

Re: Alta Vista Corridor and 2011 Budget

Councillors:

We would like to inform you by way of this letter that the City Centre Coalition (CCC) at its Feb 24, 2011 meeting agreed to formally express its opposition to the City plan to build the Hospital Link portion of the Alta Vista Corridor (AVC) as currently proposed. The CCC is a coalition of 11 community organizations focused on transportation issues in the Ottawa urban area. You will be hearing individually from many of the community groups in our coalition but we elected also to send this letter collectively to show our solidarity on this issue. This position is consistent with and a reiteration of the position the CCC has previously taken with respect to this road. Specifically, we are opposed to:

1. The inclusion of 5m\$ in the 2011 budget for the Hospital Link as currently designed
2. The excessive cost (55m\$) for the full project which merely provides a 1.2km alternative access road to the Ottawa Hospital.
3. Any intention to build the Hospital Link as Phase 1 of the full AVC

In our view this Hospital Link cost is excessive relative to the benefits it will bring and not a wise use of City funds. No study has been provided quantifying what the needs and benefits of this particular Hospital Link (as opposed to the full AVC) would be and in our view this is the only responsible thing to do prior to proceeding with a 55m\$ project. If we are simply building a Hospital Link then a very different project than what is currently being proposed may be a better choice.

If we are rather building the first stage of the wider end-end road then you must make this much more clear to the public. Transportation Committee and Council must take an active role in any such decision, something which has not been happening to date. Given the magnitude of the costs involved and the numbers of citizens who are opposed to it, this is the only right thing to do. Following are some of the issues that need to be dealt with first before any project which is meant to be part of the wider AVC should be constructed:

- i) the public and council should be provided information about the total end-end cost of the full roadway
- ii) Based on recent 2010 data there is good reason to believe that traffic growth has been much less than the view of the original 2003 planning documents. These need to be revisited
- iii) given the magnitude of the cost of the full project it is wrong to proceed with any part (this proposed Hospital Link) without a proper debate at Committee and at Council with opportunity for public participation.

By passing the 2011 capital budget at Transportation Committee (with funding for the "Hospital Link" as currently defined) with not even a single word of debate on the topic of the AVC we feel that we have been significantly let down by our elected representatives and decision makers and we urge you to take steps now to correct this.

John Verbaas

Chair: City Centre Coalition

www.ccc-ottawa.ca

PARTICIPANTS IN CITY CENTRE COALITION:

Action Sandy Hill
Centretown Citizens' Community Association
Dalhousie Community Association
Hintonburg Community Association
Westboro Community Association

Old Ottawa East Community Association
Glebe Community Association
Dow's Lake Residents' Association
Old Ottawa South Community Association
Carleton University Students' Association
Citizens for Safe Cycling

