



Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To Whom it Concerns,

Re: **2021-2023 Seasonal Patio Program**

We are writing today to support part of the **2021-2023 Seasonal Patio Program report** and the implementation of patios in parking spaces along major roads.

The creation of these Patios will offer residents and visitors to Guelph an enjoyable time in our downtown and help our Downtown recover from the economic impacts of Covid19.

Our major concern remains the recommendation of closing the intersection of Macdonell and Wyndham Streets which has major impacts on Guelph Transit and its ability to keep Guelph moving during and after this pandemic.

The report outlines the costs of closing this intersection and the detouring transit for 2021. They are nothing to sneeze at. With the unknown return of thousands of students, and jobs, we do not know what the ridership will look like nor do we know if the service will restore frequency on all routes to pre-March 2020 levels.

The report does not address the many issues raised all last year by riders missing transfers and experiencing other delays. We have collected several tweets and emails with these concerns and complaints and will be forwarding them in another letter to Council in the coming days. While there has been a suggestion of extending the transfer time to 90-minutes or longer, this has little to no impact to many transit riders who use monthly transit passes.

The Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG) would like to see more alternatives explored to keep transit moving if this specific intersection were to be closed again for any amount of time in 2021. TAAG will be sending our suggestions in the coming days and we hope that they will be taken seriously by all parties.

Transit is an import piece to the recovery of our local economy. We must find a way to keep transit moving on time and through or around this intersection.

We will be sending additional correspondence on this topic in the coming days before it appears again for final approval at Guelph City Council in late March. Also look for it to be posted on our website.

Thank you.

Steven Petric  
Chair  
Transit Action Alliance of Guelph