

**From:** Scott MacDougall-Shackleton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:41 AM  
**To:** SPPC <sppc@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: BRT

From: **Scott MacDougall-Shackleton**  
Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 7:39 AM  
Subject: BRT  
To: <[psquire@bellnet.ca](mailto:psquire@bellnet.ca)>  
Cc: Scott A. MacDougall-Shackleton

Hi Phil,

I can't make the BRT meeting since it is during the weekday, so I am writing to you with my views. I am a resident of Old North (Hellmuth Ave).

London has grown to the point where it needs the transport system of a city, not the transport system of a small town. Too many people, including many residents of Old North, exhibit some of the worst kind of NIMBYism and want to be able to drive their single-occupant cars wherever and whenever they choose. Not only is this terrible for the environment and for creating a livable city, it does huge disservice to London's population of those living at or below the poverty line.

London has Canada's fifth highest levels of child poverty. Think about that. That means thousands of parents who can barely make ends meet. These folks do not have the time or means to lobby city government as much as the soccer moms and dads of Old North. These folks need convenient and reliable transportation to get to and from work. And this work is often not 9 to 5.

Our family's piano teacher is barely getting by financially. She works in Old North and lives on Proudfoot. Some days it takes her HOURS to get home with the current transit system, and this is just a simple run down Oxford street. The evening and weekend service is so infrequent that if she misses a bus she is in big trouble. She is not alone. Many of the "working poor" cannot afford cars or taxis. We, as citizens of London, should be ashamed of this.

We need transit that runs quickly, and regularly, including the downtown-Masonville route. With regular service, where you don't need to consult maps and timetables, more people will use it.

Some of my neighbours think only students take the bus. They are so naive to the desperate need of London's less well-off it makes me ashamed of them.

With respect to traffic on Richmond, I encourage you to read a book called "Traffic" by Tom Vanderbilt. It is a well-established fact that road widening results in MORE traffic, not less. If Richmond were reduced to 1 lane each way, with regular bus routes in bus lanes the effect on traffic would be transient. People would simply alter their behaviour.

The take home message of this email is for you, as a city councillor, to please consider what is best for the London community. Not just Old North residents who see Richmond Street as their personal speedway. Although you are elected by a Ward, you have a duty to look beyond the short-sighted self-interest of some of London's most highly privileged citizens.

Thanks for your time in reading this.

Scott MacDougall-Shackleton