

From: [Mimico Tenants' Association](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Martin Gerwin](#); [Starr Smith](#); [Judith Rutledge](#); [Carole Goyette](#)
Subject: Item 13.3 Amendment to The City Plan Transportation
Date: February 25, 2020 7:36:13 AM

City Council Meeting February 26, 2020 Agenda Item 13.3

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the February 26, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.PH13.3, Official Plan Review: Transportation - Recommended Official Plan Amendment

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Mayor Tory and Council:

A number of citizen groups in west Toronto wish to have the vote on Item 13.3 postponed to a future council meeting for a number of reasons, primarily:

1. NO STUDY HAS EVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH AN AMENDMENT. A STUDY IS A MANDATORY PRECURSOR TO ANY CHANGE IN THE CITY PLAN
2. ONLY TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE EVER MOUNTED BY THE CITY - IN MARCH 2019 AT CITY HALL AND A SECOND IN MAY ONLY ATTENDED BY 6 PEOPLE (POSSIBLY INDICATING A PROBLEM WITH COMMUNICATION).
3. DEPUTATIONS MADE AT THE FEBRUARY 12 COMMITTEE MEETING WERE NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED .

The Planning and Housing Committee voted on February 12th to approve sending the transportation amendment to The City Plan to City Council for a vote on February 27 (subsequently moved to February 26th).

The Committee vote was split and the committee did not adequately respond to the concerns raised by depositions. In particular, the recommendation for a Higher Order Transportation Corridor along Lake Shore Blvd. West, west of Legion Road, was approved

without any study having been done by The City on which to base the Committee's decision.

I realise the pressure Council is under because Toronto is the fastest-growing city in North America at the moment. BUT, if we get it wrong, we could unwittingly be causing a huge disservice to the very groups identified by Council as those who need our support and, at the same time, incurring enormous budget increases to fix the errors made now.

This is only one reason we must have a study before approving such dramatic changes to transit in the City Plan. These changes may **actually reduce** public transit options to growing groups of the population which council has publicly stated in the past that transit is designed to serve. Seniors being one group. The Invisible Handicapped being a second group.

I have been told by the planning department that it was instructed to move forward without a study because none of the recommendations for transportation would be enacted before 2041.

This presumption is blatantly false. As soon as any amendment to The City Plan is approved, applicants for development will be requesting increased density on current applications and appealing for rezoning as well because of the different definitions surrounding any High Order Transportation Corridor.

In addition to having NO study on which to base its recommendations, only two consultations were held: an open-house type of affair at City Hall in March of 2019 and a consultation in May which was only attended by six people. I did not receive any information for the May consultation and considering the meagre turnout, I suspect something went wrong with communication.

I receive massive amounts of information on civic matters and did not know about the May consultation. A quick straw poll of my colleagues drew the same conclusion -- we did not hear about it.

A postponement on this item is even more urgently required because Lake Shore Blvd. W. cannot meet the conditions mandated for a High Order Transportation Corridor, which has been stated in earlier assessments. Other considerations, also mentioned in The Big Move, have not been addressed at all, such as accessibility, particularly for the "Invisible Handicapped" (those who do not use assistive devices).

We are now the 4th largest City in North America and, as such, cannot be seen to be making major planning decisions without the basics of a study on which to base our decisions. Also, as the leading city in Canada, we all must be continually aware that Canada is under a black cloud over the SNC Lavalin affair which has seen our country fall out of the top ten "Least Corrupt Countries" in which to do business (we dropped four positions to number 12). We

must be certain that our actions cannot be misinterpreted.

Finally, our requests to postpone this rush to judgment on the Transportation amendment to The City Plan are in no way a criticism of either city staff or the Planning and Housing Committee. With the reduced size of Council, both are under the extreme pressure of massive workloads.

City Council must, in good conscience, and in the interests of accuracy, vote to postpone the amendment to The City Plan to a future date which will allow the requisite studies to be completed.

Starr Smith

Chair, Mimico Estates Tenants' Association (META)

Steering Committee, Mimico Lakeshore Community Network (MLCN)

Seniors' Peer Facilitator, Centre for Equality Rights to Accommodation (CERA)

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META

Mimico Estates Tenants' Association