

Message

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Sent: 3/10/2011 12:41:41 PM
To: =Mayor's Office [=Mayor'sOffice@city.ottawa.on.ca]; =City Council [=CityCouncil@rmoc.on.ca]
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Subject: Clarification on today's Le Droit article

Mayor and Members of Council,

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide clarification on issues raised in an article in today's Le Droit regarding the cost estimates for Ottawa's Light Rail Transit (OLRT) project. While staff have not seen the email referred to in the article, nor been contacted for comment on the story, it is important to note several points of clarification.

The Transport Canada e-mail that Le Droit refers to is dated September 2008 – significantly predating the functional design cost estimate of \$2.1B. The timing and wording quoted in the article seem to refer to Phase 1 of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). This phase, as you know, includes multiple transit projects including: Blair to Tunney's LRT with a twin-bore tunnel through the downtown (current project), Tunney's to Baseline LRT (Western Corridor), Bayview to Riverside South Town Centre LRT (North-South), and several BRT projects. It is not solely focused on the light rail transit portion currently underway.

The current project's \$2.1B (2009 dollars) cost estimate was developed as part of the functional design in late 2009 and was approved by Council in January 2010. At no time has there been any internal or external communications that indicates that the OLRT project cost is, or has ever, been higher than this estimate.

The project cost estimate has not increased and the preliminary engineering team (comprised of international light rail transit experts) has been directed to design a system that matches the \$2.1B cost estimate. The Rail Implementation Office (RIO) will provide an updated cost estimate to Council in July.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at ext.12764 if you have any questions or concerns.

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