

Thursday » July  
3 » 2008

## Committee approves study of new rapid transit corridor

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OTTAWA - Ottawa's transit planners should proceed with a study of a new rapid transit corridor linking Blair Road with the southeast transitway, city council's transit committee decided Wednesday.

The corridor being studied runs from Blair Road near Ogilvie Road, south and west along Innes Road and through the Smyth Road hospitals to the transitway at Riverside Drive.

An environmental assessment of the corridor was made a priority at city hall after residents in the Alta Vista neighbourhood of Riverside Park took the city to the Ontario Municipal Board over a possible transit line included in the city's transportation master plan. The board ordered the city to complete a study of the project by December 2009. The committee slightly expanded the study area.

Alta Vista Councillor Peter Hume said the transit line placed in the city's plans is a small hydro corridor that is far too narrow to accommodate such a service.

"It's the eye of the needle," said Mr. Hume, who said he is confident the study will show how impractical the route is.

David Jeanes, of the Transport 2000 lobby group, said residents might not like the proposed corridor but this is a case of a relatively small number of residents having their neighbourhood disrupted by a project that will serve many thousands of transit users each day. He said that, apart from downtowns, hospitals such as the Smyth Road health science campus attract some of the most transit traffic of any destinations.

Mr. Hume said the hospitals at Smyth Road can and will be linked to the transit system without this corridor.

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