

**MAYOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING
TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT MASTER PLAN STUDY
OCTOBER 23, 2002**

Council Members Present:

Mayor S. Fennell
Regional Councillor L. Bissell – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor P. Palleschi – Wards 2, 6 and 10
Regional Councillor G. Miles – Wards 7 and 11
City Councillor E. Moore, Ward 1
City Councillor L. Jeffrey – Ward 2
City Councillor A. Aujla – Ward 4
City Councillor G. Gibson – Ward 5
City Councillor B. Cowie – Ward 7
City Councillor D. Metzack – Ward 9

Staff Present:

Planning, Design and Development Department

J. Marshall, Commissioner of Planning, Design and Development
J. Corbett, Director of Planning and Land Development Services
R. Bino, Director of Engineering and Development Services
B. Winterhalt, Associate Director of Planning Policy and Growth Management
A. Smith, Manager of Growth Management and Special Policy
H. Zbogor, Policy Planner

Works and Transportation Department

A.D. MacMillan, Commissioner of Works and Transportation
G. Marshall, Director of Transit, Works and Transportation
M. Parks, Manager of Traffic Engineering Services, Works and Transportation

Office of the Mayor

B. Johnston, Executive Assistant

Business Development and Public Relations

M. Marychuk, Senior Communications Associate

Legal Services

T. Brenton, Legislative Coordinator, Legal Services
W. Cooke, Legislative Coordinator, Legal Services

Others Present:

Mr. Jim Gough, Consultant Team Project Manager, Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Mr. Bruce Singbush, Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Mr. Chris Fong, Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Ms. Angela Iannuzziello, ENTRA Consultants Inc.

The meeting commenced at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor S. Fennell thanked and welcomed everyone for attending. She indicated that traffic congestion has been identified by the residents of Brampton as being the number one issue of concern, and that in response, the City is initiating a Transportation and Transit Master Plan Study to address current concerns and future needs, and ensure that this is not the number one issue five or 10 years from now.

She introduced the Council Members in attendance, stating this is an issue of concern and importance to all members of Council, but that some Councillors could not be in attendance because they had other municipal business to attend to. She confirmed that Council's role at the meeting is to listen to what members of the public have to say and not to respond to, or debate, the issues at this time. She informed the public in attendance that their input is being sought to help Council identify and address the transportation and transit issues facing the City.

Mayor Fennell introduced Mr. John Corbett, Director of Planning and Land Development Services, Planning, Design and Development.

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Mr. Corbett made a presentation which included the following slides:

- Welcome to Mayor Susan Fennell's Town Hall Meeting on Transportation
- Presentation Outline
- Growth Profile (population graph)
- Traffic Graph
- Current Traffic Conditions
- Existing Areas of High Traffic Demand
- Brampton Depends on Cars
- Why Are There so Many Cars on the Road?
- The City is Addressing Transportation Needs
- Current City of Brampton Transportation Projects
- What Are the Existing Transit Services?
- Why do Transportation Improvements Sometimes Lag Behind Growth?
- What Are the Transportation Challenges?
- What is Already Planned?
- Highway Improvement Plans
- Major Transit Service Plans
- "Made in Brampton" Ideas Needed
- Sample Idea #1: Community Shuttle Buses
- Sample Idea #2: Reserved Road Lanes to Move More People
- Sample Idea #3: Express Bus Services
- Sample Idea #4: Higher Order Transit
- The City is Initiating a Transportation and Transit Master Plan Study
- The Transportation and Transit Master Plan Will:
 - ... develop a long-term (2031) transportation vision and plan
 - ... define the long-term integrated road and transit network
 - ... identify supportive policies and programs
 - ... present an implementation and funding strategy
 - ... define a performance monitoring and review process
- How Public Can Be Involved
- Who To Contact for More Information
 - Mr. Henrik Zbogor, Policy Planner, Planning, Design and Development Department, City of Brampton, Telephone: 905-874-2410; Fax: 905-874-2099, e-mail: henrik.zbogor@brampton.ca
 - Mr. Jim Gough, Consultant Team Project Manager, Marshall Macklin Monaghan, Telephone: 905-882-4211, ext. 283; Fax: 905-882-7277, e-mail: goughj@mmm.ca
- Thanks for Attending the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

Following his presentation, Mr. Corbett encouraged members of the public to fill out and submit the comment sheets provided with the handouts and passed the meeting back to the Mayor.

Mayor Fennell provided two e-mail messages she received to the Clerk so that the comments contained therein could be recorded, and invited members of the public to present their views.

Mr. Dennis Windsor, Seaside Circle, Brampton, submitted a copy of his presentation entitled "Traffic Headache" and outlined his concerns, focusing on the Trinity Common area where he lives. Specifically, he indicated he is concerned that Great Lakes Drive is very relied upon for residential and mall traffic from Trinity Common, stating it is the only street from which shoppers leaving Trinity can go east on Bovaird Drive. He is further concerned that with the opening of the Shoppers Drug Mart and Medical Centre in the area, further traffic problems will ensue.

Ms. Diane Webber, Baronwood Court, Brampton, spoke on behalf of the unit owners of Baronwood Court, stating they have deep concerns and distress with drivers ignoring the "Do Not Block Driveway" signage causing constant problems for them getting in and out of their homes, as well as drivers blocking the intersection of Centre Street and Williams Parkway. She indicated that the residents are very concerned with the traffic issues facing the City today, that they would like something done to address these issues, and that they are willing to assist in any way they can.

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Ms. Audrey Ross, Barrington Crescent, Brampton, thanked the Mayor and Members of Council for the opportunity to provide her thoughts and maybe help with some solutions. She outlined concerns with respect to the Heart Lake area and highlighted the challenges she faces with road access into her subdivision and stated that the City needs to look at road access into new developments. She went over some of the questions on the comment sheet and provided her responses thereto.

Mr. John Rossetti, Appleby Drive, Brampton, indicated he is concerned about traffic in the City and questioned why transportation solutions sometimes lag behind growth and why the money from development charges cannot be acquired ahead of time. He stated that if Provincial Regulations are standing in the way of getting the money up front, then we need the Provincial politicians to do something about changing the regulations or providing funds. He felt that City Council is continually promoting more and more development and that the traffic is getting worse as a result. He suggested that one way of addressing traffic congestion is to keep trucks off roads in the residential areas, citing Dixie and Bramalea Roads as examples, and indicated his willingness to help.

Mr. Greg Mills, Cassander Crescent, Brampton, outlined traffic concerns in the Heart Lake area and questioned why Sandalwood Parkway has not been extended to the east as yet. He indicated he had concerns with respect to the Trinity Common area as well, and wondered why Bovaird Drive is not two lanes both ways, and suggested that Mayfield Road could probably be four lanes as well.

Mr. Ron Smith, Chinnock Court, Brampton, indicated that his concerns with respect to Trinity Common have been addressed by previous speakers, and that he also has concerns about the railway parking lot but believes this topic will be addressed by someone else. He expressed his agreement with reserved bus lanes and suggested they also be used for emergency vehicles. He stated agreement for shuttle buses and suggested they be ones that kneel to curb level to allow for easier access. He expressed concern with the narrowing of Queen Street west of McLaughlin Road as well as traffic problems which ensue as a result of vehicle parking at the four corners. He outlined concerns with respect to drivers making left turns from gas stations and crossing four lanes of traffic and suggested center medians be put in place to prevent this from happening.

Mr. Doug Demerling, Greystone Crescent, Brampton, expressed concern with the synchronization of traffic lights at various locations, specifically those controlled by the Region of Peel. He also indicated concern with the roadways that narrow to two lanes and wondered why these have not yet been widened. He asked about the extension of Clark Boulevard from Rutherford Road to Hansen Road, suggested that road financing issues need to be addressed, and expressed concern with school buses stopping on McMurchy Avenue around Charolais Boulevard and suggested the school bus stops in this area be moved to the side streets.

Mr. Joe Wennechuk, Kitchener, indicated that he read about this meeting in the paper and drove in from Kitchener to offer assistance. He submitted a hand-out entitled "The History of the Future", and a brochure on the "The People's Car Co-Op" Program. He provided details on the car co-op program, a ride share program using GIS (Geographical Information System), and how it could perhaps be of benefit to the residents of Brampton.

Ms. Barbara Johnstone, Nelson Street West, Brampton, thanked the Mayor and Councillors for hosting this meeting. She put forward concerns with respect to parking and traffic congestion problems in the downtown area, specifically problems resulting from vehicles parked on Main Street and Queen Street, and difficulties she has trying to enter or exit her driveway on Nelson Street. She wondered how the City proposes to widen Queen Street and expressed her appreciation for the need for all residents to change their driving mentality through such means as minimizing their car use and utilizing the Road Watch Program to report dangerous drivers.

Mr. Albert Smid, Springview Drive, Brampton, expressed thanks for the opportunity to voice his concerns, and outlined concerns with respect to schools not being built as proposed resulting in unsafe conditions for student pedestrians who are expected to walk considerable distances once they reach a grade level where school busing is no longer provided. He also indicated concerns with respect to traffic congestion/safety issues along Bovaird Drive, Williams Parkway and in the Torbram Road and Steeles Avenue area.

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Mr. John Corbett, Director of Planning and Land Development Services, Planning, Design and Development, indicated that the City consults with School Boards routinely and outlined the development application process as it pertains to proposed new schools. He indicated that all development applications go through the School Boards and they specify the property they want. This property is then held for five years and if the Board decides not to build a school in the selected location the property is then released for development. In summary, he indicated it the municipality's job is to reserve the school sites and it is the School Board's option to develop the school.

Mayor Fennell and Regional Councillor Lorna Bissell provided details on the portion of Bovaird Drive that is Regional Road 7 (formerly Provincial Highway 7), indicating it was turned over by the Province of Ontario to the Region of Peel about six months ago, and that it will be the subject of a Public Open House to be conducted by the Region of Peel scheduled for November 6, 2002 at Notre Dame Catholic School.

Ms. Rita Demcheson, Hollowgrove Boulevard, Brampton, expressed concern with respect to the Humberwest Parkway and Airport Road area, indicating that there is only one way out of her development and if the road is closed for reasons such as an accident, residents cannot get out. She provided details on the traffic conditions she experiences while traveling to work along such streets as Mayfield Road and Kennedy Avenue, and expressed her view that Sandalwood Parkway, Mountainash Road and Castlemore Road need to be extended quickly. She suggested that development be stopped in the northern part of Brampton until the road system is put into place.

Mr. John Corbett, Director of Planning and Land Development Services, Planning, Design and Development, provided details on the status of the extension of Humberwest Parkway, indicating that the City is nearing completion of the land acquisition and once this is done the road can be extended.

Ms. Molly McGuckin, Sutter Avenue, Brampton, questioned why Highway 410 has not yet been extended; expressed concern about the level of development over the past six months particularly west of Sandalwood Parkway; and, questioned the need for the number of commercial malls being built in the City. She expressed her desire that this public meeting produce results and not be an exercise in futility and asked that the City try to do something to address traffic issues for future residents.

Ms. Elizabeth Gordon, Aloma Crescent, Brampton, outlined her concerns with respect to the timing of the lights at the intersection of Clark Boulevard and Central Park Drive, citing examples of problems she has experienced in trying to get through this intersection. She indicated that she believes a few more seconds should be added to the timing of the green light for people traveling north on Central Park Drive or the addition of one more turning lane. She also expressed concern about the lack of posted addresses on Queen Street indicating that most do not have any numbers that can be seen from a moving vehicle and questioned why store owners do not want the street numbers on their buildings.

Mr. James Allison, Nottawasaga Crescent, Brampton, indicated that most of his concerns have been addressed with the exception of traffic conditions on Heart Lake Road on the weekends, and suggested that if the Province of Ontario is going to procrastinate on the extension of Highway 410, then a temporary road be put into place from Trinity Common Mall onto Heart Lake Road.

Mr. Jack Slade, Skytrek Systems, Kingsmere Crescent, Brampton, submitted a draft proposal for a personal rapid transportation system for the City of Brampton, which he plans on submitting to the Federal Government and for which he hopes to get funding.

Mr. Norm Slonchka, Leander Street, Brampton, expressed concern about the synchronization of traffic lights throughout the City; the lack of left turn lanes; the need for an alternate to Highway 410; and, the high volume of truck traffic on Bovaird Drive. He indicated his agreement with red light cameras as well as stopping development in the City until the road system catches up.

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Mr. Adrian Vandervart, Dayspring Circle, Brampton, read out a written submission from the residential unit holders in the Adult Lifestyle Community of "Dayspring" at 9280 Goreway Drive, outlining a number of their requests and reasons therefor. These requests included the installation of a left turn signal at the corners of Queen Street (formerly Highway 7), Goreway Drive and Humberwest Parkway; a reduction in the speed limit to 50 km/hour on Goreway Drive between Humberwest Parkway and Castlemore Road; the widening of the road in front of the entrance to the Dayspring Community and creation of a passing lane in this area; the installation of traffic lights at the entrance to and exit from the Dayspring Community; and, the installation of a Brampton Transit bus stop at or near the entrance/exit of the Dayspring Community.

Mr. Bill Owen, Centre Street North, Brampton, expressed concern about delivery and other vehicles stopping on Queen Street blocking the flow of traffic and suggested that the signage be changed from "no parking" to "no stopping". He indicated that the transit buses also block traffic along Queen Street and other main roads because there is nowhere for them to stop. He offered a number of suggestions, including that the traffic lights throughout the City be coordinated; that construction on Queen Street be done at night to ensure traffic is not being blocked during the day; and, that the City needs an alternate east-west route to Queen Street.

Mr. Luigi Gandolfo, Royal Salisbury Way, extended thanks to everyone for coming out and voicing their opinions. He indicated that he sits on a committee of the Brampton Board of Trade that has been looking at transportation issues for over a year. He suggested that the City needs fast, rapid transit that connects to the Toronto subway system, and expressed concern about the limited hours of operation and length of travel time with GO Transit. He also indicated that Brampton needs bus routes that are more efficient, not ones that go all over the City, and suggested that grid system bussing is the way to go for travel within Brampton. He also voiced concern about the need to address the high volume of truck traffic along Bovaird Drive, and the need to widen streets such as Bovaird Drive and Queen Street. He stated his view that transportation and transit are not just Brampton problems, but ones involving the Region of Peel and the Province of Ontario as well, and asked if anyone was in attendance from the either the Region or the Province.

Mr. John Corbett, Director of Planning and Land Development Services, Planning, Design and Development, indicated that the Credit Valley Secondary Plan includes a detailed transportation plan that includes the widening of a number of main roadways within the City.

Ms. Phyllis Hashin, Black Oak Drive, Brampton, indicated she is a daily user of Brampton Transit and suggested that more buses and routes are required. Specifically she suggested that more buses are needed in the Springdale area as well as a GO Transit station.

Mr. Ernst Braendli, Belmont Drive, Brampton, suggested that a way to address the concerns with respect to car drivers and traffic volumes is to make public transportation free of charge or to offer an "enviro-bonus" tax break.

Ms. Janice Carpenter, Goldcrest Road, Brampton, suggested that left turn signals be left on all day as a way of reducing traffic congestion and voiced frustration with respect to the timing of traffic lights throughout the City, and traffic problems resulting from vehicles parked along Queen Street.

Mr. Frank Sheppard, Brenda Avenue, Brampton, indicated that some of his concerns with respect to Queen Street and the flow of traffic on Regional roads have been put forward already. He expressed concern specifically with the intersection of McMurchy Avenue and Queen Street, putting forward his view that the timing of the traffic lights at this intersection and several others throughout the City seems to favour traffic traveling on the Regional roads.

Mr. Leo O'Brien, Rawling Crescent, Brampton, indicated that residents could take action to get things done, citing an example of 300 residents who petitioned for and succeeded in getting traffic lights installed at the intersection of Kennedy Road and Conestoga Drive. He indicated his view that the developers and other levels of government need to be involved as well in addressing traffic issues, and wondered if representatives from either of these groups were in attendance.

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Mr. Mitul Gandhi, Turtlecreek Boulevard, Brampton, expressed concern about Bovaird Drive narrowing to one lane west of Highway 10, and put forward his view that the City needs to ensure roads are created prior to construction of high density housing. He suggested the installation of car-pooling "diamond lanes" along Highway 410 and other roadways throughout the City as a practical solution to traffic problems.

The following individuals expressed their views via e-mails to Mayor Fennell:

Mr. Robert W. Erant questioned when existing roads would be widened or when new roads would be built, and suggested that some of the funds raised through the sale of Brampton Hydro be put toward this effort.

Sarojini Siwh expressed concern with respect to the number of traffic lights on Airport Road between Bovaird Drive and Derry Road; the number of accidents in the area of Bovaird Drive and Airport Road; people using cell phones while driving; and suggested installation of overpasses on major roadways such as Steeles Avenue, Queen Street and Williams Parkway as well as increased public transportation routes.

Mayor Fennell thanked everyone for attending and provided an overview of the next steps in the process toward the development of a Transportation and Transit Master Plan for the City of Brampton.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.