

To: Regional Council and City of Ottawa Council

From: The Elgin Area Property Owners Association (EPA) and The Elgin Area Business Association (EBA) and Brian William Karam

Date: April 6th, 1998

Re: Centretown Traffic Calming Plan and Kent Street Traffic Calming Concept Plan (TCP)

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- The EBA and the EPA oppose the proposals set out in the TCP. Similarly, many residents of the Elgin area oppose the TCP proposals.
 - TCP proposals have been fueled by a very small group of Centretown residents involving, in particular, Diane Holmes and Elisabeth Arnold and the Centretown Citizens Association which is a small group of 80 or so active individuals who do not speak for Centretown.
 - Traffic Calming is a misnomer for traffic bottlenecking. There is no speeding traffic on Elgin Street and the traffic and accident statistics as well as a visual analysis confirm this.
 - The Consultant, Mr. Braaksma, has confirmed that the proposed measures will simply force traffic out of the downtown core; he has also confirmed that there has never been a study which confirms that traffic calming is necessary, rather, his report is premised on the theory that traffic calming is necessary.
 - We should not be bottlenecking traffic and thereby forcing traffic out of the downtown core when our downtown core needs revitalization.
 - The experience of Scarborough who have implemented traffic calming measures and is reconstructing to eliminate same, is that such measures are dangerous, particularly in relation to bus, police, ambulance and fire protection services, because the bottlenecking measures do not take into account the danger presented by ice and snow. The report does not have regard to the negative experience of Scarborough and others.
 - The proposal is ten years out of date, that is, it looks ten years into the past rather than looking five years into the future. Information technology is quickly making rush hour a thing of the past in that people are working from their homes and cars or from their offices with flexible hours and office space is being downsized with the result that much of the downtown core is being converted to a mix of office and residential; therefore the rush hour of ten years ago will be a thing of the past five years from now. It is pointless to spend several million dollars, in these circumstances.

c.c. Mr. Jim Watson
Elisabeth Arnold
Richard Cannings
Diane Deans
Stephane Emard-Chabot
Allan Higdon
Karin Howard
Ron Kolbus
Brian MacKey
Inez Berg
Shawn Little
Bob Chiarelli
Herb Kreling
Richard Cantin
Molly McGoldrick-Larsen
Alex Munter
Betty Hill
Robert van den Ham
Wendy Bryne
Al Loney
Gord Hunter
Dan Beamish
Michael Bellemare
Madeleine Meilleur
Jacques Legendre
Diane Holmes
Linda Davis
Wendy Stewart
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Peter Home
John Dickie
Jane Murray
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Gerry LePage
Josh Moon
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Jim Hill
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