



Kanata Seniors Council
c/o Kanata Seniors' Centre
2500 Campeau drive
Kanata, ON K2K 2W3

11 October 2004

Peggy Feltmate
Councillor Ward 4
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Peggy,

Reductions leading to the 2004 budget dealing with bus service have caused significant hardship for Kanata residents but most particularly for the seniors. Kanata seniors comprise approximately 8,500 members of our community and many are totally reliant on OC Transpo either due to mobility concerns, health restrictions or economic realities.

There are three areas of particular concern:

- The consolidation of routes has increased walking distances and has resulted in increased requirements to transfer to even get around Kanata.
- Route 165 ends service as early as 3:40 p.m. on weekdays and provides no service on Sunday. [None of the other Kanata routes have this low level of service.]
- The Kanata Seniors' Centre, in particular, is now only served by one route. It does not connect at the Eagleson Park-n-Ride and requires a transfer from other parts of Kanata. This is also the only route which stops service early in the afternoon. [It should be noted that the Seniors' Centre is located adjacent to a City Library, Arena and a large High School which also must encounter these same problems.]

It is realized that this situation has occurred as a result of the City Budget decisions last spring. It is obvious to many that the priority for transit service was not adequately considered at the time and that an adjustment will need to be made next year.

Unfortunately, any correction using next year's budget will delay any implementation of improvements until next summer at the earliest.

Several short term and do-able solutions are possible, hopefully for the normal end December route adjustments:

- Extend the hours for Route 165 to those of all the other Kanata routes. (This would entail some minor additional cost.)
- Adjust Route 118 for part of its westbound route via Eagleson and Campeau. The eastbound return route would continue via Terry Fox and Hazeldean. It would thus form more of a loop but not entail any added schedule time. (This would improve north-south access within Kanata, improve access to the Mlacak complex and Seniors' Centre, increase transfer opportunities, connect with the Eagleson Park-n-Ride and yet still not compromise current users significantly.)
- Allow for a stop for all busses coming westbound off the Queensway at Eagleson for those whose destination is the north side of the Queensway. (Passengers would still have to walk some distance but it would be a lot closer and less inconvenient than having a lengthier walk from the Eagleson Park-n-Ride without a sidewalk.)

In the larger scheme of things, a route study with source and destination requirements is required for all of Kanata, ideally starting with a blank map. As an example it is a lengthy ordeal for seniors from Bridlewood and Morgan's Grant to even attempt to get to the Seniors' Centre by public transit.

Yours sincerely,



Peter van Boeschoten
President

cc: OC Transpo (via ocserve@octranspo.com)
Chair Transportation Committee (via Janet.Stavinga@ottawa.ca)
Seniors Advisory Committee (via Brenda.Emond@ottawa.ca)
Punjabi Seniors Association (hard copy)