

Ottawa East  
Community  
Association



Old Town Hall

January 31, 2012

Colin Simpson, MCIP RPP  
Senior Project Manager, Transportation - Strategic Planning Unit  
Infrastructure Services and Community Sustainability Dept.  
City of Ottawa, 110 Laurier Ave West, 4th Floor, K1P 1J1

Dear Mr. Simpson:

***OECA Support of Proposed Rideau Canal Crossing (Footbridge)***

The Ottawa East Community Association wishes to reconfirm its strong support for a proposed footbridge across the Rideau Canal between the Pretoria and Bank Street bridges. The Association agrees with the City's environmental assessment team's recommendation that the new footbridge be near the Clegg Street - Fifth Avenue location (i.e., about mid-way between the two road bridges).

Three years ago, OECA provided the following endorsement of the footbridge:

*The OECA supports the development of a new "midtown" footbridge over the Rideau Canal in order to promote sustainable transportation and better pedestrian accessibility; to encourage healthy living through more cycling and walking; to better link the Glebe to Old Ottawa East and to the eastern part of Old Ottawa South thus boosting commerce, social activity, and ease of cross-canal school attendance; to provide better eastern "foot" access to Lansdowne Park; to foster and provide an offset to the City's planned intensification of the midtown communities; and to enhance the Rideau Canal as a world heritage site and allow greater use of the canal in both the summer and winter.*

- OECA Minutes, February 10, 2009

Since that time the association's position has been strengthened by the inclusion of the footbridge in the City Council approved Community Design Plan for Old Ottawa East and in the City's approved pedestrian and cycling plans. At most Association meetings since the original endorsement, there have been updates on the footbridge's progress and regular reporting in the *Mainstreeter*, the community's newspaper.

Several specific comments on the proposed footbridge are: we would like a beautiful bridge but it also must be as economical as possible; the design should minimize obstructions to the view of neighbouring properties; and signalized pedestrian cycling crossings at Clegg and Colonel By and at Fifth and Queen Elizabeth are essential.

Finally, we urge you to work towards completing the environmental assessment study this year, proceeding with the detailed design work in 2013 and constructing the new bridge in 2014. It's now been more than 100 years since the terms of amalgamation of the Village of Ottawa East with Ottawa called for the construction of a bridge over the canal at Clegg and Fifth.

John Dance  
President  
Ottawa East Community Association