



300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA

July 27, 2021

Chair and Members
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

Recently there has been an increased focus and interest on regional transportation and mobility across Southwestern Ontario. On July 21, 2021, the Government of Canada announced its intentions to explore enhancements to rail service to mid-sized communities in Southwestern Ontario. Earlier this year, the Province of Ontario established the Southwest Ontario Transportation Task Force and made new investments in inter-community transportation. These initiatives are underway at the same time as our region is experiencing a diminishing of transportation services with the closure of Greyhound's Canadian operations earlier this year. However, with the departure of Greyhound, opportunities for new providers in the transportation space are taking shape and new entrants to the market are beginning to provide service to Ontarians.

We believe these factors have created a unique opportunity for London to embrace its role as a regional hub city. Greater coordination of regional mobility services has the potential to support economic development, tourism and hospitality, employers, and visitors accessing health, education or recreation amenities in London. Furthermore, the concept of a downtown transportation/mobility hub is consistent with the City of London's transportation and planning priorities, referenced in the London Plan, the current Transportation Master Plan, and more generally within Council's Strategic Plan.

We believe that the time to begin exploring this opportunity is now. Given the ongoing work of the Task Force, and the recently announced exploration of passenger rail improvements for London and region, exploring how various modes of transportation can best connect to London will aid in identifying strong options to attract and leverage investments from provincial and federal governments – investments that can fuel the economic and social recovery of London and all of Southwestern Ontario in the years ahead.

To ensure the City of London fully investigates this opportunity we propose the following actions:

- 1) That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to develop a conceptual framework for a Regional Transportation/Mobility Hub in downtown London for Council's consideration; and,
- 2) That the Mayor BE REQUESTED to engage with the Southwest Ontario Transportation Task Force membership on the opportunity of positioning the City of London as a Regional Transportation/Mobility Hub for consideration by the Province of Ontario under the Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario.

Sincerely,

Ed Holder
Mayor

Josh Morgan
Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Ward 7