

From: Mike Bloxam

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 8:04 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Participation Meeting – Public Input regarding City of London transportation projects to be put forward for consideration for Public Transit Infrastructure Stream Funding

Dear members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee,

I urge you all to move forward with the Shift London project that was before City Council in 2018, i.e. a cohesive rapid transit system that has already been given federal and provincial approval for funding. Having rapid transit in our city is critical to London's future. This project is fully sustainable: it will bring economic benefits, environmental benefits, and community benefits.

Look no farther than Kitchener-Waterloo, where their light rail system isn't even fully operational, and yet more than \$3 billion (!) in development has already been invested along the transit corridors.

(February 2018: <https://fpress.com/2018/02/13/light-rail-transit-inspires-infill-development-in-kitchener-waterloo-some-of-it-by-london-firms/wcm/f49e2539-c9f4-2766-364f-b88141eff24d>)

Increasing the reliability of our transit system can only be done with segregated lanes. Reliability will beget ridership, and will benefit riders from all walks of life: from those who need it most (unemployed, under-employed, people on fixed incomes, students in high school and at post-secondary), to those who don't want to waste money on a personal vehicle, to those who want to use it on a casual basis. It will benefit people of all ages and walks of life. It will reduce congestion and remove the need for six-lane roads without dedicated lanes.

Cities around the world understand the importance of reliable, affordable transit. It makes for more livable cities by reducing sprawl and encouraging effective urban density. If London doesn't go forward with a full BRT system, we will be losing an entire generation's worth of smart growth and development.

Remember: an advanced society isn't one where the poor can afford a car; it's one where the rich use transit. London deserves to be an advanced city.

Sincerely,

Mike Bloxam

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Sent from a mobile device. Please forgive any spelling errors or brevity.