

From: shelley carr

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:00 AM

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] BRT thoughts

Good morning to our Committee and Councillors!

I am writing this letter from a dawn filled window looking over a city I have grown to love.

Later, I will be catching a local bus to my workplace/school like I do every day.

I cannot tell the committee/council what to decide on BRT. I can hope that the message get through that something needs to improve greatly for transit for this city to grow and thrive. I can see that the need for our council to commit to something regarding BRT for the welfare of the city may cost them their future election positions. I also know that stepping out and doing something for the public good of the community is valued historically far more later than in the present.

As for the facts, I can only tell you what I see as a rider.

I see bus bays used as a way to encourage drivers to use cars. They speed up the flow of traffic for cars only. Valuable time is lost for bus drivers to attempt to get back into the flow of traffic. Transit should always be placed forefront in a community, not as secondary choice. It should always be the first choice in machined transport.

I see 20 minute waits to turn left from Oxford onto Richmond due to sheer traffic volume. This situation would not exist if there were dedicated lanes.

I see under-serviced areas like Veteran's Drive and the Airport area being missed because the majority of our buses are used to funnel students/staff to schools and hospitals. BRT would allow buses resources to reach these areas.

I taste car fumes from the "trough" of Oxford street. Because it is in a lower section of the city, it seems to be affected more than most. BRT would lessen the number of cars on Oxford making the air clearer and easier to breath especially for people with asthma.

I see a younger generation like my sons who no longer see a car as an identity and want nothing to do with cars. They prefer using bicycles, walking and transit.

I see an older generation who will soon be unable to drive, who think the halcyon days of car ownership will never end. What choices will they have if London, Ontario is not prepared with safe, use-able transit?

And finally, I see myself and my fellow business classmates considering graduation. No one is saying "I want to stay in London". The cities that are seen as employment goals already have BRT or even LRT. These cities are seen as locations of choice for growth. London cannot retain/attract citizens because of inexpensive homes much longer.

So much hinges on your decision. And it is not an easy decision either. I hope that your dedication to making London, Ontario a better place for all for now and the future is foremost in your minds as you decide. And thank you for taking the time to carefully consider all of the issues. It is much appreciated.

Yours

Shelley Carr "I don't only ride in your ward, I also use transit there"