including this extension, residents, students and businesses will benefit in multiple ways:

- access to the London airport by residents AND Fanshawe students (especially for the growing international student population)
- increased exposure and access to vital public resources housed at the East London Library
- meaningful opportunity for employment at the businesses along Veterans Memorial for those lacking personal transportation options

In pursuing and implementing this extension, you will increase public support of the plan, particularly on the east end. And recognizing that student bus usage is subsidized, thus creating a loss in revenue, you have opportunity to increase revenue in providing additional busing routes that address real-time needs.

Thanks for your attention to this matter which is not merely about transportation, but of supporting those limited in their means for personal transportation. Ultimately, this is an issue of justice and equal accessibility.

Sincerely,

Pastor Willemina L. Zwart