

From: Liane Fisher Bloxam

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:34 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Participation Meeting – Public Input regarding City of London transportation projects

Dear members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to move forward with all aspects of the Shift Rapid Transit Plan. This plan has the benefit of years of planning work tied directly to our city's goals in the London Plan.

Piecemeal updates to the existing system will not achieve the outcomes transit riders and all of London so desperately need. For our future competitiveness, and our ability to anticipate the disruption that Climate Change (already in progress) will force upon all of us, it is critical that London's growth be inward and upward, connected by a well planned, functional transit system. Failure to make this a priority now will result in future congestion and gridlock, and people and businesses choosing to make their homes elsewhere.

One complaint I have heard from rapid transit detractors is that "this system won't get me to give up my car." Respectfully, that is the wrong approach. A fast, reliable transit system will prevent future cars on the road as young people find they are able to delay purchasing one, and families like mine are able to use one car instead of two. It will also encourage growth and development where we need it the most, along transit corridors. These detractors may also not have considered their own futures as seniors who are not able to drive as much as they once were, or at all.

In a personal example I shared in a letter to the previous council, I estimate the completed BRT system would shave 20 minutes in each direction from my commute to work on Exeter Road. That extra 3+ hours per week to spend with my family will be a significant factor in any decision about whether to continue raising my children here.

I urge not to waste years of planning and hundreds of millions in potential funding. London needs and deserves a reliable rapid transit system.

Sincerely,

Liane Fisher Bloxam