

## Riverview Park Community Association

### PRESS RELEASE

### Alta Vista Ward slated to get one of Canada's most expensive roads

*Riverview Park, Ottawa, January 31 2011:* The release of its draft budget January 19, 2011 confirmed the City's intention to spend \$55 million in 2011 and 2012 to build a controversial 1.2 km road linking the General Hospital ring road to Riverside Drive through greenspace in the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC). At almost \$46 million per kilometre, the 2 lane Hospital Link through the AVTC would be twice as expensive (per kilometre) to build than it cost to widen the multi-lane Highway 401 through greater Toronto and about eight times more expensive (per kilometre) than it cost to twin the mountainous Sea-to-Sky highway for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

The proposed road is premised on reducing traffic on Alta Vista Drive and Smyth Road and providing quicker access to the Ottawa Hospital General campus for employees and visitors and to service potential future developments on the National Defence Medical Centre (NDMC) lands. However, hospital officials did not explicitly support the "Hospital Link" in the 2005 report on the AVTC presented to the City, which forms the basis for this project.

Moreover, the hospital was unable to provide local community associations and the ward Councillor with statistical information on where its staff resided (data which would have helped identify employee commute routes and travel patterns) thereby making it impossible to know how many staff would actually use the road. The fact that the approved plan for the AVTC calls for a new at-grade intersection and traffic lights at Alta Vista, also calls into question the assertion that local traffic congestion issues would be resolved – the more likely scenario is that traffic bottlenecks would just be shifted a few blocks north along Alta Vista. In addition, the potential development of the NDMC lands -- one of the supposed drivers for the AVTC Hospital Link -- may not even be available for redevelopment until 2022.

The proposed "Hospital Link" lies at in the middle of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor, which runs from the intersection of Conroy and Walkley Roads to Nicholas and the 417. While funding is currently only being proposed for the 1.2 km "Hospital Link", this is seen by many as the thin edge of the wedge which would ultimately lead to a four-lane arterial road running the entire length of the AVTC and spewing traffic out onto Nicholas Street.

Based on the lack of solid evidence that this road will resolve any traffic issue and based on the exorbitant costs of the road, in these times of fiscal constraint, the Riverview Park Community Association is working with other stakeholders around the City to have the AVTC funding removed from the 2011 budget. The money saved could be directed to other more pressing City transportation needs, such as necessary repairs of existing roads and bridges around Ottawa. It could also be applied to the implementation of the Pedestrian Plan which City Council approved in 2008.

The city is seeking budget input from its citizens in February, via their website [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca)

###

#### *Riverview Park Community Association*

Riverview Park has almost 13,000 residents and is one of several Alta Vista Ward (18) communities. For further information, please contact:

- Karin Keyes Endemann, RPCA President, [keystone@ca.inter.net](mailto:keystone@ca.inter.net)
- Kris Nanda, RPCA Planning and Development Committee Chair [al2kris@yahoo.ca](mailto:al2kris@yahoo.ca)
- Marian O'Connor, RPCA Communications Committee Chair [marian\\_oconnor@rogers.com](mailto:marian_oconnor@rogers.com)

Or at [info@riverviewpark.ca](mailto:info@riverviewpark.ca)