

March 08, 2019

Dear Mayor Holder London,

I am writing to you on behalf of our Board of Directors in regard to the rapid transit issue that you will soon be deciding on.

Specifically, as an organization that is presently developing an affordable housing apartment in Argyle neighbourhood, our concern is that the eastern route as proposed serves neither Argyle residents and businesses, nor the industrial employers along Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Our Ward 2 City Councillor Shawn Lewis has repeatedly objected to the current BRT plan because of this shortcoming, even prior to his election.

We agree with Councillor Lewis, that the eastern route should not focus solely on transit for Fanshawe College students. Instead, let's continue the eastern route all the way out Oxford St to the airport, come down Veterans Memorial Parkway, and back west on Dundas St. to Argyle Mall where we already have an excellent transit hub. From there it would be a quick trip back up Clarke Rd. to reconnect west bound on Oxford. This route would open up transit access to the airport, to employers on Oxford east and Veterans Memorial Parkway, as well as to our east London Library, and provide students from Fanshawe with easy access to the commercial business node at Dundas and Clarke Rd.

As a developer of affordable housing this would also provide access to serviceable lands east of Clarke Road for possible future development. Without bus service these lands would not qualify for funding from programs presently in place. Bus service is a very necessary component of affordable housing developments.

It is vital in our view, that if we are going to build a rapid transit service in London, it must provide service to the east end.

We believe that by adopting this plan, Council will gain much more public support for transit from Argyle residents who oppose the current BRT plan. We also believe this will do more to bring in new ridership from residents of London, rather than relying on the already heavily subsidized student ridership, and result in a more sustainable transit service for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Paul FitzGeorge

President Board of Directors

Zerin Development Corporation