

**King Edward Avenue Task Force, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, University of Ottawa,
July 16th, 2007, 7-9PM**

Attendees: Michel Vallée, Louyse Chouinard, Sarah Bonesteel, Dominique Boulais, Barbara Myers, David Small, Bruce Baker, David Milman, Jodi Brown, Tony Patterson, Brook Burchfiel, Ian Burgess, Pierre de Blois, Madeleine Meilleur (MPP), Marc Aubin, and a representative from Action Sandy Hill.

1. Meeting with Madeleine Meilleur, MPP

- Madeleine Meilleur shook hands and said hello to everyone
- We were introduced to Pierre de Blois, Rothwell Heights resident and campaign manager for the MPP
- Bruce Baker presented the slide show from the forum
- Mme Meilleur made a few points before and after the slide show:
 - She explained that she was quite familiar with the history and problems associated with King Edward due to her many years of experience on city council
 - She mentioned that we've all worked very hard to get things improved
 - She emphasized that she wanted everyone to work together; and, we agreed
 - She also emphasized that while she liked working together that the King Edward Avenue Task Force had gone against her wishes in the past; she brought up the history regarding the Kettle Island bridge option and said that she had attempted to have the option removed from the City of Ottawa's official plan; the task force opposed it at the time and went to the Ontario Municipal Board over it
 - Michel clarified that the task force had gone to the OMB for the core reason that the King Edward Avenue redevelopment was being postponed; the Kettle Island bridge option was mitigating factor
- Bruce Baker explained that we had a list of 14 questions; Michel Vallée and Bruce discussed many of the points on the list. Some of the questions were also posed by other members of the task force; here are some highlights:

Interprovincial Bridge Study:

- We were told that the timeline can not be shortened, because it is due process and it must be followed
 - Our response was that we would like the MPP to make sure that there is no lag in the time between the phases of the project as there was prior to the first phase
- We were assured that the election would not stall the process
- We were told that we could not be assured that the funding for the rest of the EA or a new bridge were in place; further to this, the MPP did not believe that funding could be organized until the bridge is chosen due to the variance in cost depending on the location of the new structure (Could negotiations be made in advance for some funding??)
- The MPP and her assistant were surprised that the wording in the EA terms of reference stated that only "some of the trucks" will be removed from the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge if a new bridge is built; she stated that she thinks that

all non-local truck traffic should be removed from King Edward Avenue once a bridge is built, especially 18-wheelers

-The MPP said that once a bridge is built in the east end that she thinks all non-local truck traffic should be banned from King Edward

-The MPP emphasized that she has always been opposed to a bridge at Kettle Island, but that she supports the EA process, and that she is only one in 5 players (including the NCC, City of Ottawa, City of Gatineau, and Quebec)

-The MPP stated that the EA process will come up with a solution, and then politics may play a part in the final solution as well

-The MPP also mentioned that if a bridge is built at Kettle Island that it would be unlikely that trucks will be allowed on it

-Pierre de Blois said that he thinks a ring road is a better approach to solving the truck route problem

-David Small suggested that the downtown community form a coalition similar to the one formed by the east end; he emphasized that the coalition should be formed and led by both municipal and provincial representatives

Hazardous Goods Transportation:

-We were told that hazardous goods traveling on King Edward were a city issue

4-lane Option for King Edward:

-We were told that the MPP was surprised to hear that the 4-lane option was not going forward; she said that she had supported the reduction of King Edward from 6 to 4 lanes; she said that she has always supported this option and hopes that it will come true

Tolls on the bridges:

-The MPP told us that times are changing and that although ideas such as tolls were considered controversial in the past, she thinks that this idea may have merit. She said that we need to look at it some more and keep talking about it as one possible idea. She brought up the success of tolling in London, England, which was used as a “congestion tax” to reduce the gridlock in that great city.

Other:

-The MPP suggested that we continue to lobby the mayor for a meeting with us, so that we can present our slide show. She thinks he should really have a look at it.

STO Buses:

-The MPP supports the removal of bus lay-bys on King Edward.

Departures: – Madeleine Meilleur, Pierre de Blois, representative from Action Sandy Hill, David Small, and Brook Burchfiel

2. Follow-up to the Forum

-A final attempt will be made to get a meeting with the Mayor (Bruce Baker)

- The alternative will be to send a link to the slide show
- The Rideau BIA has seen the slide show and will be sharing it with its board members
- The link for the slide show will be sent to the Market BIA (Sarah Bonesteel)
- The slide show had been placed on YouTube.com (Marc Aubin)

3. Cathcart Crosswalk

- No update.
- Phil Kerridge was contacted following the meeting; he stated that the underground wiring will be done, but he has no timeline as to when the crosswalk itself will be built. We need to find out what's going on. (Angela Rickman, Michel Vallée)

4. 4-lane Option

- The cost estimates for the 4-lane option will possibly come to the transportation committee on August 5th next month; Bruce Mason is the city lead on this; we'll keep you posted
- David Milman suggested that we ask the city to ban all parking and stopping on King Edward to encourage the switch to a 4-lane option; he also thought that trucks should not be allowed to pass by during traffic time
- Michel Vallée mentioned that he had a great concern about one of the slides in the forum show; he insisted that he thinks it is misleading and that it needs to be removed
 - Marc Aubin explained that he did not share the same opinion, but that he was more concerned about the work involved to remove it than keeping the slide
 - Following the meeting, and due to Michel's grave concern, they agreed that Marc would re-process the slide show for YouTube.com in English and French to remove the slide. This is now done.

5. Buses and Air Quality

- Michel Vallée and Barbara have prepared some minutes for the meeting that was held on June 28th regarding the bus lay-bys; these should be distributed at some point
- We were told that the task force for bus lay-bys is not a done-deal; Michel Vallée and Barbara Myers will follow-up with us
- Ottawa Life Magazine is currently printing the issue that will have a story on King Edward; it should be on store shelves soon.

6. Interprovincial Bridge

- A letter will be written to MP Baird, Minister of the Environment regarding King Edward and the Interprovincial bridge (Louise Chouinard with help offered by Barbara Myers)

7. Other items

- List of additional condo contacts to be prepared (Louyse Chouinard)
- The task force's website will be up in early August. (Angela Rickman, Marc Aubin)
- Media contacts; no luck; all agreed that they would continue to look for connections.

8. Next Meeting

-A meeting might be held in August pending the movement of issues; otherwise, it will be deferred to September.