

From: Lydia Smith
Sent: August-30-16 9:51 AM
To: John Henderson; Forrest Rowden
Cc: Aaron Burchat; Brian Darling; Debra McCarthy; Gil Brocanier; Larry Sherwin; Lorraine Brace
Subject: CTA Transit Feedback

Dear Deputy Mayor Henderson and Councillor Rowden

Deputy Mayor Henderson, I am writing to thank you for being a champion for accountability with respect to the transit study.

Mayor Brocanier has said that, "We have a social obligation to provide transit services". Could we try to remember that council also has a fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers?

Councillor Rowden, you were quoted as saying that, "the town is currently charging sufficient fares and there is no justification for the increase". May I, please, see the analysis/due diligence that you did in order to support your statement? It must be strong evidence indeed to outweigh the \$19,000 taxpayers paid IBI for their consulting services.

I believe that the current bus system is not meeting the needs of our citizens. Anecdotal evidence points to noisy, smelly, empty buses that don't run on time. Not only the buses are broken but so is the system.

I was wondering if staff could look at how other towns our size handle this challenge. According to a recent newspaper article, only 15% of municipalities have transit systems. Perhaps Cobourg could re-visit that decision? Has anything changed since our transit went into service?

Also, instead of re-inventing the proverbial wheel, maybe we could instead, look for bright lights and use some of their ideas to save our town money while improving the service to our people. Port Hope is also looking at their transit system. Councillors have been doing some due diligence by riding the buses and talking to all stakeholders. Maybe they have something helpful to share?

Councillor Hickey was recently quoted as saying, "it's council's job to deliver a service that's as efficient as possible so ratepayers' kindness isn't being wasted". What a wonderful attitude.

Deputy Mayor Henderson, you are doing the right thing by asking these questions. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely
Lydia Smith
President, Cobourg Taxpayers Association