

From: Chris Drew

Sent: 2021/02/02 9:52 AM

To: City Clerks Office <City.ClerksOffice@brampton.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Written Deputation for Items 7.2 and 12.2.5: Drew Family Strongly Supports Queen Street - Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Hi Clerks Team,

We would be grateful if you could add this as a written deputation for items 7.2 and 12.2.5 for the Committee of Council agenda. These items are for the Queen Street - Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Hi Council,

It is wonderful to see the Metrolinx and City staff presentation and updates for the Queen Street - Highway 7 BRT project on the agenda. This is a long overdue project for Brampton, particularly the east portion of Brampton. The Drew family strongly supports this project and looks forward to using it when it opens. This project will create a more predictable, fast, and efficient transit commute. We encourage you to continue your funding advocacy efforts. In addition, the Hurontario LRT Extension will complement and help the Queen Street - Highway 7 BRT project, and it is positive to see City staff's efforts on that project and we look forward to more news in 2021.

Our family remembers taking the old Brampton Transit-Vaughan Transit No. 77 bus route from the Bramalea City Centre to Thornhill to visit family. It was a wonderful regional connection and the service has only grown in the ensuing years with Zum. It's now time to take the service to the next level and follow in the footsteps of major cities across the world by providing bus service with dedicated lanes. Dedicated space alone will not be enough of course to make this project successful. Service frequencies need to meet the needs of transit riders. Capacity needs to be provided. The project offers opportunities for complete streets. Further, we urge Metrolinx and City staff to consider all options for bus priority signalization so that bus riders can feel the journey is fast and so that the investment can be leveraged to its full potential.

Further, the Queen Street - Highway 7 BRT Initial Business Case shows one of the strongest benefits-cost ratios we have ever seen for a GTHA transit project. In addition, providing more frequent and reliable transit service between Brampton west, downtown Brampton, and Brampton east would be a great way to connect communities. The project intersects with major north-south bus routes and a future LRT route in Brampton. Our family enjoys shopping and supporting local downtown Brampton small businesses and the Farmer's Market, and projects like the Hurontario LRT Extension and the Queen Street - Highway 7 BRT project are important ways to support these local businesses by helping get customers to them. While doing wedding shopping in Brampton east particularly at Airport Road and Queen Street, I saw first hand all the businesses who will benefit from enhanced transit service, and that's great for Brampton's economic development.

The environmental benefits of more transit go without saying because they are so obvious. By providing better transit service it will provide an incentive for people to be able to choose to

leave their car at home, and for those without a car who depend on transit, it will provide faster service and give people back more of their precious time.

We highly encourage Council and staff to keep residents updated on the progress for this project and to continue to have a strong online presence for materials for this project. We look forward to contacting our MPPs and MPs and encouraging them to partner with Brampton for funding for the project. A funding partnership with multiple jurisdictions of government would be wonderful to see. Investing in this project will be a critical part of Brampton's COVID-19 recovery. Given the pre-COVID-19 ridership increases throughout the Brampton Transit network, transit riders deserve sufficient space on buses and reduced crowding. This project will help. We support any plan that gets this project moving forward as quickly as possible.

The Drew family owns two cars, Jack and Bev are retired and on fixed incomes, and we all fully support significant investment in transit in Brampton.

Thank you,
Jack Drew
Bev Drew
Chris Drew
Mark Drew

Former bus route No. 77 in the 1990s and early 2000s, pre-Zum. Photo credit: Getty Images, Tony Bock



Summer 2020: opportunity for dedicated lanes for Bus Rapid Transit, similar to what is being proposed in Durham Region, and Mississauga-Halton Region



Queen Street - Highway Seven BRT will add to the transit network and the new multimodal hub in Downtown Brampton where seven day, all-day, two-way GO train service, and the Hurontario LRT Extension will meet:

