5TH REPORT OF THE
RAPID TRANSIT IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting held on March 9, 2017, commencing at 4:30 PM, in Council Chambers, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor P. Squire (Chair), Mayor M. Brown; Councillors B. Armstrong, J. Helmer, A. Hopkins P. Hubert, T. Park and H. L. Usher; S. Rooth, D. Sheppard and E. Southern and J. Martin (Secretary).


I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest
That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

None.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

2. 4th Report of the Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group
That it BE NOTED that the 4th Report of the Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group, from its meeting held on February 9, 2017, was received.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. STAFF REPORT - Summary of February 23, 2017 Public Information Centre 4
That it BE NOTED that the Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group received the following:

a) a verbal presentation from M. Hayward, Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and Acting City Manager, with respect to an overview of the Rapid Transit project;

b) the attached presentations from E. Soldo, Director of Roads and Transportation and J. Fleming, City Planner, with respect to an overview of the Rapid Transit project; and,

c) a presentation from B. Hollingsworth, IBI Group and K. Paleczny, General Manger, London Transit Commission, with respect to a summary of the Public Information Centre 4.

4. STAFF REPORT - Downtown Routing Alternatives Assessment
That it BE NOTED that the Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group received a report dated March 6, 2017 and a presentation from B. Hollingsworth, IBI Group and E. Peissel, WSP Group and with respect to Downtown Routing Alternatives Assessment.

5. STAFF REPORT - North Corridor Routing Alternatives Assessment
That it BE NOTED that the Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group received a report dated March 6, 2017 and a presentation from B. Hollingsworth, IBI Group, with respect to the North Corridor Routing Alternatives Assessment, including Richmond Street Transit Tunnel.
V. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS


That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held March 2, 2017 with respect to the 1st Report of the Town and Gown Committee, was received.

7. (ADDED) Routing Alternatives Assessment - Discussion

That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to take the following actions with respect to the Rapid Transit Implementation Project:

a) bring forward two alternate route options including an alternative north-south route and an alternative east-west route, with a high-level cost analysis included;

b) develop an analysis of potential business impacts by Zone, with mitigation strategies in consultation with businesses on Richmond Row, from Oxford Street to Central Avenue, on King Street and with Budweiser Gardens and the Covent Garden Market; and,

c) hold a public participation meeting related to the above-noted alternate routing options.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 13, 2017
Rapid Transit and City Building

March 9, 2017

From a Long-term Planning Perspective
London is at a Fork in the Road

Council has been planning to transform.....

- The way we GROW
- The way we MOVE

Change is hard....

Transit Ridership in London has grown by 94% from 1996 to 2014.

1996: 12.4 million rides
2014: 24.1 million rides

1 in 3 Londoners are MILLENNIALS: born between 1980 and 2000.

By 2035, 16,000 people will live within a 10 minute walk of London's proposed Rapid Transit lines.

84,000 people will work within 10 minutes of the Rapid Transit lines.
What’s at Stake?

- Our climate
- Our environment
- Energy conservation
- Our agricultural lands
- Small business development
- Our financial sustainability
- Urban regeneration
- Our ability to attract talent – our economy
- Our personal health

The City-Building Framework

The Transportation Master Plan

- We have options for how we move
  - Auto-dominated status quo doesn’t work anymore….
    - Promotes sprawl
    - Creates air pollution
    - Big energy consumer
    - Creates future risks
    - Undermines the ability to provide quality transit services
    - Bad for personal health
    - Comes with huge costs – initial and ongoing
    - Expensive for users
    - Unsustainable – environmentally, socially, economically
    - Unresolvable congestion
Some 57% of travel in the City occurs during the morning and evening peak travel periods, with almost one quarter of total daily trips being work-related. Commuter travel directs much of the need for road infrastructure improvements.”

Smart Moves - Transportation Master Plan

Transportation Master Plan - A Different Approach to Mobility

- Multi-modal approach
- Less reliance on automobiles
- Not suggesting everyone takes transit!
- Environmental benefits
- Healthy, active mobility options
- Help to Grow Our City
- Assist with Urban Regeneration
- Avoid significant widening costs ($290M)
Intensification Targets

Municipal Boundary

Urban Growth Boundary

Built Area Boundary

Primary Transit Area

45%

75%

THE LONDON PLAN
EXCITING. EXCEPTIONAL. CONNECTED.

OUR TEN BIG MOVES

1. Shaping our City around rapid transit
2. Planning for exceptional places and spaces
3. Regenerating our urban main streets
4. Growing inward and upward
5. Building a city that attracts talent and investment
6. Giving real and attractive mobility choices – walking, cycling and transit
7. Creating a cosmopolitan city – one that is culturally rich and diverse
8. Building strong and healthy neighbourhoods for everyone
9. Planning a smart city – connecting London to the world
10. Building one of the greenest cities in all of Canada
Rapid Transit & The London Plan

- RT can stimulate inward and upward growth
- RT can encourage growth that uses existing infrastructure
- RT can encourage transit-oriented growth
- RT can help us to conserve agricultural land
- RT can help us to reduce carbon emissions – climate change
- RT can help us to reduce energy consumption
- RT can help us to alleviate congestion
- RT can support active forms of transportation – healthier lifestyles

Rapid Transit & The London Plan

- RT can help us provide truly attractive mobility options
- RT can help us to stimulate growth where it is most advantageous
- RT can help us to regenerate urban neighbourhoods
- RT can help us to regenerate main streets and downtown
- RT can stimulate small business opportunities
- RT can connect our institutions
- RT can reduce the personal cost of mobility
- RT can help us to be more resilient to rising costs of energy
- RT can help us attract talent to London

Keeping an Eye on the Big Picture
When Considering Routing

*It is an integrated network and changes to benefit one objective can have negative impacts on another objective*
International Design Competition – Forks Of The Thames

Mitigating Construction Impacts

Lesson from Banff

Parking Strategy
Opportunities?
Purpose of Presentation

To present a summary of the analysis and evaluation completed to date for Rapid Transit route alternatives, in the Downtown and on the North Corridor, in support of the preferred routes.


- 2011: Downtown London BRT Routing Options Study
  - Examined six different routing options
  - Base option assumed York/Richmond routing
  - Recommended three options for consideration in EA
- 2013: London Transportation Master Plan
  - Four main corridors: Wellington South, Richmond North, Oxford West and Dundas/Oxford East
  - Also recommended Central Transit Terminal
- 2014: Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment commences
  - Kick-off of public consultation in February 2015
  - Included evaluation of routing options for all corridors
  - Routing options presented at PIC 2 (May 2015) and recommendations at PIC 3 (December 2015)
- 2015: Our Move Forward: London’s Downtown Plan
  - Provided overall framework for Downtown London
  - Dundas Place concept endorsed by Council


- 2016: Rapid Transit Business Case
  - Approved by Council, May 2016
  - Identified Full BRT network with routing in the downtown and tunnel grade separation on Richmond
- 2016: The London Plan adopted June 2016
  - Established land use planning framework for RT corridors
- 2016: London ON Bikes
  - Approved by Council September 2016
  - Protects Queens Avenue for two-way cycle track
- 2016: Dundas Place Flexible Street Class Environmental Assessment
  - Confirmed Dundas Place flex street, approved by Council December 2016
- 2017: Draft Rapid Transit Master Plan
  - Final proposed transit network presented at PIC 4 for comment

Summary

- 197 People Signed In
- ~400 People attended
### What we heard: Route Selection

- Why King Street and not York Street?
- Why not Queens Avenue or Dundas Street?
- Why Richmond Street and not Western Road to Oxford, or to Wharncliffe?
- Why Richmond Street and not Adelaide Street?
- Why Wharncliffe and not Woodward?
- Why go through Western University? Delay to through-trips. “Students are young and can walk”

### What we heard: Design and Construction

- Concerns about construction impacts on business viability, particularly downtown on King Street and Richmond Street
- Concerns about Budweiser Gardens access from Ridout Street and truck loading/unloading
- Questions regarding need for Richmond Street tunnel. “Can’t you connect communications with CP trains?” “Can’t you take a different route?” “Tunnel is too expensive”
- Concerns about widening Wellington Street without widening the CN underpass. “Gains from dedicated lanes will be lost if buses are stuck in mixed traffic.”
- Concerns about property impacts

### What we heard: Operations and Technology

- Electric buses should be seriously considered as the vehicle for the system
- Will Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) help or hurt the case for rapid transit?
- Concerns about reducing or eliminating existing transit routes, and time required to transfer from local to RT. For example, Route 13 provides a direct connection from White Oaks area to St. Joseph’s Hospital.
- Concerns about loss of on-street parking on RT routes
- Concerns over increased traffic congestion
- Questions over park-and-ride facilities, will they be provided? Where?

### Concerns around the Market

- Loading and unloading; loss of loading zone on King Street which is one of the most used areas; currently unable to get delivery trucks to rear loading doors
- Covent Market Place generally blocked by various deliveries, parking, pick-up/drop-off; access will become worse with RT
- Impact to King Street access to and from Market underground parking
- Original Kids theatre group – over 70,000 visits a year of parents dropping off and picking up kids; already a challenge

### What we heard: Other Ideas

- Implementing this project is great, however, some of the adjacent places/corridors need to be tied in or also upgraded (such as Dundas St Old East, Windermere Rd, etc.)
- There is a need for better transit in London
- The project will offer significant benefits to the community and for the environment
- Skepticism about the benefits of the investment. “Why not just upgrade the existing bus routes?”
- Future public meetings should include a formal presentation with question and answer period
- PIC was very informative, glad to speak one-on-one
**Downtown Routings**

*The Preferred Full BRT Network*

Station locations will be confirmed during the next study phase.

**Angel St. Station**
**Queens Ave. Station**
**Central Transit Hub**
**Waterloo St. Station**
**Talbot St. Station**
**Museum Station** (future potential)

**Process – Downtown Routings**

- Identified and evaluated city-wide routing alternatives
- Started with “blank slate” to determine what makes sense for Rapid Transit
- Incorporates objectives and constraints of other planned projects
- Developed feasible alternatives for:
  - North and East routing (higher ridership)
  - South and West routing
- Reviewed key generators and attractors of transit
- Examined key technical criteria including transit ridership, traffic, access, and parking impacts
- Considered public and stakeholder input (4 PICs plus stakeholder meetings)
- Developed concept designs to test feasibility of potential routing options, including bridges, constructability, operations, streetscape
- Evaluation involved numerous iterations to balance inputs and constraints

**Supporting Information: Transit**

Existing LTC Boardings and Alightings
PM Peak Hour

**Supporting Information: Population**

Existing 2016 Day-time population (workers plus population at home)
- **Downtown Core Total**: 53,100 people
  - Queens Avenue Corridor: 40,364
  - King Street Corridor: 6,000

Source: Sitewise Data, London Downtown

**53,100**

**40,364**

**6,000**
Supporting Information: Generators

Activity Generators (London’s Downtown Plan, 2015)

Supporting Information: Traffic

Supporting Information: Changes for Dundas Place

Transit Route Changes:
- King Street to carry approximately 1 eastbound bus every 1 to 2 minutes during peak hours.
- To accommodate bus stops approximately 12 parking spots removed: 10 from King Street between Ridout Street and Wellington Street, plus 2 from Ridout Street south of Dundas Street.

North and East Route Alternatives through Downtown

Preferred North and East Route

- Clarence Street: two-lanes converted to transit-only, removal of on-street parking, maintain one or two lanes for general traffic (varies by block).
- King Street: two-lanes converted to transit-only, removal of on-street parking, removal of bike lane, maintain one lane for eastbound general traffic.
- Summary of Evaluation:
  - Shortest route (1.1 km) with fastest transit travel time.
  - Serve most Activity Generators and Priority Sites for Redevelopment.
  - Central Transit Hub at or near Clarence/King, within desirable walking distance of VIA station (~200m).
  - Removal of on-street parking on Clarence (48) and King (43).
  - Driveway access generally maintained on Clarence and King; no physical barrier along RT lanes; RT may be impeded by turning traffic.
  - Maintains traffic capacity of Richmond Street and York Street.

South and West Route Alternatives through Downtown
Preferred South and West Route

- Wellington Street: two-lanes converted to transit-only, removal of planted median, removal of on-street parking, maintain two lanes for general traffic
- King Street: two-lanes converted to transit-only, removal of on-street parking, removal of bike lane, maintain one lane for eastbound general traffic
- Ridout Street: two-lanes converted to transit-only, removal of on-street parking, maintain two lanes for southbound general traffic
- Summary of Evaluation:
  - Shortest route (1.5 km) with fastest transit travel time
  - Serve more Activity Generators
  - Central Transit Hub at or near Clarence/King, within desirable walking distance of VIA station (~200m)
  - Removal of on-street parking on King (6) and Ridout (6)
  - Compatible with cycle tracks on Queens Avenue, Dundas Place Flex Street, and conversion of Kensington Bridge to transit/active modes

Downtown Routing: Summary

- Clarence & King, and King & Wellington, are the preferred routes for rapid transit in dedicated lanes
- Fastest transit travel time, simple routing, good transit rider experience
- Stations cover transit “centre of gravity” at Dundas & Richmond
- Good transit and walkable access to Dundas Place, major transit trip generators, and VIA station
- Supports Queens Avenue cycle track
- Converts Kensington Bridge to transit/active modes
- Supports Back to the River Initiative
- Design process will identify and mitigate impacts to parking, access, construction management, deliveries, pedestrians, among others

North Corridor Routings

- Clarence & King, and King & Wellington, are the preferred routes for rapid transit in dedicated lanes
- Fastest transit travel time, simple routing, good transit rider experience
- Stations cover transit “centre of gravity” at Dundas & Richmond
- Good transit and walkable access to Dundas Place, major transit trip generators, and VIA station
- Supports Queens Avenue cycle track
- Converts Kensington Bridge to transit/active modes
- Supports Back to the River Initiative
- Design process will identify and mitigate impacts to parking, access, construction management, deliveries, pedestrians, among others

Preferred North Corridor Routing

North Corridor Short-listed routings

1a: Richmond Street
1b: Western Road / Wharncliffe Road
1c: Western Road / Western University / Richmond Street
**Preferred North Corridor Route: 1c Western University**

- Provides direct high-quality transit service to:
  - Richmond Row
  - St. Joseph’s Hospital and King’s University College
  - Western University campus centre and future planned expansion areas
  - University Hospital
  - Transit Village at Fanshawe Park Road
- Avoids significant engineering challenges and associated costs with Oxford Street West crossing of Thames River and CP Rail crossings
- Best serves transit ridership in the north part of London
- Minimizes natural environment impacts to North Thames River valley by using existing University Drive bridge
- Consistent with land use planning framework in The London Plan and other city building initiatives

**Richmond Street Tunnel**

**Route alternatives to the Richmond Street Rail Crossing**

- Preferred Solution: Richmond Street Transit Tunnel
  - All north corridor alternatives constrained by CP Rail (Richmond, Oxford, Western) and Thames River
  - Re-routing CP Rail is not feasible: requires property acquisition, public consultation, federal approvals, cost of new tracks, yards, grade separations
  - City has no jurisdiction over CP Rail in terms of restricting train frequency, length or time-of-day scheduling
  - Proposed Richmond Street transit tunnel:
    - Benefits every transit trip (1 to 2 minute savings)
    - Protects against unpredictability of train crossings; gates currently down for up to 12 minutes per train
    - Critical to achieving objectives of rapid transit (i.e. fast, reliable service)
    - Added benefits to police, fire, ambulance to by-pass traffic
  - Without the tunnel, rapid transit will not be an attractive and reliable mode
  - If people stay in their cars, roads and intersections will need to be widened to accommodate cars

**Next Steps**

- Additional detailed consultation with businesses and stakeholders to understand concerns: March – April 2017
- Address impacts with potential mitigation measures: April 2017
- Finalize Rapid Transit Master Plan and seek Council approval on preferred routes: April – May 2017
- Continue to the next phase, the Transit Project Assessment Process, which includes:
  - Development and evaluation of design solutions to minimize negative impacts
  - Consultation with the public, agencies and stakeholders