

February 9, 2014

Mayor Jim Watson
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa (ON) K1P 1J1

Re: Support for Downtown Truck Tunnel Study

Dear Mayor Watson,

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to tackling Ottawa's downtown truck problem. Although the proposed downtown tunnel feasibility study is just the first step, we believe that a solution will be found. You echoed that belief at the joint Ottawa – Ontario announcement of this study.

Although we recognize that the Study does not propose extensive public consultations, as the most affected communities we ask that you provide us with an opportunity to comment on the proposed scope of the study. We look forward to future engagement, with the goal of finding a solution that is a win-win for all residents of Ottawa.

As Ottawa embarks on unprecedented development of public transit, cycling infrastructure and complete streets, we applaud your leadership and focus on important issues affecting every citizen of Ottawa. The root of the downtown truck problem is proximity to people and how the trucks affect business, safety, and some of the most densely populated neighbourhoods of Ottawa. It is about people, and creating an environment for people.

Although the main goal of a proposed downtown tunnel would be to remove the majority of interprovincial trucks from the downtown streets, we must remember that these trucks are being removed to restore King Edward Avenue to a people friendly street, a livable street. We know that this goal is shared by the City of Ottawa as exemplified by the commitment made to reduce King Edward Avenue from 6 lanes to 4 lanes after a new east end bridge was built. With that in mind we would like to emphasize that it is important to both our communities that a tunnel be capable of removing a sufficient volume of Autoroute 50 to Highway 417 traffic from surface streets to be able to realize the goal of restoring King Edward Avenue to 4 lanes. Furthermore, by moving cars and trucks below the city it will help alleviate the rush hour congestion of downtown streets.

When Ottawa and Ontario complete this study a year from now, downtown communities will have suffered 50 years of interprovincial traffic growth that has now reached the alarming level of 2600 heavy trucks and 75,000 automobiles per day. All three levels of government were involved in the decision to

locate the 6-lane Macdonald-Cartier Bridge through an urban residential neighbourhood. A downtown tunnel has the potential for the three levels of government involved in that fateful decision to work together to begin to undo the damage and fuel positive growth for years to come.

Again, thank you for your leadership, concern for our residents, and vision for the future. Our community associations stand ready to support this Study and project.

Please contact us at your convenience.

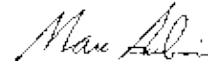
Sincerely,



Chad Rollins, Vice-President
Action Sandy Hill



Nathaniel Davis, Co-Chair
King Edward Avenue Task Force



Marc Aubin, President
Lowertown Community Assoc.

C.c.: Councillor Keith Egli
Councillor Mathieu Fleury
Deputy City Manager Nancy Shepers
Ottawa-Vanier MPP Madeleine Meilleur
Ottawa-Vanier MP Mauril Bélanger